

Virginia, and Ohio and was recently named in Who's Who in Israel.

I congratulate Dr. Wecht and wish both him and the Yeshiva Schools continued success.

ONLY SON KILLED: \$50,000 HOSPITAL BILL AWAITS FAMILY WITH \$30,000 INCOME

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 29, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, of all the unspeakable sadness in the world, losing one's child has to be the greatest.

But in America, we often compound the pain with family bankruptcy.

The following article by Dennis Rockstroh from the San Jose Mercury of February 18, 2000 describes how "tragedy hits family doubly hard," in the case of the death of Eleazer Gamez, Jr.

What is wrong with us? Why can't we find in this time of wealth and prosperity a way to provide all our residents with health insurance and to remove at least the financial disaster of medical care. The goal of universal coverage should be the highest priority of this Congress and every Congress until all Americans have health care that is as good as we in Congress have.

I submit the aforementioned article for the RECORD.

[From the Mercury News, Feb. 18, 2000]

TRAGEDY HITS FAMILY DOUBLY HARD—LACK OF INSURANCE ADDS TO FAMILY'S PAIN IN LOSS OF ONLY CHILD

(By Dennis Rockstroh)

Shame on us. Forty-four million Americans, 11 million of them children, have no medical insurance.

Californians list it as a top priority right behind education, but to Carolina and Eleazer Gamez of Union City, the lack of health insurance was simply piled on anguish following the tragic death of their first and only child.

They haven't got the hospital bill yet, but they estimate it will be countless thousands of dollars they do not have.

They paid the funeral expenses with an aunt's credit card.

Twenty-month-old Eleazer Jr. was crushed between two cars about 3 p.m. on Feb. 4.

Eleazer's mom was taking him to her sister's house on 11th Street. He was in the care of an aunt in the back seat. As the aunt was getting out, she put the baby on the ground and then reached back into the car to get her purse.

The Gamez car was partially blocking a driveway and, in an instant, a car in the driveway zoomed out backward, striking the baby and smashing his head into the door.

Eleazer died in a hospital the next day. "Paramedics took the child to Children's Hospital in Oakland for emergency surgery," another of the boy's aunts, Shirley Baker, told me. "But the trauma to the child was too great."

Salvador Mora, Carolina's brother and the spokesman for the family, said that his sister had just moved off welfare and was applying for health insurance from her husband's work.

Said Baker: "What makes this story so sad is that my cousin and her husband are about 20 years old. They are a newlywed couple trying to start a family. They were not

prepared for this tragedy and had no money to bury their son."

From family experience I can tell you that there is no grief to compare with the loss of a child. It is a lifelong sorrow.

Mora said the boy's dad is in denial and sleeps a lot, hoping he will wake from this terrible nightmare.

The boy's mom speaks mostly in monosyllables, but managed to tell me, "We can use all the help we can get."

"We're emotionally drained right now," said Mora. "We're overwhelmed with everything. My sister and her husband are taking this very, very hard. He's never experienced a loss in his family."

Mora said the family is expecting a bill of about \$50,000, dwarfing the combined annual family income of about \$30,000.

This is not an isolated case.

It's a national scandal.

Despite the best economy in 30 years, 44 percent of California respondents in the Field Poll released this week said they have gone without health insurance or have been financially responsible for someone without insurance in the past two years.

According to researchers, about one-quarter of California adults have no insurance.

The politicians have known of this state and national problem for years but failed to fix it.

Make no mistake, the Gamez family is a national victim of a system that excludes 44 million Americans. That's a lot of suffering.

There oughta be a law. In fact, the Field Poll found that 45 percent of those surveyed, regardless of political affiliation, ranked health care as an important issue, just behind education.

Meanwhile the Carolina and Eleazer Gamezes of the world will fall through the cracks, an American tragedy that can be avoided.

Besides pushing for adequate medical care for all Americans, there is something you can do to help the family.

A trust fund has been set up to pay the hospital and funeral bills.

Donations can be sent to the memorial trust fund: Eleazer Gamez Jr., Account No. xxxxxxxxxxxx, Washington Mutual, 39995 Paso Padre Parkway, Fremont 92538.

Oh, and don't forget to vote.

STATEMENT BY THE HONORABLE WILLIAM L. CLAY ON INTRODUCTION OF THE "PUBLIC SCHOOL REPAIR AND RENOVATION ACT OF 2000"

HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 29, 2000

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the "Public School Repair and Renovation Act of 2000," which will allocate \$1.3 billion to renovate 8,300 public schools in areas of financial need. Emergency plumbing, faulty electric, leaking roofs as well as asbestos removal and fire safety hazards will be the primary focus of these funds. President Clinton proposed this in his State of the Union Address. This measure will supplement Representative RANGEL's more comprehensive school modernization plan providing \$24 billion in tax credit bonds over two years for school construction.

Today, over one-third or more than over 28,000 public schools have inadequate heating, ventilation, and air condition systems.

