

Johnson will present this 2001 Industry of the Year Award at the Industrial Luncheon at the First United Methodist Church. Although I will not be able to attend this ceremony because I will be in Washington, D.C. fulfilling my official legislative duties, I want to congratulate all of the employees at the Enron Methanol plant and Plant Manager David Bush for their commitment to community service. Helping your neighbors is a valuable goal which we should all applaud.

As you may know, Enron Methanol is the seventh industry recognized by the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce for the overall positive impact they provide to the area. This Award is presented annually to a local business which has contributed to improving our neighborhoods and community.

Enron Methanol has clearly demonstrated their commitment to our area. This year, Enron Methanol employees have worked cooperatively with many local community groups including the United Way, Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, American Heart Association, Pasadena Police Department, Girls Softball, H.O.S.T. program, Pen Pal Program, Science Fair judges, Pasadena Alumni Association, the Emergency Response Team and East Harris County Manufacturing Association as well as the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce. All of these organizations have benefited from the volunteer labor and financial assistance which Enron Methanol employees provide to local organizations.

The Pasadena Enron plant produces Methanol, which is a colorless liquid used in MTBE, Acetic Acid, Formaldehyde, Fuel, and Windshield washer fluid. This facility is one of the world's most energy efficient methanol plants. They provide sixty jobs locally with an annual payroll of \$3,600,000 and pay \$750,000 in taxes to our area.

Again, I want to congratulate the employees of Enron Methanol and encourage other local business organizations to participate in local volunteer activities to make Pasadena, Texas a better place to live.

#### FENTON HIGH SCHOOL AND JEFFERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

#### HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 15, 2001*

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, each year I present a challenge to the 6th District high school seniors and to the students attending junior high. The challenge is an essay contest I sponsor in which I choose a topic and ask the student to write about it. The work is judged on originality, creativeness, cohesiveness, writing skills, including sentence and paragraph structure, and neatness. The topic for the Seniors this year was "The Necessity of the Electoral College," and for the junior high students, I asked that they write about James Madison.

I am very pleased to share with my colleagues the essays that won first place. In the senior category, the author of the winning entry is Jeremy Hawbaker who lives in Bensenville and attends Fenton High School. The first place winner in the junior high category is Keith Root of Elmhurst who attends Jefferson Middle School. I thoroughly enjoyed

the writing skills of both these young students and am pleased to insert their essays in the RECORD for your enjoyment.

#### THE NECESSITY OF THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE

(By Jeremy Hawbaker)

In the wake of a highly controversial election, in which a candidate won with less popular votes but more electoral votes than the other candidate, the question of whether the Electoral College should be abolished or not has come up. Questions then arise around that. What exactly is the purpose, the original purpose, the Founders put it in place for? What would be the advantage of abolishing it in favor of election by purely popular vote? What other method is there?

The purpose of the Electoral College, as the Framers of the Constitution made it, was that with this system, more populated states would not be able to dominate over the less populated states in the presidential elections. This was a compromise made between those who favored power in the states and those who favored the power in the people. This was also a precautionary measure. The Founders created the United States of America as a republic, not a democracy as many would have one believe. They knew when they formed the nation that a democracy could quickly lead to mob rule and eventually tyranny, the farthest thing that they wanted having just fought a war to rid themselves of the tyranny of the British government. In a republic, there would be a government of law that would protect the rights of an individual. As James Madison wrote, many important issues "are too often decided, not according to the rules of justice and the rights of the minor party, but by the superior force of an interested and overbearing majority." In other words, people too often vote the way in which they are misled by politicians who claim to have the people's best interests in mind. Decisions are made by emotion rather than intellect. Instead, in the republic that America is currently, decisions are made by close deliberation. The Founding Fathers also knew their history. They were aware that unlimited power could not be trusted to anyone, including the people. As constitutional scholar Dan Smoot pointed out, "they devised a system to control political power by dispersing it and balancing it so that too much power could not be concentrated in one place." The Electoral College system was also made to protect the people from despots. Once again, from their knowledge of history, the Framers knew that in past democracies in which leaders were chosen by the people alone tyrants had quickly arisen. For example, Caesar, elected by the people with promises of more property, quickly seized power. As Benjamin Franklin put it, "There is scarce a king in a hundred who would not, if he could, follow the example of Pharaoh, get first at the people's money, then all their lands, and then make them and their children servants forever." This has also happened since the Founders. One of the more obvious examples is that of Adolf Hitler who was elected by a democratic election. Hitler, after becoming Chancellor of Germany, rapidly pooled up as much power as possible and abolished the independence of the German states. This was not because this is what the German people wanted. They were unfortunately ignorant of what Hitler truly wanted and instead listened to his promises of security and greatness. Perhaps if such an institution such as the Electoral College existed in Germany this would not have happened. As Fisher Ames, one of America's first congressmen aptly put it, "Every step . . . towards a more complete unmixed democracy is an advance towards destruction; it is treading where the

ground is treacherous and excavated for an explosion. Liberty has never lasted long in a democracy; nor has it ever ended in anything better than despotism."

