

TRANSCRIPT: President Bill Clinton visits Katzinger's Deli

Katzinger's Founder Diane Warren says:

"February 15th, 1993, President Clinton, Representative Joe Biden, Senator John Glenn came to Katzinger's. And, while they were here, President Clinton made up his own sandwich.

Clinton was trying to get a universal health care bill passed and I was very much in favor of that. I traveled around the state talking to people about it and really trying to help him get this bill passed. And somebody in his staff heard about that. And since they were coming to Columbus for another reason, they said, "Let's go to Katzinger's."

So here we are, I know. I tell my mother, my father and my little 100-year old daughter Rachel that we were going to meet the president of the United States. And my mother said, "I have to have surgery. We can't do it that day. So, we substituted my favorite Uncle Gene who had #21 Gene's Free Lunch on the board. Gene's Free Lunch has corned beef, roast beef, Swiss cheese, creamy Cole slaw and Russian dressing on pumpernickel. It's a great sandwich.

The secret service was here en masse. Across the street there were guys with rifles on the roofs across the street. President Clinton walks in the door, everybody gasps, the room was full. He looks up and says, "Wow, what a cool place."

Customers, they shake hands, really, really wonderful. They look up at the menu board just like everybody else does when they walk in the deli and they think about what they're gonna have to eat. The president was first.

Uncle Gene has sort of corralled the president and talked to him about his sandwich that was on the board. The president very nicely nodded his head and then came over to place his order. He ordered his own sandwich that he made up all by himself with corned Beef and Swiss cheese and spicy mustard also on pumpernickel. Not quite like Uncle Gene's but close enough.

They asked us to come and sit with them - myself and Steve my partner. And they talked bout health care reform and some other things. I said, "We need hats." So I ran over and I got some hats, Katzinger's hats, and they all put them on.

The amazing thing for me was that they were just normal people. This was the president of the United States, this was a member of Congress, it was a Senator and they were just normal people. They stood in line, they looked up at the menu, they decided what they wanted and John Glenn pulled out his wallet and said, "I'll pay for everything" to which I said, "That's okay. I got it covered."