

"I love this class. It keeps me writing and thinking," said Nena Van Voorhis, who urged her husband to join her.

Reluctantly Lee Van Voorhis went to the class, taught by Gloria Gootrav, and in a short time found the class to be an exciting thing.

"This class is fantastic. You realize you have a mind that's full of ideas," he explained. Van Voorhis had finally found a way of putting into words his thoughts about that question posed to him six decades ago.

"I have always loved the Robert Frost poem, 'The Road Not Taken,'" said Van Voorhis.

"We all pray for peace," explained Van Voorhis, "but the road to peace, like I described here, you have to work at it. I mean a very specific effort as much as you have to work on your defenses."

Nena and Lee Van Voorhis are the parents of four, three sons and one daughter, and the grandparents of 12.

Following is an essay Van Voorhis wrote for the class that is included in a book called "Writings from the Heart," a collection of short stories published by the 2007-2008 Creative Writing Class.

THE ROAD NOT TAKEN
(By Robert Frost)

"I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by.
And that has made all the difference."

So it has been through human history the most traveled road has been the road to war. Every nation carefully records all its wars and usually marks them with various memorials, statues, and honors for all the veterans.

The road less traveled leads to peace. This is desired by everyone worldwide. We all want to raise our children in peace. Going on the road to war is easy. My country is right and your country is doing something wrong or starting open conflict in some disputed area then the threatening words start escalating. Each side putting out aggressive words like "you need to be punished" or "face sanctions" or calling them "an axis of evil." Our people hate you and you hate us. Now each country believes the other country is evil and we must settle our differences with war.

"The road less traveled by" is the road to peace. This improves your communication with other countries, then we better understand the real root of each other's concerns and will be more compassionate and try to find common ground for peaceful solutions. Going on the road to war means we immediately start thinking of our military defenses and start cutting communications with the country we disagree with.

Ping-pong games opened China for President Nixon. The N.Y. Philharmonic's visit to N. Korea gave us the opportunity to try to negotiate with N. Korea. As Robert Frost said about the road taken, "I, I took the one less traveled by and that has made all the difference."

We must think of every possible way to improve our communication with the countries we have problems with. How about such things as starting a worldwide Art Olympics in which there would be various themes either taking or on the road to peace with various categories for children and adults?

To stimulate these ideas helping peace, how about a Secretary of Peace in our President's cabinet, charged with nothing but encouraging ideas and actions for peace. (The Secretary of State's job is charged with protecting American interests, and official dealings with foreign countries only.)

As Robert Frost said about having taken the road less traveled "and that has made all the difference."

So let's go for the road less traveled—Peace will make all the difference.

IN RECOGNITION OF UNITED PARCEL SERVICE LEADING THE NATION IN UNITED WAY DONATIONS

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate United Parcel Service (UPS) and its employees for its generosity.

For the past nine years, UPS has consecutively led the nation in donations to United Way. This year's annual campaign raised over \$53 million for United Way and with a matching contribution by the UPS Foundation, the total is expected to exceed \$60 million—more than any other participating company. In total, over the past twenty-five years UPS has contributed over \$924 million to United Way. Their charity extended beyond their financial contributions. Employees gave generously of their time with over 900,000 hours of community service through the Global Volunteer Month and UPS's Neighbor-to-Neighbor program. The emphasis on philanthropy and improving local communities through its partnership with United Way can be seen at all levels of the organization.

Madam Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in expressing our heartiest congratulations to UPS on this remarkable achievement and for their commitment to helping others.

INTRODUCING WE THE PEOPLE

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the We the People Act. The We the People Act forbids federal courts, including the Supreme Court, from adjudicating cases concerning State laws and polices relating to religious liberties or "privacy," including cases involving sexual practices, sexual orientation or reproduction. The We the People Act also protects the traditional definition of marriage from judicial activism by ensuring the Supreme Court cannot abuse the equal protection clause to redefine marriage. In order to hold Federal judges accountable for abusing their powers, the act also provides that a judge who violates the act's limitations on judicial power shall either be impeached by Congress or removed by the President, according to rules established by the Congress.

The United States Constitution gives Congress the authority to establish and limit the jurisdiction of the lower Federal courts and limit the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court. The Founders intended Congress to use this authority to correct abuses of power by the Federal judiciary.

