

# OP-Ed

## A boy was born in 1920

A boy was born in 1959.

The boy born in 1920 had an attack of German measles when he was 5. Due to this illness, he developed Cerebral Palsy.

The boy born in 1959 stopped breathing twice the first night and developed Cerebral Palsy.

The boy born in 1920 was placed in a "special school," where academics came second to warehousing. When World War II broke out, he went to every recruiting center in the local area to try to sign up for service. He was turned down every time.

The boy born in 1959 went to Branch Brook School in Newark, NJ. Branch Brook was a school that was physically accessible to children with disabilities, a school where academics were stressed. The children with disabilities were encouraged, and depending on the teachers, hectored to achieve as much as they possibly could, despite their disabilities.

The boy born in 1920 later became a caddy at the Eagle Rock Golf Club, where he worked for over 30 years, until he was forced to retire due to medical problems. Later in his life, he was severely burned when a pot of hot coffee spilled on him,

by Edward J. Heaton

and suffered a fractured femur when he tripped over a rug in a doctor's office. He spent the last eight years of his life in a nursing home, and died in September of this year.

The boy born in 1959 attended Seton Hall University for undergraduate and graduate school, and worked for HBO for 20 years. He is still working in the communications business today.

The man born in 1920 was my Uncle Bill, who died at the age of eighty-eight. Uncle Bill was an intelligent man, but was never given the opportunity to reach his true potential, because of the limitations placed on him by society during his lifetime.

The man born in 1959 is myself. Unlike Uncle Bill, I was given the opportunities to achieve and succeed. When I think of Uncle Bill, I think of how much different his life would have been, had he been given the opportunities I have been blessed with.

Even though we have come a long way since 1920 -- and even since 1959 -- there are still millions of Uncle Bills out there: people with disabilities who are not allowed to reach their true potential. As we go into the Christmas season, perhaps the greatest gift we can give to others, besides our presence, is to assist someone with a disability to achieve a complete life.

## Discover the steps to **MOBILITY . . .**

### We are #1 in Providing Elevator & Lift Solutions



*Vertical Lifts*

- STAIRWAY LIFTS
- HIDEAWAY ELEVATORS
- VERTICAL WHEELCHAIR LIFTS
- INCLINED WHEELCHAIR LIFTS
- RESIDENTIAL/ACCESS ELEVATORS

#### *Inclined Platform Lift*



Mobility Elevator & Lift Co. is an authorized distributor for:  
Access Industries  
Acorn Lifts  
Concord  
Cemco  
National Wheel-O-Vator  
Savaria and  
Waupaca Elevator



*Stairlifts*



**Mobility**  
Elevator & Lift Co.

West Caldwell, New Jersey

Serving the New Jersey and New York Metro Areas

4 York Avenue, West Caldwell, NJ 07006  
Toll Free 800.441.4181 Phone 973.618.9545  
FAX: 973.618.9638 [www.mobilityelevator.com](http://www.mobilityelevator.com)  
[dsimon@mobilityelevator.com](mailto:dsimon@mobilityelevator.com)

Visit Our Full Showroom Today!

- SALES AND SERVICE
- 24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE
- FREE CONSULTATION & ESTIMATES

**MOBILITY ELEVATOR & LIFT CO. offers definite solutions by removing architectural barriers and replacing them with ACCESS ELEVATORS, WHEELCHAIR LIFTS AND STAIRWAY LIFTS.**