

of its welfare-to-work initiatives, traditional welfare rolls declined by more than 95 percent. But that's not all. More babies are being born healthy, more children are receiving immunizations, and fewer families are living in poverty.

These achievements are a result of the partnership of several organizations working together with families to address their community's needs. One such partner is the Taliaferro County Board of Commissioners and, in particular, Mrs. Jane Hubert. Commissioner Hubert has been faithful throughout the years, attending the monthly collaborative meetings and supporting its special events, including the bike rodeo, back to school bash, street dance, and more. According to Mrs. Butts, over the past 19 years, the Board of Commissioners "has supported every aspect of everything" Family Connection has ever done. "Everything I've needed they've come through with all these years," she said.

For these reasons and on the occasion of its 19th Anniversary, it is my honor to acknowledge Taliaferro County Family Connection and the partners that contribute to its success. Furthermore, I extend my personal appreciation to the families who join hand-in-hand with this worthy organization to ensure that their children succeed in school and beyond.

HONORING OLEALIA BRADSHAW

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable unsung hero, Mrs. Olealia Bradshaw of Mississippi.

Olealia Bradshaw was born to the late Spencer and the late Earnestine Frye on September 25th 1948. She is a graduate of John F. Kennedy Memorial High School in Mound Bayou, MS and later attended Coahoma Community College, where she obtained an Associate Degree in Social Studies.

Realizing the study of history was not her passion, she furthered her studies at Delta State University receiving a Bachelor Degree in Home. While at Delta State University, she met and later married standout football player, Jimmy Lee Bradshaw. To that union, four children were born: Gabriel, Michellda, Rasheda, and Ernestine.

Upon graduating from Delta State University, Olealia began teaching at John F. Kennedy High School and she remained a teacher for twenty-nine years. Throughout the years, students, co-workers and community residents have expressed how she blessed their lives, personally and professionally. Although her influence in the realm of education is immeasurable, Olealia considers her greatest achievement to be her total surrender to the Will of God Almighty, and her desire to live a life that is pleasing to Him. She is a faithful member of St. Mark Church of God in Christ where she serves as the Sunday School Superintendent.

She lives her life in servitude to others. She and her late husband would open their home for the homeless and provided various services to the homeless to be able to re-establish their independence.

Mrs. Bradshaw is a mentor to many children, not only when she was in the edu-

cational system, but in her neighborhood and Christian community. She is someone who is admired, loved and respected for how she speaks the truth of the matters at hand.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Olealia Bradshaw for being an unsung hero to others in the Mississippi Delta.

COMMEMORATING MARYLAND'S FALLEN HEROES

HON. ANDY HARRIS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2017

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of one of our nation's most important holidays, Memorial Day. On Monday, May 29, we will honor the brave men and women who have given their lives to this great nation. Over the course of our nation's history, countless Marylanders have made the ultimate sacrifice to protect our freedom here at home and to liberate others from tyranny abroad. Since the War on Terror began in 2002, more than 135 Marylanders have died fighting for what they believe in.

Amidst the festivities and parades we will all enjoy on Monday, let us not lose sight of the sacrifices made by our men and women in uniform, or the sacrifices made by the families they leave behind. These heroes and their families deserve our utmost respect, support, and gratitude. May God bless these fallen heroes and their families, and may God bless the United States of America.

BRET ELZEY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Bret Elzey for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Bret Elzey is a student at Goal Academy and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Bret Elzey is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Bret Elzey for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

TREVOR KINGSLEY GRAHAM

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2017

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Mr. Trevor

Graham as a member of the United States Naval Academy Class of 2017.

Trevor will graduate from the U.S. Naval Academy with a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry and he will receive a commission as an Ensign in the United States Navy on May 26, 2017.

His career in the service has just begun, but it is a testament to Trevor's unselfish devotion to the people of this great nation.

The challenges will be many and the time, although it may seem like an eternity, will fly by almost unnoticed.

South Mississippi is proud of Trevor and his accomplishments. We look forward to him continuing to represent not only Mississippi, but the entire nation, as a United States Navy officer.

As Trevor embarks on a new chapter in life, it is my hope that he may always recall with a deep sense of pride and accomplishment graduating from a program as prestigious as the Naval Academy.

