

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 Bischofsell, 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 Dezhlofer. 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,

determined to make its operations more efficient and effective. Her passion stems from her professional career as an attorney where she encountered numerous cases of minors that had been negatively impacted by a parent under correctional supervision. She personally committed herself to the GOKIDS (Giving Offenders' Kids the Initiative and Direction to Succeed). Initiative, which launched in 2004 and is dedicated to reaching out to the offenders and their families. Christina foresaw a safer and better Texas and a brighter future for all Texans and took every effort to make this goal a reality. The State of Texas has greatly benefited from her dedication, passion, leadership and her vision.

Madam Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in congratulating Christina on her hard work and dedication that has led to this great honor.

PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Paycheck Fairness Act. This legislation will put an end to pay disparities based merely on gender and ensure that employee rights enforced through the Equal Pay Act fulfill the act's original intent. Specifically, this legislation will require employers to prove that pay disparities between men and women have a business justification.

According to the most recent U.S. Census Bureau statistics, year-round full-time female workers make 77.8 percent to the dollar of their male counterparts. Specifically, the median income for year-round full-time male workers is \$45,113. In contrast, the median income for year-round full-time female workers is \$35,102. Based solely on statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau, the apparent wage disparities between men and women clearly indicate that the provisions contained within the Equal Pay Act need to be revised.

I believe that this legislation will strengthen current law to make certain that wage discrimination based on gender ceases to exist.

Before I close, I would like to thank Representative ROSA DELAURO for having introduced this legislation since 1997 and praise her for being a champion of this issue.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in voting in support of this important measure to ensure its swift passage.

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

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 13, 2009

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as a co-chair of the National Service Caucus, I am pleased to be a cosponsor of H. Res. 43, recognizing the importance of national service,

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

During the 1950s and '60s, civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr. recognized the power of service to strengthen communities and achieve common goals. King's ideas of unity and purpose highlighted the great things that can happen when we work together toward a common goal, and these ideas are as important today as they were 50 years ago.

In 1994, Congress passed the King Holiday and Service Act to transform the King Holiday into a national day of service to meet community needs. Since that time, millions of Americans have participated in community-building activities on King Day, treating the holiday as "a day on, not a day off."

The day before President-elect Obama's inauguration is the Martin Luther King holiday. With thousands of projects planned across the country, in addition to a call to serve from President-elect Obama, the 2009 King Day of Service on January 19 promises to be the most successful national service effort to date.

Both President-elect Obama and Vice-President-elect Biden, along with their families, will be participating in service events to honor Martin Luther King and commemorate the holiday. I encourage my colleagues and their staff to share in the spirit of volunteerism and unity by participating in a service opportunity here in Washington, DC, or back home with their constituents on January 19.

I am pleased that the President-elect has been part of the call to ensure that this day be a day devoted to service. However, I know, as President-elect Obama knows, that one day of good deeds is not enough. Throughout the presidential campaign, the President-elect spoke about a new era of civic engagement, and I hope that the passage of H. Res. 43 will build on Martin Luther King day and the Inauguration and reaffirm our ongoing commitment to service.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICES OF JOHN DE LORENZO, COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR OF THE CITY OF FAIRFIELD IN CALIFORNIA

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize John De Lorenzo as he retires after 18 years of public service with the city of Fairfield.

Mr. De Lorenzo's career with Fairfield began when he was hired as the city's community services director in 1990. During his tenure, the Community Services Department was recognized with many State-wide, regional and national awards including two Helen Putnam Awards of Excellence from the League of California Cities.

In addition to his outstanding service in Fairfield, Mr. De Lorenzo has also served as both the president and the administrators' representative of the California Park and Recreation Society, District 1, and was a member of the Annual Conference Planning Committee for the California Park and Recreation Society.

He has also served as a member of the League of California Cities Administrative Services Policy Committee, and also was a member of the Annual League Conference Planning Committee.

The honors and awards Mr. De Lorenzo helped bring the Fairfield Community Services Department and his involvement with the numerous committees he has served on over the years are a testament to his hard work and dedication to local concerns.

As John De Lorenzo retires from his position as the director of the Fairfield Community Services Department, I would like to thank him for his leadership and dedication to improving the quality of life for the residents of the city of Fairfield. I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately I missed recorded votes on the House floor on Tuesday January 13, 2009.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on Rollcall vote No. 11 (Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 41), "yes" on Rollcall vote No. 12 (Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 50), "no" on Rollcall vote No. 13 (Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 43).

CELEBRATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DR. ROBERT J. SMITHDAS

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of an outstanding humanitarian, Dr. Robert J. Smithdas, whose personal accomplishments and dedication to the U.S. deaf-blind community are truly remarkable. Dr. Smithdas is retiring as director of Community Education at the Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults, HKNC, after many years of dedicated service.

Having contracted meningitis at the age of four, Dr. Smithdas eventually suffered a total loss of both vision and hearing. With great determination, he embraced educational opportunities at the Western Pennsylvania School for the Blind and the Perkins School for the Blind. Assisted by individualized instruction and speech therapy, Dr. Smithdas thrived in scholastics, earning an average of 98.6. After graduating in 1945, he was accepted to the Industrial Home for the Blind, IHB, and earned a fellowship to St. John's University in New York. Dr. Smithdas earned his BA cum laude in 1950 and later attended New York University, where he became the first deaf-blind individual to earn a master's degree. Dr. Smithdas also earned honorary doctoral degrees from Gallaudet University, Western Michigan University, Mount Aloysius College, and St. John's University.