

STEPHEN GEPPI, THOMAS
D'ALESSANDRO, JR., GOOD CITI-
ZEN AWARD WINNER

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 29, 1996

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Stephen Geppi, the 1996 winner of the Thomas D'Alessandro, Jr., Good Citizenship Award. Named for the late, great Mayor Thomas D'Alessandro, this recognition is bestowed upon Mr. Geppi for his contributions to the Italian-American community.

Born in Baltimore, Mr. Geppi learned at an early age the importance of hard work when he had to leave school to support his mother. His first job, at age 9, was bundling comic books and magazines. He opted to take part of his wages in comics.

Even when, as an adult, he took a job with the U.S. Postal Service, his interest in comic books did not wane. He began asking customers on his mail route for old comic books to sell or trade, and soon earned more buying and selling comics than he did delivering the mail.

Mr. Geppi opened Geppi's Comic World in Baltimore in 1974, and soon expanded to four stores. By 1982, he moved into comic distribution, and in just over 10 years time he expanded his distribution business to over 28 cities across North America and Europe. In addition to distribution, he branched out to publishing, and 1 year ago opened Diamond International Galleries, devoted to comics, comic collectibles, and related art which draws visitors from all over the world.

Mr. Geppi's extraordinary professional success has not prevented him from active involvement in his community. In 1993, he was one of the consortium of local investors who brought the Baltimore Orioles back to local ownership. He has actively served on civic boards or committees with a number of local organizations, including the Maryland Science Center, the Baltimore Zoo, the Johns Hopkins Children's Center, the College of Notre Dame, the International Museum of Cartoon Art, and the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

This is not the first time Mr. Geppi has been honored for his many accomplishments. Most recently, he was named "Business Owner of the Year" by the Baltimore County Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to salute Stephen Geppi for the honor he has brought to the Italian-American community by his many accomplishments and commitment to the community. He deserves this award for the contributions he has made in the spirit and tradition of its namesake, Thomas D'Alessandro.

A BILL TO AMEND THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ACT OF 1970

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 29, 1996

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce a bill, for myself, Representative SHAYS of Connecticut, Representa-

tive FRANKS of New Jersey and Representative HORN of California, to amend the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to require that OSHA inspections of commercial and residential construction sites be conducted by inspectors who have been specifically trained for such work by the Department of Labor.

My proposal will require that inspectors of commercial and residential construction meet certain experience and training requirements and be specifically certified to perform construction site inspections. Although many construction inspectors take courses offered by OSHA, they are not required to do so, allowing many to perform this important work with little or no formal training in the often complicated procedures used in the construction industry.

Construction site inspections comprise nearly half of all inspections done by OSHA. More seriously, the rate of accidents in the construction industry is significantly higher than in other industries. Based on 1994 Bureau of Labor Statistics data, the rate of nonfatal injuries per 100 full-time workers is 11.8 percent for the construction industry compared to 8.4 percent for all private industry. Total deaths from occupational accidents in 1994 were 6,588 or 5.3 per 100,000 employed, but there were 1,027 deaths or 14.8 per 100,000 in the construction industry. Therefore, I believe that it is not only prudent and sound public policy to make sure that those who do construction site inspections are well qualified, but that this reform is overdue.

Under current OSHA rules, OSHA inspectors can go from inspecting beauty salons to inspecting high-rise steel structures on a daily basis. Since most work-related deaths occur in the construction industry, I believe that my proposal will significantly improve the quality of OSHA inspections, the overall effectiveness of OSHA, and save lives.

I urge my colleagues to join in support of this important effort to improve the way OSHA construction inspections are performed.

CORTLAND ZONTA CLUB NAMES WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 29, 1996

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating Ute Gomez from Cortland, NY, who will be honored on Sunday, April 14 as the Zonta Club of Cortland Woman of Achievement for 1996.

My personal esteem for Mrs. Gomez is based upon her positive attitude in a dire situation. She turned a personal health scare into a learning experience for many other women. In 1992, she was diagnosed with breast cancer after a self-exam and mammography. Since then she has created a support group and counseled scores of women with breast cancer.

Three-and-a-half-years-later, after a lumpectomy, a modified radical mastectomy, chemotherapy, countless visits to homes and hospital rooms, Mrs. Gomez was quoted in the Cortland Standard about being named the Zonta Woman of Achievement:

"I am embarrassed by this," she said. "Not my breast cancer, but being honored. But if

one woman can see this and do a self-exam, or get a mammogram done, or reach out for help, I feel I've accomplished something."

Ute Gomez is an outstanding civic leader who meets that definition by caring for others and putting that love to work. She is involved with the Breast Health Partnership Committee of Cortland County, a State and federally funded program. She has taken it upon herself to arrange mammograms, counsel, and otherwise assist women who need her help.

My mother died a victim of breast cancer. I have tried in my public and private life to help in eradicating the disease and bringing comfort to those who suffer with it. I pledge further help now, and look forward to continuing to work toward those goals with Mrs. Gomez and others who have given so selflessly of their time and spirit.

A TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF COALINGA ON ITS 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CALVIN M. DOOLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 29, 1996

Mr. DOOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise before my colleagues today to recognize the city of Coalinga. On April 6, 1996, the city will celebrate its 90th anniversary, and I would like to honor the people of Coalinga by recounting a few of the highlights of the city's history.

Coalinga came into existence as an oil and coal mining town in the late 1880s. At the base of the coastal mountain range on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley, the town started out as little more than a coaling station for the Southern Pacific Railroad line that connects Los Angeles and San Francisco. The name apparently derives from its designation as Coaling Station A.

The mining of coal, and later oil, caused an economic boom at the turn of the century. By 1910, 4 years after the city incorporated, the Coalinga oil field was the largest in California. Oil continues to be one of the city's economic mainstays, along with agriculture.

As a relatively isolated settlement, Coalinga survived the aftermath of the boom years by relying on a tight-knit community. This close cooperation among its citizens was used to establish a drinking water supply in an area beset by hard water, to establish city-operated natural gas utility in a rural community ignored by the corporate utilities, and to establish a school and a library. This little community also had a strong patriotic element—it was World War I veterans from Coalinga who started the push to establish the American Legion in California in 1919. Coalinga is the home to American Legion Post 2, designated as the "Mother Post" of the California American Legion.

This sense of community was put to the test in 1983, when Coalinga was devastated by a 6.7 earthquake that leveled a significant portion of the business district and caused over \$31 million in damages. There was open speculation that Coalinga would not survive this disaster.

Instead of surrendering to this speculation, the citizens rolled up their sleeves and rebuilt. In fact, the earthquake served as a stimulator, with the town leaders using the rebuilding effort as an opportunity to develop a new revitalization plan. That plan has resulted in the

placement of a State prison near Coalinga—a \$36 million industry—the development of a 40-acre industrial park, and the building of an \$8 million airport facility.

I am certain Coalinga will continue to persevere and to prosper into the future. It has 90 years of history to call on when facing the challenges of the years to come.

A TRIBUTE TO ROMAN MYCYK

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 29, 1996

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an individual who spent his life serving the people of the Ukraine and the people of Chicago. Roman Mycyk was one of the founders of the Self-reliance Ukrainian Federal Credit Union, which was chartered on July 2, 1951. He served as president of the Board of Directors, bringing leadership to the members of the Self-reliance FCU.

The Self-reliance FCU has 12,660 members and assets totaling more than 187 million dollars. Roman Mycyk's leadership touched the lives of all those who came in contact with him and brought unheralded success to the Self-reliance.

Mr. Mycyk was born in the Ukraine on April 10, 1909 and made his mark in his homeland as a scholar, achieving a Masters Degree in economics from the University of the Ukraine.

He was very active on behalf of Ukrainian independence from the Soviet Union. His belief in freedom for his people and his country led to his imprisonment for 7 long years.

Throughout his life, Roman Mycyk has worked with a number of Ukrainian community groups to enable immigrants to assimilate into American society. His work was proven invaluable in integrating thousands of Ukrainian immigrants into our Nation's political and economic life.

I take this time today, so that the memory of Roman Mycyk will be commemorated on March 31, 1996. I would also like to pay my respects to Mr. Mycyk's family, in particular his daughter Christine and son Roman Jr.

SENATE AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 1833, PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTION BAN ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 27, 1996

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support of the Senate amendments to H.R. 1833, legislation to ban partial-birth abortions.

I would like to share with my colleagues some highly cogent articles on the highly emotional issue of partial-birth abortions. I believe Dennis Byrne of the Chicago Sun-Times; George Will, writing for Newsweek magazine; and, John Leo, in U.S. News and World Report, convey some very important views that we should take into consideration as we debate and deliberate this legislation.

[From the Chicago Sun-Times, Dec. 12, 1995]

TRUTH IN REPORTING? GIMME A BREAK

(By Dennis Byrne)

Hands-down winner of the sleazy, dishonest journalism award is NBC's "Dateline" for its "reporting" on the partial-birth abortion ban. Not that NBC didn't have some stiff competition from other pro-choice media acolytes who blindly parrot the line that partial-birth abortions don't hurt the kid and are used only to save mama.

But NBC outdid all of them with a segment broadcast before the Senate voted Thursday to approve the ban on grisly partial-birth abortions. In it, NBC gave the white, middle-aged male senator who backed the bill (apparently no self-respecting woman of child-bearing age could be found to support the bill) a fraction of the time and none of the sympathetic treatment accorded the other side: a tearful woman who told Congress she had to have the procedure because of a defect in her fetus. The grieving, sensitive couple was even interviewed at graveside.

NBC neglected to make one critical fact clear, though: The couple's story had absolutely nothing to do with the ban. The whole story was irrelevant because the law would apply only to such abortions on live fetuses. This couple's was dead.