Some may claim that an activist judiciary that strikes down State laws at will expands individual liberty. Proponents of this claim overlook the fact that the best guarantor of

true liberty is decentralized political institutions, while the greatest threat to liberty is concentrated power. This is why the Constitution carefully limits the power of the Federal Government over the States.

In recent years, we have seen numerous abuses of power by Federal courts. Federal judges regularly strike down State and local laws on subjects such as religious liberty, sexual orientation, family relations, education, and abortion. This government by Federal judiciary causes a virtual nullification of the Tenth Amendment's limitations on Federal power. Furthermore, when Federal judges impose their preferred polices on State and local governments, instead of respecting the polices adopted by those elected by, and thus accountable to, the people, republican government is threatened. Article IV, section 4 of the United States Constitution guarantees each State a republican form of government. Thus, Congress must act when the executive or judicial branch threatens the republican governments of the individual States. Therefore, Congress has a responsibility to stop Federal judges from running roughshod over State and local laws. The Founders would certainly have supported congressional action to reign in Federal judges who tell citizens where they can and can't place manger scenes at Christmas.

Madam Speaker, even some supporters of liberalized abortion laws have admitted that the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision, which overturned the abortion laws of all 50 States, is flawed. The Supreme Court's establishment clause jurisdiction has also drawn criticism from across the political spectrum. Perhaps more importantly, attempts to resolve, by judicial fiat, important issues like abortion and the expression of religious belief in the public square increase social strife and conflict. The only way to resolve controversial social issues like abortion and school prayer is to restore respect for the right of State and local governments to adopt polices that reflect the beliefs of the citizens of those jurisdictions. I would remind my colleagues and the Federal judiciary that, under our constitutional system, there is no reason why the people of New York and the people of Texas should have the same policies regarding issues such as marriage and school prayer.

Unless Congress acts, a State's authority to define and regulate marriage may be the next victim of activist judges. After all, such a decision would simply take the Supreme Court's decision in the Lawrence case, which overturned all State sodomy laws, to its logical conclusion. Congress must launch a preemptive strike against any further Federal usurpation of the States' authority to regulate marriage by removing issues concerning the definition of marriage from the jurisdiction of Federal courts.

Although marriage is licensed and otherwise regulated by the States, government did not create the institution of marriage. Government regulation of marriage is based on State recognition of the practices and customs formulated by private individuals interacting in civil institutions, such as churches and synagogues. Having Federal officials, whether judges, bureaucrats, or congressmen, impose a new definition of marriage on the people is an act of social engineering profoundly hostile to liberty.

It is long past time that Congress exercises its authority to protect the republican government of the States from out-of-control Federal judges. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor the We the People Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 11, I was caught in traffic from Dulles, and had I been present, I would have voted “aye.”

HONORING ERNIE GEMPERLE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague from California Mr. CARDOZA to honor the life of Ernie Gemperle for his dedication and service to his community and family. Mr. Gemperle passed away at the age of seventy-nine on Saturday, November 15, 2008 at Emanuel Medical Center in his home town of Turlock, California.

Ernie Gemperle was born on June 7, 1929 in Bischofszell, Switzerland and was one of twelve children. He graduated from the International Poultry School in Bern. Mr. Gemperle emigrated from Switzerland in 1949 with nothing more than his degree. Upon arriving to the United States, he was drafted into the Army, where he served at Fort Ord during the Korean War. In October 1955, he went back to Switzerland to marry his childhood sweetheart, Annemarie Dezelhofer. They returned to the U.S., settled in Turlock, California and began an egg business, Gemperle Enterprises. Together, Mr. and Mrs. Gemperle raised seven children and developed a successful business.

Gemperle Enterprises has been an industry leader as egg production moved from small, scattered henhouses to the concentrated, automated operations of today. The business was one of the first egg farms to use bulk, rather than sacked, feeds. Mr. Gemperle upgraded the packing system in other areas of the operation with the goal of providing quality eggs at a lower price. The eggs were marketed under the Nulaid label. He soon joined with other egg producers to create NuWest Milling, which built a feed and grain terminal near Hughson, California and the NuCal Foods distribution cooperative in Ripon, California. Mr. Gemperle was a pioneer for the egg industry, including organic and other specialty eggs. He was willing to purchase the newest equipment with the latest technology to insure the safety of the hens and provide the lowest prices for the consumers. Today, the family business has grown to include over one million hens on several farms.