Over 23,000 have inadequate plumbing, and more than 20,000 schools have crumbling roofs. A report to be released soon by the National Education Association documents \$307 billion dollars of unmet funding need for public school infrastructure and education technology. The Department of Education estimates that 2,400 new public schools will be needed by year 2003 to accommodate rising enrollments and to relieve overcrowding. In my State of Missouri, for example, the NEA report documents \$4.5 billion of infrastructure and school technology needs. In Chairman GOODLING's State of Pennsylvania, there are \$10.4 billion of unmet school construction projects. And Illinois, Speaker HASTER's home state, there are over \$11 billion worth of unmet school construction needs. This school renovation act will set aside 10% of funds for direct grants to our nation's poorest school districts. Most of the remaining funds will provide either grants or loans, as determined by the Secretary of Education, to schools that lack the bond capacity or authority to issue bonds. Loans would have a zero interest rate, to be paid back over a 7 year period. Our failure to act on this critical measure will leave tens of thousands of our school children at risk.

I urge the Republican Majority to take action on school construction before we recess this summer.

90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

HON. LAMAR S. SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 29, 2000

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this month the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) was celebrated in our nation's Capitol. At the event I had the honor of hearing the remarks of Norman R. Augustine, who describes below what scouting means to America and the impact it has had on his life. I believe it is appropriate that at the beginning of the new millennium we pause to reflect on the accomplishments of this organization. It is a tribute to the vision of the founders of the BSA that the basic ideals upon which Scouting was founded have endured and are as important at the dawn of the 21st century as they were in the early years of the 20th century. I hope you will enjoy Norman R. Augustine's testimonial as much as I did.

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA 90TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION, FEBRUARY 8, 2000, WASHINGTON, D.C.

I have been asked this evening to draw upon my 56 years of membership in scouting to describe "in five minutes or less" what scouting means to America and to me. The task brings to mind the time my friend, David Roderick, then Chairman of U.S. Steel, was given an introduction so brief that it noted simply that he was one of America's most gifted businessmen, and as evidence thereof it was said he had made a million dollars in California oil.

Approaching the podium, it was obvious that David was uncomfortable. He began by saying that it had not been California, it had been Pennsylvania; and it had not been oil, it was coal. Further, it had not been a million dollars it was \$10,000; and it wasn't he, it was his brother. And he hadn't made it, he lost it!

So bravely and perhaps unwisely disregarding the hazards of brevity, I will . . . in the spirit of scouting . . . "do my best."

With respect to the impact of scouting on America, that is, ironically, the easier of the two questions for me to answer. Simply stated, scouting helps build new generations of leaders . . . leaders who understand that character does count. On many occasions I have noted that I learned more about leadership from scouting and sports than from any of the other things I have ever done.

In my youth, the professional and volunteer leaders whom I came to know, and who not incidentally are the people who make scouting possible, provided inspiration and served as mentors. These people profoundly affected my life . . . just as they and their counterparts have done for generation after generation of America's youth.

I suspect that if one were suddenly required to choose from a hundred total strangers a single individual to whom to entrust one's life or our country's future, and were permitted but a single question of them, a good start would be, "have any of you been scouts" or better yet . . . "are any of you eagle scouts?"

Turning to the impact of scouting on my personal life, first and foremost scouting afforded extraordinary opportunities to build lasting and remarkable bonds between my father and myself and my son and myself. My son is an eagle scout, and we continued into adulthood many of the pursuits we first enjoyed together in scouting. The last adventure we undertook before he died this past year found us standing together on the north pole, much as we had stood together on mountain peaks in Colorado during his youth. Many of my fondest memories of Greg were inspired by our experiences in scouting.

That is not to say that those experiences were invariable easy. I have been to both the north pole and the south pole, but by far the coldest I have ever been was on a cub scout picnic! And there was the time when I was the only adult available to take my son's patrol on a long-anticipated hike. There was one minor problem: My leg was in a cast and I was relegated to walking with crutches. I assembled the boys and told them, very forcefully I thought, that I would serve as their adult leader . . . but only on the condition that they never get so far ahead of me on the trail that they could not see me: Whenever I should begin to drop out of sight they were to stop immediately and wait for me to catch up. All expressed enthusiastic agreement with this policy . . . so the hike began.

That was the last time I laid eyes on any of the boys until I came across the campsite they had established for the night!

Scouting of course helps prepare one for the challenges of life. In that regard I recall fondly the time my son and I became lost while backpacking in the Rockies. I immediately began sighting nearby mountain tops with my trusty compass. Greg, being of another generation, smugly whipped out from his pack a hand-held GPS receiver. After a few minutes of button-pushing and several puzzled glances at our map, he announced, "I know exactly where we are, dad. We're on that mountain right over there!"

This sort of thing may be the reason why my loyal wife, mother of an Eagle Scout, wife of an Eagle Scout, has over the years gradually come to consider "roughing it" to mean a slow bell hop!

Those not familiar with scouts and scouting might ask, do you really enjoy sleeping in the rain with a rock poking you in the ribs after a dinner of burned hot dogs and sandy marshmallows? Truthfully, the answer is no.

So then why do we do it?

