

Award for Best Educational Programming in the United States in 1985. He has appeared as guest conductor with many of our nation's outstanding symphony orchestras, as well as with orchestras in Mexico, Brazil, Venezuela, Denmark and Japan, and is gaining acclaim in the opera world as well.

Mechetti and his wife, Aida Ribeiro—a brilliant concert pianist—will be making their home in Jacksonville in the near future, deepening the ties between the Symphony and its new leader. The advent of the new creative partnership between Fabio Mechetti and the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra marks yet another giant step forward for the orchestra and for the cultural life of our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Maestro Fabio Mechetti and the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra on a momentous 50th Anniversary Season and the beginning of a new millennium of great music.

IN HONOR OF THE POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS, OHIO DIVISION, IN CELEBRATION OF THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Polish American Congress, Ohio Division, as they celebrate their 50th anniversary.

On May 18, 1949, the Ohio division of The Polish American Congress was founded. The Polish American Congress is composed of individuals of Polish ancestry as well as Polish organizations. The group serves as a unifying force for both Polish Americans and Polish citizens living in America. Taking a positive stand on issues concerning the people of Poland, the group strives to attain a free market economy within the frame work of a democratic society.

The goal of the Polish American Congress is to make Americans of Polish heritage more effective U.S citizens by encouraging them to assume the responsibilities of citizenship. In addition, the group supports fraternal, professional, religious, and civic associations dedicated to the improvement of the status of Polish Americans.

It is evident that The Polish American Congress has played a crucial role in the Polish Community, and in its many years of service has been an invaluable contribution to the Cleveland Community.

UNBORN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had title consideration the bill (H.R. 2436) to amend

title 18, United States Code, and the Uniform Code of Military Justice to protect unborn children from assault and murder, and for other purposes:

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, I wish to express my opposition to H.R. 2436. Since the landmark Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision, Congress has slowly passed legislation that has eroded women's reproductive choices. This is a personal and private decision that should be made by a woman, her family, her physician, and her beliefs, not subjected to increasing levels of government interference.

Rather than being merely a good faith effort to protect pregnant mothers from violence, the "Unborn Victims of Violence Act" is actually a back door attempt to interject government into individuals' private lives. Harsh penalties already exist in thirty-eight states for crimes against pregnant women that result in the injury or death of her fetus.

The overwhelming majority of crimes against pregnant women that cause injury to her fetus occur in cases of domestic abuse or drunk driving accidents, instances that are prosecutable under currently existing state laws. H.R. 2436 would do nothing to add to the existing protections against these serious and prevalent crimes. Nearly one in every three adult women experience at least one physical assault by their partner during adulthood and drunk driving accidents continue to result in substantial loss of life in every city across the nation. Instead of focusing on purely political measures aimed at the erosion of a women's reproductive freedom, we should be enacting more appropriate penalties, passing measures to promote protection from violence, and increasing assistance to women in life threatening domestic situations.

If the sponsors of this bill truly cared about addressing violence against women, particularly pregnant women, they would have voted in support of the Lofgren Amendment that enacts strict punishments for crimes that result in the injury or death of the fetus without the inclusion of constitutionally questionable language. Or we would be considering the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act that has proven to help victims of domestic violence. Clearly H.R. 2436 is more about politics and less about the protection of a woman or her fetus.

REGARDING THE DEATH OF WILLIAM SALETIC

HON. JENNIFER DUNN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 1999

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, the State of Washington and the Northwest seafood industry lost a valuable friend with the death of William G. Saletic on September 9, 1999. Bill had been a very important part of my state's commercial fishing industry since 1960 when he first represented the Purse Sein Vessel Owners Association. Over the next forty years he became both a leader in the industry and an important advisor to many Presidential Administrations and to all who served in the Washington Congressional delegation during that time.

At the time of his death, Bill had just recently retired from his position as President of Peter Pan Seafoods, one of the premier commercial seafood processing companies in the United States, and one of the largest in the Northwest. While at Peter Pan he found time to not only build the company into a marketing powerhouse, but he also remained involved in fishery politics through his membership on numerous boards, commissions, advisory panels and trade associations. Among these were the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission, the Committee for Fisheries of the Law of the Sea, the International Pacific Salmon Fishing Commission, the Board of Directors of the National Fisheries Institute, the Board of Directors of the National Food Processors Association, the Board of Directors of the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute, Chairman of the Pacific Seafood Processors Association, and member of the Board of the Independent Colleges of Washington.

Bill's involvement in the fisheries of the Northwest and Alaska predates all those who are currently in the Congressional delegations of either Washington or Alaska. He had the chance to assist Senators Magnuson and Jackson in crafting legislation which helped to protect our domestic salmon industry. In the 1960's and 1970's he worked with the Johnson, Nixon, Ford and Carter Administrations in negotiating international fishery agreements to balance access to the resource against the need to limit harvests to a sustainable level. He worked with Senators Magnuson and Stevens and Congressman DON YOUNG in the 1970's developing the legislation which extended American fishing jurisdiction out to 200 miles. And he remained active during the 1980's and 1990's as we successfully developed a whole range of commercially valuable species in the North Pacific, species which now provide employment to thousands of Washington residents.

Bill was very proud of his long involvement with the commercial fishing industry, but he was perhaps even more proud of the years of hard work that he put in working toward both a degree in Business Administration and a Masters in History from Seattle University, an institution for which he had a special fondness.

Education was always an issue of great importance to Bill, and he conveyed this value to his six children who were a great joy to him during his lifetime. He will be greatly missed by them by his wife Dolores who, sadly, had only been able to enjoy one year of retired life with Bill prior to his sudden and tragic death.

I feel that I have lost both a close advisor and a friend with the passing of Bill Saletic. He will be missed by me and by all those who had the opportunity to know him.

IN RECOGNITION OF SEAN STEPHENSON'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 1999

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable constituent and former intern with my office, Sean Stephenson. Sean