Continuing the parade of horrors: ABC's Sam Donaldson (M.D., Ph.D., etc.) explained Sunday that partial-birth abortions are used only for the most serious of health reasons. Which ignores what one doctor who performs them, Martin Haskell, told the American Medical Association's newspaper, American Medical News: "In my particular case, probably 20 percent are for genetic reasons. And the other 80 percent are purely elective."

The story also speared some other pro-choice myths, such as the idea that the fetus is dead before the abortion begins. "No, it's not," replied Haskell, estimating that in his case, about two-thirds of the fetuses are alive at the start of the procedure. Naturally, pro-choice extremists attacked the publication for supposedly misrepresenting Haskell, but the paper stood by the reporting, and produced a transcript from a tape recording.

Then comes AP reporter Diane Duston, who, in a story Friday about President Clinton promising to veto the bill, wrote without attribution: "Late second- or third-trimester abortions are performed to remove a severely deformed or already dead fetus that could cause the mother to die, become infertile or otherwise desperately ill." She ignores Haskell, who himself testified that "agoraphobia" (fear of open places) was among the reasons some women had sought a second-trimester abortion. Another physician testified that three of her own patients had gone to Haskell for abortions well beyond 4½ months into pregnancy—and that none were ill and all had normal fetuses. Another doctor who performed partial-birth abortions, the late James McMahon, acknowledged he performed at least 39 partial-birth abortions for "depression" and nine for cleft palate.

Then there is Kate ("I-make-it-up-as-I-go-along") Michelman, president of the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League, who said that anesthesia kills the fetus before the abortion. That riled the American Society of Anesthesiologists, which said such claims have "absolutely no basis in scientific fact." It doesn't kill the fetus, and may not even relieve its pain. Such false claims, the group added, endanger pregnant women and their unborn children because they might discourage medically necessary surgical procedures.

Finally, the Chicago Tribune weighed in Nov. 8 with a one-sided report of a National

Organization for Women press conference opposing the ban. It was a moving story of a Naperville woman who had this procedure to spare her deformed child the trouble of living. But neither the Tribune nor NBC bothered telling the equally moving and eloquent story of an Oak Park woman, a Democrat, who also testified before Congress about how she decided not to have the procedure. More on her later.

[From the Chicago Sun-Times, Jan. 4 1996]

NEVER LET FACTS IMPEDE IDEOLOGY

(By Dennis Byrne)

Somehow the wacky idea has gotten out that giving pregnant women anesthesia is bad.

The American Society of Anesthesiologists worries that women will delay necessary or even lifesaving medical procedures because they fear anesthesia will harm their fetuses. Dr. David Birnbach, of the Society for Obstetric Anesthesia and Perinatology, says cases of maternal concerns about dangers to the fetus have recently surfaced, the American Medical Association's American Medical News reported. Rep. Tom Coburn (R-Okla.), who still delivers babies, said a patient even refused epidural anesthesia during childbirth.

Birnbach and other experts uniformly insist that the fear is unfounded. Dr. Norig Ellison, president of the American Society of Anesthesiologists, told Congress that more than 50,000 pregnant women are safely anesthetized annually without ill effects to mother or fetus.

Yet some folks are saying otherwise, including Kate Michelman, president of the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League. Their insistence that anesthesia administered during partial-birth abortions prevents fetal pain and causes fetal death is having an unfortunate consequence: Some women are becoming afraid that anesthesia will harm babies they're planning to have.

Ellison's group has no position on the controversial ban on partially-birth abortions, in which a live, late-term fetus is partially pulled feet first, from the womb, stabbed in the back of the neck and its brains sucked out. But they do feel strongly about Michelman's misinformation. Birnbach said assertions that anesthesia causes fetal death in such abortions are shocking and crazy.

Ellison branded as "entirely inaccurate" a claim by an abortionist that the anesthesia eliminates fetal pain and causes brain death before the abortion. The fact is, he said, only a small portion of general anesthesia crosses the placenta to reach the fetus, depending on the amount, and none administered regionally does. It is not "absolutely known," he added, that the anesthesia even reduces the fetus' pain. "I have not spoken with one anesthesiologist who agrees with [the abortionist's] conclusion, and in my judgment, it is contrary to scientific fact. It simply must not be allowed to stand," he said.

As their evidence, pro-choicers cite a letter from an Albuquerque physician (not an anesthesiologist), Lewis Koplik, who opposes the ban. I read the letter to Ellison, who branded its conclusions "wrong" and "untrue." A dose of anesthesia massive enough to kill the fetus, as cited in the letter, places the mother's own health "in serious jeopardy," Ellison said, and should require the presence of an anesthesiologist (which is not standard practice).

Despite all this, Michelman's misinformation continues to be repeated as the unqualified truth by, for example, Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun (D-Chicago), syndicated columnist Ellen Goodman, a USA Today editorial, KMOX-AM in St. Louis and Planned