

TRIBUTE TO LOLA FRY ON THE
OCCASION OF HER 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 1995

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reflect on the attributes, achievements, and contributions of a special lady. This weekend, Lola Fry will celebrate her 80th birthday and this commemoration is an appropriate time to honor this great woman.

Since her birth in 1915, Lola Fry has excelled in all that she has done. The prevailing current in Lola's life has been her commitment to community and to the ideals of American society. The time and energy she has given to her church and other causes are remarkable.

Lola can look with pride on building a home and family filled with love, warmth and generosity. She enjoys the unshakable admiration of her children and grandchildren as well as friends and relatives.

Therefore, it is with great pride that I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Lola Fry a happy 80th birthday, with many years of health and fulfillment to come.

TRIBUTE TO FT. ZUMWALT
MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIRS

HON. JAMES M. TALENT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 1995

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Fort Zumwalt North Middle School seventh and eighth grade concert choirs from O'Fallon, MO.

Over the past two years, under the skilled guidance of their director, Mr. Gregory S. LeSan, the North Middle School choirs have been honored with 20 trophies and plaques in national-level competitions. They have also been distinguished with three community proclamations, a state proclamation from Missouri Gov. Mel Carnahan, and a coveted invitation to perform for the 1995 Missouri Music Educators Association State Convention.

The choirs have also been invited to compete July 9th through the 14th, 1996, in the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod in Llangollen, Wales. This is the first time in the 50 year history of this world-renowned competition that a public middle school from the United States of America has ever been accepted to sing in this audition-selected international event. This is a rare opportunity to represent their community, the State of Missouri, and the United States of America in a competition that represents over 50 countries.

Mr. Speaker, these young people are to be commended for their continued hard work and dedication to excellence, which has brought not only their school nationwide recognition, but is also a source of great pride to the residents of O'Fallon, MO. It is with great pride that I congratulate these students and recognize the contributions they have made while at Fort Zumwalt North Middle School.

TRUE AMERICAN HEROES

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 1995

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to salute the Mountain Fire/Rescue 05018 Volunteer Fire Company from Calaveras County, CA, for their contributions and personal sacrifices in the humanitarian mission Operation SUPPORT HOPE to Goma, Zaire, in July 1994. These men saved an estimated 500,000 lives by ensuring that the Rwandan refugees in Zaire had fresh water to drink.

The crew left California on July 23, 1994 and after an arduous 22.5 hour flight, they arrived in Goma, Zaire. From the moment they stepped off the plane, they were hard at work. It was a horrific sight. Dead bodies filled the road from the airfield to the pumping site at Lac Kivu. Before they could even begin pumping the fresh water needed to cure those with cholera, they had to clear the area around the lake. Human remains littered the entire area.

The men encountered many dangers. Cholera was everywhere and it was reported that 80% of the population was HIV-positive. As if disease were not a sufficiently dangerous adversary, the crew also had to worry about the Zairian soldiers who were continuously firing their AK47 assault rifles and throwing hand grenades at them.

The crew gave little thought to their personal safety, however, as they continued to work. It was necessary to clear a spot 20 yards into the lake and 100 yards wide along the shore in order to begin pumping the water. The crew had to maneuver around dead bodies as well as abandoned AK47's and hand grenades. Within four hours, they had made all of the preparations necessary to begin the pumping process.

For the next 32 days, they worked tirelessly for 18 hours per day. They had a subpump, firetruck, and 14 water tenders. The water tenders, which were sent by the United Nations, were used to transport the water from the lake to a nearby village. However, when they arrived, they were filled with diesel fuel. The men had to clean out the tanks so that they would be safe for transporting water.

The main tool used to accomplish this amazing feat has an interesting story all its own. The subpump, which was on loan from Redwood City, CA, is the only one of its kind in the United States. This pump can pump 1,250 gallons per minute (gpm) at 120 pounds per square inch (psi) and can push water through a 5" fire hose up higher than 160 feet. The subpump can continuously pump large amounts of water. This subpump is the same piece of equipment that pumped contaminated water 24 hours a day for 30 days, aerating and ridding Shasta Lake of its toxicity after the toxic waste spill.