I would like to send Trevor my best wishes for continued success in his future endeavors, thank him for his service, and congratulate him on this momentous occasion.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CHIEF TIM GREEN FOR HIS 35 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE CARMEL POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2017

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Tim Green of the Carmel Police Department. For over three decades, Chief Green has displayed courage, resilience, and leadership in serving the city of Carmel and its residents. During his tenure, Carmel was deemed the safest city to raise a child and best place to live in America, according to multiple national studies. The people of Indiana's Fifth Congressional District are forever grateful for Chief Green's commitment to making the City of Carmel and the wider community of Hamilton County a safer, better place to live.

After graduating from North Central High School, Chief Green earned a Bachelor's Degree in Law Enforcement from Calumet College. He then went on to graduate from the FBI National Academy in Quantico Virginia, the FBI Enforcement Executive Development Seminar, and the Indiana Association of Chiefs of Police Executive Leadership Academy. Chief Green has served the Carmel Police Department for 35 years. He was first hired as a patrolman at age twenty-two. He has served as Commander of the Special Investigations Division, Director of the Hamilton County Drug Task Force, and was Assistant Chief of Police for 16 years. In 2011, Mayor Jim Brainard appointed Chief Green to lead the Department as Carmel's Chief of Police, where he has served with distinction for the last six years.

Chief Green's commitment to quality police work and professionalism on the force has ensured the safety of our citizens, and has made Carmel a great place to live and do business. His colleagues have described him as a strong leader and great mentor. Chief Green's

ability to lead by example inspires excellence in his fellow officers. His leadership has empowered the department to be successful in assessing and combatting trends in crime. During his time as Police Chief, Carmel's population has greatly increased and the department has grown to 113 sworn officers and 25 civilian support personnel and continues to be accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies, an international recognition for professionalism, excellence and competence.

Chief Green's devotion to a career of service to his community is invaluable. On behalf of all Hoosiers, I wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to Chief Green for his 35 years of service. I wish the very best to Chief Green, his wife Brigit, and his two children, Jessica and Evan, in his well-deserved retirement and in the next exciting chapter of his life.

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIQUE RATIFICATION OF THE 27TH AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2017

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, this month, May of 2017, marks the 25th Anniversary of the unusual ratification of the 27th Amendment to the United States Constitution. Proposed to the state legislatures for ratification by the very First Congress in 1789, and sponsored by none other than James Madison, who was a Member of this House that year, it was finally incorporated into the Federal Constitution more than 202 years later when the Alabama Legislature became the 38th to approve it on this date in 1992.

Early in our nation's history, this constitutional amendment was adopted, pursuant to the Constitution's Article V, by the legislatures of Maryland and North Carolina in 1789, by those in South Carolina and Delaware in 1790, by those in Vermont and Virginia in 1791, as well as by that of Kentucky in 1792. But the proposal still had not gained the approval of enough states to be fully ratified. More than 80 years after Kentucky, Ohio lawmakers belatedly ratified it in 1873; but by then, with so many additional states having joined the Union, the ratification threshold had risen much higher. In order to become part of the U.S. Constitution today, with 50 states currently in the Union, a proposed constitutional amendment requires adoption by at least 38 states.

During its later years, as the amendment approached full ratification, I was privileged to personally contribute to this proposal formally becoming part of the U.S. Constitution. Before starting my congressional service in 2005, I was among those members of the Texas House of Representatives who voted "aye" on House Joint Resolution No. 6, on May 25, 1989, during the Regular Session of the 71st Texas Legislature, by which Texas lawmakers approved the amendment.

A common sense proposal, the amendment reads quite simply: "No law, varying the compensation for the services of the Senators and Representatives, shall take effect, until an

election of Representatives shall have intervened."

In other words, Members may set congressional salaries for the next term of office, but may not adjust their own wages during their current term.

It is safe to say, Mr. Speaker, that the 27th Amendment would never have made its way into the Federal Constitution were it not for the dogged persistence of an employee in the Texas House of Representatives by the name of Gregory Watson. Back in March 1982, Mr. Watson was a 19-year-old student at the University of Texas at Austin. At the same time, he had just recently been hired to work part-time for a Texas state representative at the nearby state Capitol building.

As instructed, Watson wrote a paper for a course entitled "American Government" at the University. He ended up choosing as the topic for that paper a still-pending proposed constitutional amendment that Congress had offered to the state legislatures for ratification some 192 years earlier. Intrigued, Watson argued in his paper that despite the proposed constitutional amendment having lingered before the nation's state legislators since the year 1789, it was still needed as a means of holding Congress accountable for its actions relative to Members' salary and he pointed out, in the paper, that the proposal had no deadline by which America's state lawmakers must have taken action. Hence, despite its age, the proposed amendment was still technically pending business before our country's state legislatures.

