

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.

"It was at that point that professor Elkins handed me the envelope," Watson said.

The envelope contained an Update of Student Academic Record form requesting that his 1982 grade in the government course be changed from C to A+. It was signed by Waite.

In the space for "Explanation of error, delay or special circumstances," Waite wrote, "In light of the student's heroic efforts to prove the professor and T.A. wrong in their assessment of his term paper, Mr. Watson deserves an A+."

(FYI, UT doesn't do plus or minus grades so, if the form is approved, Watson's grade in the course will become an A.)

Waite, who was a lecturer at UT from 1981 to 1983, now works on a Mission citrus farm that's been in her family since 1922. Thanks to Watson's achievement, she proudly calls herself "a footnote to a footnote of history."

But she says C was the proper course grade at the time because she thought his theory about getting the constitutional amendment ratified was far-fetched. "I thought it couldn't be done," she said. "So he just proceeded to prove me wrong."

"Hey, a lowly lecturer has had more effect on the Constitution than anybody in the professorial ranks," Waite said with a laugh.

Elkins said he teaches about Watson's effort as an inspiring example of "heroic citizenship."

"We just need the dean's signature, and it's done," Elkins said of the grade change effort.

If this gets rejected, nobody should ever wear burnt orange again.

Largey remains understandably fascinated by Watson's story, which he has told at Pop-Up Magazine events in San Francisco; Washington; New York; Portland, Ore.; and Seattle.

"He is one of a kind," he said of Watson.

Largey's KUT story about Watson is scheduled to air at 6:45 and 8:45 a.m. Tuesday. You also should be able to find it at KUT.org.

Happier ending upcoming, indeed. And you might have a chance to make it even happier. Watson, 54, long has struggled financially as he worked in the government world, where jobs come and go.

Watson never graduated from college. He's been pretty much a constant presence at the Texas Capitol since 1982, where he's worked for 15 different lawmakers. He moved to Austin City Hall in 2015 to work for then-Council Member Don Zimmerman. When Zimmerman was defeated last year, Watson was out of work. He's now an aide to Rep. Stephanie Klick, R-Fort Worth.

In addition to the government jobs, Watson has moonlighted in retail and has bused tables at a downtown restaurant. His current legislative job ends when the legislative session ends in May. He needs a job after that. Maybe you know of something.

I can tell you Watson knows his way around government and got the U.S. Constitution amended.

And, assuming the change gets OK'd, he got an A in GOV 310.

One more thing: Yes, Watson still has his 1982 term paper—somewhere.

"I have tried and tried and tried to find that thing," he said. "I don't know where I put it. It's not the type of thing I would have thrown in the garbage. So it's somewhere. And I'm one of these funny people that keeps everything, so I've got storage unit after storage unit. It's somewhere in a box in a storage unit."

"Hopefully, the termites haven't gotten to it."

They wouldn't dare.

HONORING SANTA CRUZ CHIEF OF POLICE KEVIN VOGEL

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2017

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Santa Cruz Chief of Police Kevin Vogel for his 30 years of service to the Santa Cruz Police Department, and the community it serves.

Chief Vogel has dedicated his entire career to the people of Santa Cruz, and was first sworn in as a cadet for the SCPD in June 1987. Throughout his long and distinguished career, Chief Vogel has served in numerous capacities in the Department, including as a patrol officer, traffic officer and detective. He was promoted to sergeant in January 1995 where he served as a patrol supervisor, downtown supervisor and detective sergeant. He was promoted to lieutenant in 2002, and to Deputy Chief of Police in May 2004. He was appointed as the City's 21st Chief of Police on December 9, 2010.

A champion of creative and transparent community-oriented policing, Chief Vogel oversaw the implementation of a highly successful and innovative predictive policing program. This program utilizes technology based on earthquake prediction technology, and was praised by numerous media outlets and law enforcement agencies around the country, including The New York Times, ABC World News, and was even named as one of Time Magazine's "50 Best New Inventions" of 2011. More important than the accolades however, was the significant reduction in crime rates experienced under the program. Under Chief Vogel's leadership, Santa Cruz policing became a model for the nation.

Chief Vogel also shouldered the impossible task of guiding the SCPD through its greatest hardship that occurred on February 26, 2013 when two officers, Sgt. Loran "Butch" Baker and Detective Elizabeth Butler, were tragically gunned down in the line of duty. This devastating crime shook our community to its core as we all mourned the loss of these fallen heroes. Through this time of uncertainty, Chief Vogel acted with honor and poise. He memorialized his fallen officers beautifully, and guided a deeply aggrieved department and community through this very difficult time. As time has passed, Chief Vogel ensured that the memories of Sgt. Baker and Detective Butler will not fade, and challenges his officers every day to honor their legacy and ultimate sacrifice by continuing to selflessly perform the work of upholding public safety in their communities.

Mr. Speaker, as someone who has dedicated their career to public service, it is my pleasure to add my name to the chorus of thanks and congratulations to someone who embodies that ideal of service to others. I wholeheartedly congratulate Chief Kevin Vogel on his retirement, and wish him all the best. There is no doubt that his commitment to justice, security, and prosperity for his community of Santa Cruz will serve as an enduring legacy.

DANIEL ARREDONDO

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 Daniel Arredondo for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Daniel Arredondo is a student at Wayne Carle Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Daniel Arredondo 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 Daniel Arredondo 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.

HONORING JAMES EDWIN GASPER ON HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. NEAL P. DUNN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2017

Mr. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of James Edwin Gasper, who today celebrates 90 years on this earth.

James, or "Jimmy" as his friends know him, moved to Washington County, Florida in 1932 with his mother, father and brothers and, with the exception of his time serving our nation during World War II, has lived there ever since.

In 1945, Mr. Gasper enlisted in the Army Air Corps and was assigned to 1223 Military Police Company in Bad Kissingen, Germany—ultimately completing his tour of duty in 1947 as a member of the newly-minted United States Air Force in Fürstenfeldbruck, Germany. Mr. Gasper's service earned him the WWII Victory and Army Occupation medals, and he was qualified as Marksman for both Pistol and Carbine.

After returning home from his time in the service, Mr. Gasper married the love of his life, the late Nellie Gasper, and raised a family that has grown from four children to include six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Mr. Gasper also went on to dedicate 40 years to the Florida Department of Transportation and served Washington County by setting up voting machines for all local elections.

Mr. Gasper is a lifelong member of the National Rifle Association of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars, the VFW Military Order of the Cootie, Disabled American Veterans, the DAV National Order of the Trench Rats, and above all else, is a devout member of the Church of Christ.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring a great American of the Greatest Generation on his 90th birthday, James Edwin Gasper.