It is with great pleasure that I recognize the Mountain Fire/Rescue members who assisted in Operation SUPPORT HOPE. They are: Chief John Horner, Matthew Blackburn, Derrick Bruham, John Conway, Jack Pacheco, Frank Blackburn, William Dunn, and Dan Molly. I would also like to recognize the many support volunteers of Mountain Fire/Rescue who made it possible for these men to respond so quickly. The men and women of Mountain Fire/Rescue have demonstrated the

true American spirit in giving of themselves to help others in need. Their dedication should serve as an inspiration to us all.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER HOEKSTRA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 2, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2127) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes:

Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. Chairman, I want to submit the following information in the RECORD which will clarify that I did, in fact, invite the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education [ACGME] to testify at the hearing of the Economic and Educational Opportunities Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.

The statement made by the gentleman from Iowa is incorrect. The executive director of the ACGME was invited by the majority, not the minority.

Thank you.

MEMORANDUM

To: Republican Members, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.

From: George Conant, Professional Staff Member.

Re: June 14 Hearing on Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education Policy on Abortion Training.

Date: June 13, 1995.

The Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigation will hold a hearing on Wednesday, June 14 at 1:00 p.m. in room 2261 Rayburn to examine the recent ruling by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) requiring all medical schools it accredits to provide students with training in abortion procedures during their residencies.

The hearing is intended to provide detailed information on the revised policies of the ACGME concerning the accreditation of residency programs in Obstetrics and Gynecology. The hearing will examine the impact of the ACGME's policies on: (a) the relationship between the federal government and medical training in the United States; and (b) the moral and social aspects of medical training related to individual and organizational conscience.

WITNESSES

The hearing will consist of one panel with five majority witnesses and one minority witness:

Thomas Elkins, M.D., Chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Louisiana State University Medical School, Former Chairman of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Michigan, and an active member of the Christian Medical and Dental Society.

Edward V. Hannigan, M.D., Director of the Division of Gynecological Oncology, Vice Chairman for Clinical Affairs, and Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Texas at Galveston.

Anthony Levatino, M.D., J.D., Assistant Clinical Professor at the Albany Medical Center Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, a Diplomate with the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and a former abortion practitioner.

Pamela Smith, M.D., Director of Medical Education at Mt. Sinai Medical Center, Member of the Association of Professors of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and President-Elect of the American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

John Gienapp, Ph.D., Executive Director of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education.

At this time we do not have any information on the minority witness.

BACKGROUND

On February 14, 1995, the 23-member Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education decided unanimously that obstetrics and gynecology residency programs must provide training in surgical abortion.

Institutions with moral or ethical opposition to abortion would be exempt from teaching these procedure within their own facility, but would be required to contract with another program in order to maintain accreditation. Likewise, the ruling exempts students with moral or religious objections to the practice of abortion from having to participate in training on the grounds that those students would not perform abortions regardless.

The ruling applies only to residency programs focussed especially on obstetrics and gynecology. Family practice programs, which cover some obstetrics and gynecology as part of their curriculum, are not required to train their residents in surgical abortion unless they think it necessary.

The new rule takes effect on January 1, 1996, and all Ob/Gyn residency programs accredited or re-accredited after that date must train doctors in abortion or contract with another program to do so. Programs that fail to provide the training could lose their accreditation and, therefore, federal reimbursement under some programs.

The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, formed in 1974, is the national panel which supervises medical education and decides what training programs medical schools must provide. Additionally, it is the only organization with the authority to accredit medical schools for participation in some federal programs. Teaching hospitals need Council accreditation to qualify for federal reimbursement for services medical residents provide to patients.

The Council has argued that their decision is not so much a new rule as it is a clarification of the existing rule. Ob/Gyn residency requirements have always included "clinical skills in family planning," but the council had never specified what that meant. The revised rule reads: "Experience with induced abortion must be a part of residency training, except for residents with moral or religious objections."

The Council decided to clarify the Ob/Gyn residency requirements after a four-year legal battle with a hospital in Baltimore. In 1986, the Council withdrew the accreditation of St. Agnes Hospital, a Catholic institution, because it did not provide training in abortion. The hospital then sued the Council claiming that their First Amendment right to religious freedom had been violated. The judge decided in the Council's favor, ruling that the public has a right to expect a doctor to be trained in all facets of a specialty.

The Council spent two years formulating the language of the new ruling and sought comment on the proposal from interested parties for a year before agreeing on the final wording.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RULING

There is concern among members of the graduate medical education community that failure to comply with the ruling based on conscience will result in the loss of accreditation for institutions with a moral or ethical opposition to abortion. Additionally, many argue the ACGME is not merely a "private organization," and this policy has definite state and federal implications.

Under federal law, some Medicare costs (Part A, costs of intern and resident services) cannot be reimbursed if a teaching program is not accredited.