I found the answer to this question when I was serving as Under Secretary of the Army and was visiting the 82nd Airborne Division. Talking with a grizzled old paratrooper who had parachuted more than 1,000 times, someone remarked that he certainly must like to jump. To our utter surprise, he responded, "I hate it". Asked why, then, in a volunteer Army, did he do it, his answer was simple: "I like to be around the kind of people who do."

There is in fact a certain kinship among all who have ever been involved in scouting. For example, there was the occasion a couple of years ago when I was leaving a Cleveland hotel and was being assisted in loading my baggage into a waiting car by the doorman, a large and powerfully built black man with a fetching smile.

Noting the scout pin in my lapel, he remarked, "I was a scout 22 years ago." He went on to point out with pride, "I am an Eagle Scout," to which I responded, "So am I." He said, with obvious satisfaction, "I can still say the scout law." I assured him I could as well. Oblivious to the group of people standing around us on the curb awaiting their cabs, my new-found friend looked at me with a twinkle in his eye and decided to put me to the test: "Trustworthy", he said! "Loyal", I responded. "Helpful", he replied. From there on we sort of continued together, "Friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent."

When we finished, the crowd on the curb burst into applause! As we shook hands to depart, I realized that this man was an instant friend simply because he had been a scout 22 years ago—and I one some 56 years ago.

The newspapers are fond of referring to wayward souls who have strayed from the beaten path by noting, "He is no boy scout." One of the finest compliments I can imagine anyone could pay to me is to say, "He is a boy scout".

And I know . . . because I am also a rocket scientist!

STEM CELL RESEARCH

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 29, 2000

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, Daniel Perry, with the Alliance for Aging Research, contributed an important article on stem cell research and ethics to the February 25, 2000 issue of Science. I submit it for the RECORD and urge my colleagues to read it carefully.

PATIENTS' VOICES: THE POWERFUL SOUND IN THE STEM CELL DEBATE

(By Daniel Perry)

Millions of patients may benefit from the applications of stem cell research, although there is disagreement about whether public funds should be used to develop the science. Patients have been key to winning political support. Acting as advocates, they have contended that public investment will speed the research and bring accountability to biomedical technology. A political dispute about the new research, which holds the potential for cures to devastating diseases and to foster healthy aging, shows the need to respect public sensibilities and to court public approval, as well as the importance of involving patients in debates where the methods of biomedical discoveries and ethical beliefs collide.

The achievement of isolating and growing cultures of self-renewing human pluripotent stem cells has set off waves of optimism among both researchers and the lay public (1). The promise is tangible for effective new approaches to incurable diseases and underlying biological processes (2). As shown in table 1, over 100 million Americans suffer from illnesses that might be alleviated by cell transplantation technologies that use pluripotent stem cells. Yet some representatives in Congress and some of the lay public, as well as religious groups such as the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, oppose putting public funds behind the technology. They say that stem cell research belongs under a federal ban that currently prohibits federal funding embryo research (3).

TABLE 1. PERSONS IN THE UNITED STATES AFFECTED BY DISEASES THAT MAY BE HELPED BY HUMAN PLURIPOTENT STEM CELL RESEARCH

Condition	Number of persons affected (in millions)
Cardiovascular diseases	58
Autoimmune diseases	30
Diabetes	16
Osteoporosis	10
Cancer	8.2
Alzheimer's disease	4
Parkinson's disease	1.5
Burns (severe)	0.3
Spinal cord injuries	0.25
Birth defects	0.150
Total	128.4

Data are from the Patients Coalition for Urgent Research, Washington, DC. Per year.

PATIENTS FOR RESEARCH

In 1999, a coalition of three dozen national nonprofit patient organizations, the Patient's, Coalition for Urgent Research (CURE), emerged to argue for public funding of human embryonic stem cell research under guidelines of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). This would achieve two goals: (i) participation by the broadest number of scientists under established peer-review mechanisms, thus rewarding the most promising research and speeding progress, and (ii) public accountability and guidelines developed through processes that allow for public comment on an area of science that has raised ethical concerns (4).

Why a patients' coalition? As taxpayers, patients and their family members are entitled to expect their government to make the most of a substantial public investment in biomedical research through the NIH and other agencies. And as the bearers of the ultimate burden when medicine cannot relieve their suffering, patients are the most compelling witnesses to the value of research that quite literally can save their lives.

In general, the patients and their advocates who are active for CURE display tempered optimism when it comes to appraising the chances of anyone's health benefiting soon from applications of stem cell research. Furthermore, broad views on the ethics and appropriateness of the technology have been expressed by those in CURE. For example, they believe in the principles of informed consent and free choice. Stem cell research must not lead to an underground black market in "spare" embryos for research. In addition, women and men, as individuals or as couples, should not be paid to produce embryos for research purposes.

The stories of patients and family members have fostered bipartisanship on Capitol Hill and have effectively complemented other activities such as the stance voiced by leading theologians from four major faiths—Roman Catholicism, Protestantism, Judaism, and Islam—who, noting the calls of their religions for compassion for the sick,