Mr. Gemperle and his family have tirelessly supported numerous causes, including their church, healthcare, higher education and the arts. The Greater Yosemite Council of Boy Scouts was his number one cause. Mr. Gemperle served as Council President for two terms from 1990–1991. He received the Silver

Beaver for his service to Scouting in 1991. He also served as the head of the council's Investment Committee from its inception in 2006. He has also served on the Executive Board of the Council from the early seventies until his recent passing. His son, Michael, serves as the Scouting Nominating Committee Chair and as the Executive Vice President of the Council. Michael is slated to become President in 2010. Since 1971, the Gemperle Family Bar-B-Que has raised money for Scouting each year. The event is held at the family home and the food is served by family members. It is estimated that over \$500,000 has been raised from this BBQ.

Mr. Gemperle was considered a leader in his local community. He served as Rotary President and a Rotarian for forty years. He has been a driving force behind many of the City Council's initiatives, including the building of the Rogers Service Center in 1999–2000. He served on the boards for both Emanuel Hospital and Doctors Hospital in Modesto. He was past chairman of Catholic Charities of the Stockton Diocese and was instrumental in the construction of Sacred Heart Church and the California State University, Stanislaus Newman Center. Recognition of his service is great; including Agri-businessman of the Year (1980 Turlock Chamber), Paul Harris (1985 Rotary), Liberty Bell (1990 County Bar), University Medal (1991 CSUS) and Good Samaritan (1999 EMC) just to name a few.

Mr. Gemperle's leadership and generosity has been passed down to his children who now run Gemperle Enterprises. All of his children are active in the community and serve on the boards or committees for various organizations and causes that Mr. Gemperle supported. He was a strong supporter and advocate of California State University, Stanislaus, United Samaritan's of Turlock, Emanuel Hospital of Turlock, Sacred Heart Church and the Boy Scouts of America. The family was honored at the “Distinguished Citizen's Dinner” by the Council in 2005 for their continuous work and dedication to the community.

Annemarie Gemperle preceded her husband in death in 1999. Mr. Gemperle is survived by his second wife, Maria Gemperle; sons Peter, Richard, Stephen and Michael all of Turlock; daughters Heidi Gemperle of Seattle, Anita Mahaffey of San Diego and Susan Abdo of Boise; two step-daughters Brigit Johnson and Barbara Masterson; twenty-one grandchildren; three step-grandchildren; brother, Walter Gemperle of Turlock and six siblings in Switzerland.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to posthumously honor Ernie Gemperle for his leadership and dedication to his community. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring his life and wishing the best for his family.

RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS OF THOSE WHO SERVE THEIR COMMUNITIES ON MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 13, 2009

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 43, which recog-

nizes the efforts of those who serve their communities on Martin Luther King Day and promotes the holiday as a day of national service.

During his life, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. recognized the power of service to strengthen communities. In 1994, Congress made Martin Luther King Day a national day of community volunteerism to further commemorate Dr. King's commitment to others.

This King Day, as part of inauguration festivities, President-elect Barack Obama has encouraged all Americans to not only use this day to volunteer, but to also make a long-term commitment to community service.

At home in Minnesota, and across the nation, many will volunteer to serve their communities by working at food banks, helping the homeless, and improving schools. Minnesotans have a proud tradition of civic engagement. In a study conducted by the Corporation for National and Community Service, Minneapolis-St. Paul was ranked number one for volunteer rates in a large city.

As we begin this new Congress and new White House Administration, I can think of no better way to strengthen our country than to help create change in our communities. I encourage everyone to get involved this Martin Luther King Day and to browse <http://www.usaservice.org> for volunteer opportunities. I also want to thank every American who will volunteer on Monday and those that continue to serve throughout the year.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KAGEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Mr. KAGEN. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unable to participate in four votes on the floor of the House of Representatives on January 9, 2009, as I was recovering from knee surgery.

The first vote was rollcall vote No. 7, a motion to recommit H.R. 12, the Paycheck Fairness Act. Had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

The second vote was rollcall vote No. 8, on final passage of H.R. 12. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

The third vote was rollcall vote No. 9, on final passage of H.R. 11, the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. Had I been present I would have voted “yes.”

IN RECOGNITION OF CHRISTINA MELTON CRAIN

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Christina Melton Crain who is being recognized by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) with the dedication of a unit after her namesake.

Christina was first appointed to the Texas State Board of Criminal Justice (TBCJ) in April 2001 and in February 2003 she became the first woman in Texas history to lead the nine-member board as its new Chair. Under her leadership, she worked closely with the TDCJ,