

Dear Robbie,

I cannot express enough how excited I was to learn that Captain Lewis had passed the “magic” lacrosse stick to you and all its history. Lacrosse has played such an enormous role in my life since I received my first wooden stick when I was 12. I learned that lacrosse had two major components in my life, both being spiritual in nature. The first was the lesson of hard work that my first stick taught me. I had to use the wall at my school to learn to catch, throw, pick up ground balls and develop little tricks that later made my career so much more enjoyable. I used that wall to develop all the basic skills that served my own career so well. Having a speech impediment for many of my early years, I found that stick was my way of speaking without having to say a word. The second lesson I learned was that great people would enter my life to guide me on the right trail for a healthy, wholesome, spiritual life. From Bill Wormuth, my West Genesee High School Varsity lacrosse coach to Lloyd Elm, Junior Varsity coach at West Genesee, originally a Lafayette High School graduate. He eventually returned to the Onondaga Indian Reservation School to lead that program and their young warriors to many championships and life changing programs to better the fate of the Onondaga Nation in Syracuse, New York. Probably the most influential coach in my career was the great Johns Hopkins All American Attack man, Jerry Schmidt. He was my coach and mentor at Hobart College and gave me the space to become the attack man I grew into. My heart will always go out to him and his silent but strong direction in my life on and off the field.

One more thing Robbie, I would like to recommend a book for you to learn the spiritual basis of the life that we so much cherish in this wonderful country. It is “America’s Prophet” by Bruce Feiler. This book will hopefully help explain the basis of the rules that guide us and where they originated.

To conclude Robbie, the stick and its contents and the men that possessed it before you were all great men that gave so much to their country, their families and the game they respected so much. I do hope you learn from it and soak in all the positive energy that it possesses and enjoy the trail it leads you to follow in the footsteps of Lt. Col. John I “Jack” Turnbull.

Congratulations!

Rick Gilbert

Hobart College, class of 1974

Turnbull Award, 1974

Hobart College Hall of Fame Inductee, 1989

Inductee of The Greater Baltimore Chapter of the US Hall of Fame, 1999