Many people today feel however that popular vote is a much better way of determining who the next president should be. What are the advantages of this then? Or rather should I say what are the disadvantages? One possible advantage is that by abolishing the electoral College, the election process is simplified. The principle of "one person, one vote" is upheld. However, there are many disadvantages. One problem with this method is that it worsens the problems associated with a two-party system. "Split votes" become a serious problem in that if two candidates divide the vote of those who agree with them, a dissimilar third candidate would receive the plurality of the votes even if the electorate sides more with the pair. A larger problem though is that this would require an amendment, an amendment that would most likely never be able to be passed. An amendment requires three-fourths of the states to support it. In an amendment such as this, most states would lose their influence in presidential politics. Few states would endorse this.

What then is there to do? I suggest retaining the Electoral College but reforming it. Instead of the "winner-takes-all" system that the Electoral College runs under now, electors should instead be chosen by congressional districts, with two electors-at-large for the senators in each state. With this idea, candidates would receive an electoral vote from each district they win. This would much more accurately reflect popular mandate. An advantage of this is that it would not take a Constitutional amendment. States can already do this if they wish, a couple of states already do. In this last election, the results would have been much more simplified as well. Bush won counties with an aggregate population of 143 million, compared to the 127 million that Gore would have won. This system would preserve then the weighting of votes in favor of the less populous states instead of letting the more populous states totally dominate over presidential elections.

To keep our country secure and free then, the Electoral College should by all means stay as part of our government. However, I do believe that the process should be looked at due to the amount of controversy recently surrounding it.

#### JAMES MADISON, THE FATHER OF THE CONSTITUTION

(By Keith Root)

James Madison, the president of the United States from 1809-1817, is known today as the Father of the Constitution because of his major role in the Constitutional Convention. His many other accomplishments include serving as Thomas Jefferson's secretary of state from 1801-1809 and sponsoring the Bill of Rights.

James Madison was born on March 16, 1751 in Port Conway, Virginia. He was the son and heir to a wealthy planter. He received a full education, and graduated from the College of New Jersey (which is now Princeton University) in 1771. In 1776, he was elected to the Virginia Convention, a convention that was called to urge independence from Britain. He was elected in 1780 to the Continental Congress, of which he was the youngest member. Despite this potential drawback, he gained much respect and rose to a position of leadership. During his term he worked with Alexander Hamilton (unsuccessfully) to give Congress the power to tax and regulate trade.

Madison was instrumental in persuading Congress to revise the Articles of Confederation (the current constitution at that

time) and, ultimately, create the Constitution that we have today. The Constitutional Convention met in May 1787 in Philadelphia. Madison played a huge role. He drafted the Virginia Plan, the basis for the new government's structure. He also created the checks and balances system, which insures that none of the branches of government become too powerful. Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and John Jay created the Federalist Papers, essays that defended the Constitution against people who feared a strong central government. Madison then shepherded the new Constitution through the ratification process through 1787 and 1788.

Madison was elected to the House of Representatives in 1789, where he sponsored the Bill of Rights, the first ten amendments to the Constitution. He broke with Alexander Hamilton and the Federalist Party in 1791 and joined Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe in creating the Democratic-Republican, or Jeffersonian Republican, Party. In 1794, Madison married Dolley Payne Todd, who was a widow.

In 1801 Madison was appointed secretary of state under Thomas Jefferson, where he failed to persuade the British to stop interfering with American trade. In 1809, he ran in the presidential election and defeated Charles Pickney, the Federalist Candidate with 122 electoral votes to 47. He repealed the embargo by which Thomas Jefferson (who was President before him) tried to avoid war with Europe by banning trade with them. (The major European powers were at war themselves.) However, this didn't stop tensions between Britain and America. Madison declared the War of 1812 on June 12. In 1814, Madison replaced Secretary of War John Armstrong (who wasn't managing the war very well) with James Monroe when Washington was captured. A peace treaty was signed in Belgium in December 1814, but it didn't solve any of the outstanding issues between the U.S. and Britain.

After the war, Madison chartered a national bank and negotiated an agreement (called the Rush-Bagot Agreement) for demilitarization of the frontier between the U.S. and Canada. However, this agreement wasn't ratified until Madison had left office.