Ob/Gyn students enrolled in a program not accredited by ACGME are ineligible for repayment deferrals on federal Health Education Assistance Loans (HEAL).

States tie their licensure requirements to graduation from ACGME accredited programs.

If you have any questions regarding the hearing or need additional information, please contact George Conant at 225-6558.

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, June 8, 1995.

Dr. JOHN C. GIENAPP, PH.D.,

Executive Director, Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, Chicago, IL

DEAR DR. GIENAPP: On Wednesday, June 14, 1995, at 1:00 p.m. in Room 2261 of the Rayburn House Office Building, the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations will hold a hearing on the topic of training in abortion procedures as a requirement for the accreditation of Obstetrics-Gynecology programs for residency students. Specifically, the hearing will look at the recently revised educational requirements on family planning of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to testify before our subcommittee and to provide us with your insight on this issue.

We would be interested in your evaluation of the ACGME's requirement for abortion training and whether it places an undue burden on individuals and institutions that oppose abortion for ethical or religious reasons. Given your experience with the ACGME, we are also interested in your perspective on whether the ACGME's requirement for abortion training is necessary to the profession or whether it unfairly coerces individuals and institutions to provide training that may be ethically or morally objectionable.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact George Conant at 202-225-6558. Thank you for your consideration of this request. I look forward to your appearance.

Sincerely,

PETE HOEKSTRA,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Oversight
and Investigations.

O'ER THE LAND OF THE FREE

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 1995

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with the House a recent article that was written by one of the finest newspaper men in the business. Mr. Dan Hagen, managing editor of the Sullivan News Progress, shared with his readers a thoughtful, and persuasive article dealing with one of the most highly controversial issues facing America. The debate over a constitutional amendment to prevent flag

desecration has left the House, but is not over. I hope that my colleagues will take this opportunity to read Mr. Hagen's views—they are truly insightful.

[From the Sullivan (IL) News Progress, June 28, 1995]

O'ER THE LAND OF THE FREE

(By Dan Hagen)

Too often, we confuse the shadow with the substance, the symbol with the reality.

This is certainly the case in the current debate over the proposed amendment to ban flag burning as a form of political expression. The reality is that the flag is merely a symbol of the United States, which means a symbol of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The latter are the charter and the expression of the guiding principles of the U.S., dedicated to the ideal of human liberty.

Such confusion reigns when amendment supporters claim that people have fought and died for the flag. That would be horrible, if literally true. But presumably they did not, in fact, fight and die for a piece of cloth, but for what the piece of cloth represents.

The flag could fly on every street corner of the United States, but if the Constitution and Bill of Rights were to be repealed, the United States would be destroyed. Conversely, every flag in the United States could be lost, but if the Constitution and the Bill of Rights were still in force, the U.S. would stand inviolate.

The flag is not even the most eloquent symbol of the United States. The eagle, the Liberty Bell and the Statute of Liberty are more expressive. The flag is an arrangement of colors and patterns which do not, in and of themselves, convey meaning. This is a source of the flag's widespread popularity, because a great deal can be read into it. But it is also the flag's weakness as a symbol, because too much can be read into it. While I can look at the flag and see the ideal of human liberty, nothing prevents someone else from looking at it and seeing the necessity of blowing up a federal building.

The energies spend in this amendment campaign would serve the United States for better if they were redirected into a campaign of public education concerning the only dimly understood meaning of the flag. Patriots may be irritated when someone burns a flag in protest, but they should shudder in horror the next time a survey reveals great numbers of ignorant mall dwellers who not only fail to recognize the Bill of Rights when it is presented to them, but believe that it should be opposed on the grounds that it seems "radical." Free and robust debate can never harm the U.S., but ignorance of its basic principles can destroy it.

Flag burnings have declined since the Supreme Court wisely noted that they are a protected form of free expression. In part, this is because many of today's political protesters regard themselves as patriots. But it's also because the Supreme Court's ruling, in acknowledging the legitimacy of flag burning, effectively defused its power as a symbol. If, in response to the threat of flag burning, American society merely responds, "Go ahead. It's your right," the would-be flag-burners are quickly off to find some more innovative means of getting people's attention. Ironically, through, if flag burning is banned, it will inevitably increase. The creation of jailed martyrs is a sure attention-getter, and an irresistible temptation to protesters.

Nor would the banning of flag burning as political expression do anything to prevent the far more common insults daily endured by Old Glory. The flag is routinely employed in advertisements as a tool to sell floor tile and used cars and—even worse—politicians.