Watson turned in the academic paper and was disappointed to get it back later with a grade of "C" on it. He also received a "C" in the course overall. That stood for some 35 years until March 2017 when the overall course grade was officially raised to an "A" by UT-Austin upon formal petition of Watson's former professor.

Undaunted at the time by the original low grade on his term paper, Watson began in the spring of 1982 reaching out to seek sponsorship of the proposed constitutional amendment in the various state capitols across the United States. He was intent upon this amendment ultimately finding its way formally into the U.S. Constitution. The following year, 1983, the Maine Legislature became Watson's first success story. After that, in 1984, Colorado's lawmakers gave their approval. And from that point forward—with Watson vigorously pushing every step of the way—its momentum quickened until the proposal officially became the 27th Amendment to the Federal Constitution on May 5, 1992, a decade after Watson first learned of it.

From 1982 to present, Mr. Watson has been an institution in the halls of the Texas State Capitol in Austin, having been employed in both the Texas House of Representatives and Texas Senate, during his decades-long career as state legislative staff. Working for a number of my then-colleagues, it was there that I first came to know Mr. Watson.

To commemorate the quarter century of the 27th Amendment's presence within the U.S. Constitution, and at the same time to congratulate Mr. Watson on the March 2017 raising of his overall course grade from "C" to "A", I include in the RECORD an article from the March 14, 2017, edition of the Austin American-Statesman.

Mr. Speaker, as we in the Congress debate various proposals to amend the Federal Con-

stitution, it is important that we keep in mind the lessons that the 27th Amendment's unconventional path to ratification teach us about the power of the American people's wishes to ultimately prevail in our deliberations.

HERMAN: 35 YEARS LATER, A+ FOR AUSTINITE WHO GOT CONSTITUTION AMENDED?

(By Ken Herman—American-Statesman Staff)

Looks like we're heading for a happier new ending on a happy old story that some of you might not know about. Gregory Watson seems headed for an upgrade.

We begin back in spring 1982 when Watson, then a University of Texas student, signed up for Sharon Waite's GOV 310 course on American Government. For his term paper, young Watson researched the proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, a hot topic of the day.

But Watson diverted when he came upon a book that listed other proposed constitutional amendments proposed but never ratified by the required three-fourths of the states.

"And this one instantly jumped out at me," he recalled.

"This one" was proposed in 1789 and concerned congressional pay raises. At the time Watson believed six states had ratified it, with the most recent being Virginia in 1791. (This turned out to be wrong; two others later did.)

Another key year here is 1917. Before that, Congress did not put expiration dates on proposed constitutional amendments. That meant the 1789 one was still in play, and this gave birth to a term paper Watson recalls he titled, "Can a proposed constitutional amendment to the U.S. Constitution offered by Congress in 1789 still be ratified by the state legislatures after all these years?"

OK, not a title that smoothly rolls off the tongue, but on point.

The amendment says any pay hike members of Congress OK for themselves can't take effect until after the subsequent U.S. House election. The topic was hot in the early 1980s because in 1981 Congress had, in Watson's words, "slipped itself a sneaky pay raise" by tucking it into a coal miner health care bill.

So Watson turned his paper in to the course teaching assistant, who gave it a C-. Watson, a persistent fellow, appealed to Waite.

"She said she'd take a look at it. So I gave it to her," Watson told me. "And then the next class period, she kind of physically tossed it back at me and said, 'No change.'"

He got a C in the course and says he was "kind of, sort of" angry at Waite and the T.A.

"So I said, 'I will not let this disappoint me. I will go out and get that thing ratified,'" Watson said.

He did, starting by contacting lawmakers in Maine in 1983. Watson's thing became the 27th (and most recent) amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1992.

And that was that. The U.S. Constitution had a new amendment. And Watson still had a C in GOV 310.

About a year ago, UT government professor Zach Elkins and KUT Managing Editor Matt Largey contacted Watson and expressed interest in his story, but Watson didn't know what they were up to.

He found out March 4, live and on stage at the Paramount Theatre, where he had been invited for what he thought was to be a Q&A about his involvement in amending the U.S. Constitution. His story was one of several told at something called Pop-Up Magazine, which is kind of a live newsmagazine. Several other topics came up before Largey's telling of Watson's story, who then was invited on stage.