

Sample of the We the People . . . 2002  
National Hearing Questions

How did the Renaissance and Reformation change people's views about the relationship between the individual and society?

What are the political principles and values set forth in the Declaration of Independence?

"A deliberative democracy, operating under a good constitution, responds to political disagreement not simply by majority rule, but also by attempting to create institutions that will ensure reflection and reason-giving." Do you agree or disagree that such institutions are essential components of a deliberative democracy and of a "good constitution"? Why or why not? Be prepared to defend your position.

Should members of Congress consider themselves delegates obligated to vote the way the majority of the people in their districts want or should they consider themselves trustees who, while taking the views of their constituents into account, use their own best judgment or their conscience in deciding how to vote? Explain your position.

In the ratification debates, the Federalists insisted that the Constitution had been carefully drafted to limit the powers of the national government. These limitations were sufficient, they contended, to allow for healthy, energetic government while at the same time preventing abuses of power. Evaluate those claims made by the Federalists.

"The First Federal Congress was the most important Congress in American history," according to two prominent historians. "Its awesome agenda breathed life into the Constitution, and established precedent and constitutional interpretation which still guides us 200 years later." What was on the agenda of the First Congress? Should those agenda items be considered "awesome"? Why or why not?

Evaluate the major arguments advanced by the Federalists and the Anti-Federalists during the debate about the need to have a Bill of Rights added to the Constitution.

James Q. Wilson, a noted political scientist, claims, "Were the American Constitution the only guarantee of the independence of the American states, they would long since have become mere administrative subunits of government in Washington. Their independence results in large measure from the commitment of Americans to the idea of local self-government and from the fact that Congress consists of people who are selected by and responsive to local constituencies." Do you agree or disagree with Wilson? Why? What evidence can you offer in support of your position?

**GELB TO BE INSTALLED AS  
STATE OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION  
PRESIDENT**

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 2, 2002

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of the House of Representatives to the May 3 installation of Dr. Ernest R. Gelb, D.O., of West Pittston as the 91st president of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association.

Dr. Gelb specializes in family practice. He attended Wilkes College and is a graduate of King's College and the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. He has been vice president of the state association and a member of

its board of trustees, a delegate to the American Osteopathic Association, and a community leader in the field of family medicine.

His awards and distinctions include the receipt of the Raymond J. Saloom, D.O., FACGP, Memorial Award, 2000; and his selection as Fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians, 2001;

His service to the community includes serving as health officer of the Borough of West Pittston from 1991 to the present and as troop committee chairman of Boy Scout Troop 352 of West Pittston. He has also served as a member of the board of trustees of the West Pittston Community Ambulance Association, as its vice president from 1986 to 1993 and as its president from 1993 to 1994.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Ernest Gelb has distinguished himself as a dedicated physician who continues the osteopathic tradition of assuring exemplary family medicine. I am pleased to call to the attention of the House of Representatives the service to the community of Dr. Gelb and this well-deserved honor he is about to receive, and I wish him all the best.

**HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE HISTORIC WASHINGTON  
SCHOOL, EUREKA, CALIFORNIA**

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 2, 2002

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 100th Anniversary of the Historic Washington School in Eureka, California, which was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on April 12, 2002. This designation acknowledges the significance of the school in Humboldt County education and history.

Washington School, first opened in 1903, was one of six square two-story grammar schools built in the county at the beginning of the 20th century. Of those six, Washington School alone remains as the last representative of that era. In the 1940s Washington School served as an Army barracks and later became a school district warehouse.

In 1983, Washington School was remodeled into a community senior center. The school has been restored to its original beauty by the Humboldt Senior Resource Center. The façade and basic structure reflect the original architectural design. The building is a very important element in the historic Victorian Seaport of Eureka. Many seniors who are involved at the Center today are former students of the grammar school.

A celebration of the listing on the National Register will take place on May 17, 2002 with the unveiling of a bronze plaque made by art students at Humboldt State University.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we honor this historic building that links us to our past and preserves it for a new century.

**HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED  
PUBLIC SERVICE OF PAT FER-  
GUSON**

**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 2, 2002

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Pat Ferguson on his retirement as the Trousdale County executive. Pat has served as the Tennessee county's chief officer for 14 years and is the first to preside over the new Metropolitan Hartsville/Trousdale County government.

During his capable tenure, Pat helped create an emergency 911 system, reduce property taxes and enhance the county's ambulance service. His leadership was also instrumental in getting a new health department and middle school built.

Pat fought tirelessly for Hartsville to have good access to the state's interstate highway system so more industry and better jobs would be lured to the city. In fact, he helped convince the Tennessee Valley Authority to allow the site of an old abandoned nuclear plant to be used as an industrial development park, which will certainly lead to more jobs in the future.

Pat's dedication and tireless service to his community has benefitted all, including the numerous civic boards and organizations to which he belongs. The people of Trousdale County could not have asked for a better public servant. I cordially congratulate Pat on his distinguished career as a public servant and wish him well in future endeavors.

**TRIBUTE TO MR. WILLIAM  
BURRUS, PRESIDENT, AMERICAN  
POSTAL WORKERS UNION, AFL-  
CIO**

**HON. WM. LACY CLAY**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 2, 2002

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask for unanimous consent to insert my statement into the record and revise and extend my remarks. William Burrus is the President of the American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO. The APWU represents 330,000 clerk, maintenance and motor vehicle employees working in the 38,000 facilities of the U.S. Postal Service, as well as workers in several private transportation and mail companies.

Mr. Burrus was elected in October 2001 with more than 53 percent of the vote in a three-way contest. He is the first African-American in 220 years of American labor history to be directly elected president by the membership of a national union. He also serves on the Executive Council of the national AFL-CIO.

Mr. Burrus has held numerous elected and appointed positions within the APWU. Beginning in November 1980, he served as APWU Executive Vice President until his election as president. From 1974 to 1980, he served as President until his election as president. From 1974 to 1980, he served as President of the Cleveland, Ohio APWU Local. While President of the Cleveland Local, he was a delegate to