When Madison left office, he retired to his estate in Orange County, Virginia. He avoided further participation in politics, and helped Thomas Jefferson found the University of Virginia in 1826. Ten years later, at his estate, James Madison died. That night, America lost one of the most important men in its development as a country.

#### TRIBUTE TO BEAVER COUNTY POLICE OFFICERS

### HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 15, 2001*

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I rise to the floor today to pay tribute to the law enforcement community of Beaver County, Pennsylvania. These heroic men and women of uniform will be honored on Friday, May 18, 2001 as part of Peace Officers Memorial Day.

Pursuant to a joint resolution of the United States Congress issued June 21, 1961, the President of the United States has designated a week in May as Police Week, in honor of

the federal, state, and municipal law enforcement officers who have lost their lives or suffered injuries while safeguarding the lives and properties of the communities they serve.

I join all the residents of Beaver County in recognizing the courageous service these police officers provide to their communities. Their dedication to protecting and preserving the laws of this great land and ensuring that all citizens receive justice deserves the praise and gratitude of all Americans.

I congratulate these men and women who selflessly risk their lives to protect ours, and I thank them for all their service.

#### FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 2002 AND 2003

SPEECH OF

### HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2001*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration: the bill (H.R. 1646) to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal years 2002 and 2003, and for other purposes:

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, once again, I would like to speak in opposition to the DeLay amendment to H.R. 1646.

The intent of the International Criminal Court (ICC) is to try individual perpetrators of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity when nations cannot or will not hold perpetrators accountable. I can think of no Member of the U.S. Congress, the administration, or any federal agency, including the Department of Defense and all branches of our armed forces, opposed to ensuring that war criminals are brought to justice. If the accused perpetrator of a war crime is an American citizen, civilian or soldier, then I would strongly support our civilian and/or military systems of justice do everything in their power to bring this individual to trial in the appropriate American court as would be permissible under the ICC treaty.

The argument by supporters of this amendment that American servicemen and service-women would be at risk of being tried in foreign courts under the ICC treaty is not accurate. Presently, any alleged crime, including war crimes, committed by U.S. citizens on foreign soil can already be tried in that nation's courts. The ICC would do nothing to diminish the role a U.S. court would have in bringing to trial accused war criminals if they were American citizens. In fact, the ICC could only intervene in trying Americans in the very unlikely event that the American judicial system would be unwilling or unable to try a case.

I do not believe the formation of the ICC will threaten American military personnel. The ICC will provide a forum to bring individuals to justice that commit the most heinous and inhuman acts of systematic violence around the world. To ensure that the U.S. Congress is committed to achieve this needed justice I oppose the DeLay amendment.

#### TRIBUTE TO MRS. BETTY R. HORNER

### HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 15, 2001*

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Betty R. Horner, Conejo Valley Civic Leader and pioneer in the communities of Westlake Village and Thousand Oaks, California. Her volunteer service spans more than 32 years.

Betty Horner's community service began in 1968, in the Westlake Village Foxmoor neighborhood homeowners association. At the same time, she was a baseball and cheerleader team mother with the Westlake Athletic Association. She also worked with the PTA and PFA in her neighborhood schools.

While raising her family of three children, Cynthia, Larry Jr., and Kymberly, and helping support her husband Larry Sr.'s professional and political career, Betty began to fashion a civic and philanthropic career for herself.

Betty's distinguished community involvement includes service as the First Lady of Thousand Oaks and Charge d'Affaires (official hostess for the City of Thousand Oaks). This role required her attendance at public ceremonies, meeting with public officials and dignitaries, representing the City of Thousand Oaks, performing ribbon cuttings, and presenting commendations. She was tenacious and carried out her duties with much style and grace. She attended all City Council meetings for 15½ years, a record unequaled by anyone in the city.

Due to her engaging personality and knowledge of the community, Betty has been asked to serve on many prestigious public and private boards and committees. She is an original member of the City of Thousand Oaks' Volunteers in Policing Team and at 65 years of age she can be seen patrolling neighborhoods to help keep our community safe. In 1976, she joined the Westlake Women's club, serving as its president during 1987-88. This philanthropic organization raises thousands of dollars annually for various local organizations and charities. Betty was also instrumental in helping to build the Thousand Oaks Library, and has served on the Library Foundation Board.

She was also selected by the Automobile Club of Southern California to serve on their Advisory Board for seven years.

Betty has received numerous honors and recognitions, including Woman of the Year from the Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce and was also chosen as one of the ten Outstanding Women in Southern California by Coca Cola Bottling Co. and the Los Angeles Sentinel.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Betty R. Horner for her many contributions and years of dedication to the Conejo Valley.