

When his friends and family gather to memorialize Bob Jackson—and remember Agnes as well—we will do so in that arboretum. As we share stories and remembrances, together we will recall and enjoy the legacies left by two who lived spirited lives dedicated to others. How we will miss him as we miss her and know we are privileged to have considered them friends.

JITCH WALSH TRIBUTE IN
CAYUGA COUNTY

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 23, 1997

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute today to a family with the same last name as mine, though I am not directly related and cannot claim to know firsthand the entire history of their local fame. I, like many central New Yorkers in the Auburn and Cayuga County area, know the Walsh family of which I speak because of Mr. Thomas "Jitch" Walsh.

On October 7, 1997, Jitch Walsh Day was held at the original site of the family hot dog stand in Emerson Park on Owasco Lake. Auburn, for those who do not know, is blessed by its location in the Finger Lakes, close to several of the lakes and accustomed to these lakes for summertime leisure activities. It was at this hot dog stand, Jitch's and his wife Ellie's stand, that at 1940's-era generation of Cayuga County residents watched softball games, went to carnivals and otherwise wiled away the hot and humid mid-year months.

Jitch's unusual nickname, by the way, is a childhood moniker which has stuck over all these years. When friends and elders are nicknamed "Hip 'O Hay," "Joker" and "Pearshape," something like "Jitch" didn't sound so odd.

One of Jitch's nephews is John Walsh, who stars on the television show "America's Most Wanted." Jitch's and Ellie's own son, Thommie, is a very successful choreographer and director who has won three Tony awards. Their daughter, Barbara, is a banker in Syracuse. But the fame of the Walsh clan in Auburn centers more on Jitch's father, T.J., "the mayor of Market Street" and his mother Loretta. Not to mention their connection to Ellie's father, Ross Cosentino, and her mother Rose.

The nickname comes from the word "jits," which in Italian slang is said to mean someone who borrows small change constantly, as Jitch did when he was a young teen who wanted to buy a bag of peanuts at the softball games at the Y-Field. When he and his wife Ellie open their hot dog stand in the park in 1952, it naturally became Jitch's Stand—and a local legend was born.

As a gathering place, Jitch's Stand was a sensation, selling over 2,000 pounds of hog dogs a week. The popularity of the spot, and the spirit of local customers, is evidenced by the reunions. In 1980 Jitch Reunion Days drew 700 people; in 1986, more than 1,000.

And of course this year's Jitch Walsh Day was a huge success as well. In my family we respect family tradition—as does the Walsh family in Auburn. I am very proud to be able to express these sentiments today, and thank my colleagues for joining me in recognizing this important social milestone for many of my constituents.

HAPPY 60TH ANNIVERSARY ST.
DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX
CHURCH

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 23, 1997

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, any student of history knows that one of the strongest nations to offer leadership to the world in the development of civilization, culture, philosophy, and science is the nation of Greece. And it is equally no secret to any student to religion that one of the strongest faiths known to us is that offered by the Greek Orthodox Church. This Saturday, the Greek Orthodox Church, St. Demetrios, in Saginaw, MI, is celebrating its 60th anniversary of providing a place of worship, solitude, and support for its many members.

Just as the structures of ancient Greece provide us today with a moving reminder of the strength of that great era, St. Demetrios church provides a guidepost for its parishioners, including many of Greek heritage. For nearly 100 years people of Greek descent have been an important part of the Saginaw community. Since the mid 1920's, there have been services in the Greek Orthodox faith within the community. The growing population in the area resulted in the founding of St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox church in 1937, with Rev. George Stathis as the first established priest.

The many activities throughout the history of the church are a wonderful lesson in faith and culture. A Greek language school was held in Saginaw and Bay City for many years. Young men visited Greece, and returned to St. Demetrios with their brides. A Greek war relief fund was established, with the grade school children dressing in native Greek costumes to help solicit contributions to help families in Greece who were ravaged by World War II.

A wonderfully detailed history of the church reports of the many proud moments of its history, its growth, its concerns, and its challenges. The church was destroyed by fire and rebuilt in 1950. A new church was built in 1969. A classroom wing for Sunday school and Greek school was dedicated in 1982. The Hellenic center was built in 1991. And through each of these efforts, the most important component of St. Demetrios—its dedicated and supportive members—was the key to its continued success and endurance. The women of the church have seen their role elevated from individuals of support and devotion to that of leadership with three women becoming members of the parish council in 1995—Soula Economou, president; Mary Kookootsedes, secretary, and Elaine Rapanos, treasurer.

Mr. Speaker, as this place of holiness celebrates its 60th anniversary, I invite you and all of our colleagues to join me in wishing Rev. Mark Emroll, the pastor, and all members of St. Demetrios, a very happy anniversary, with best wishes for many more to come.

PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS
IMPLEMENTATION ACT OF 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 22, 1997

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1534) to simplify and expedite access to the Federal courts for injured parties whose rights and privileges, secured by the U.S. Constitution, have been deprived by final actions of Federal agencies, or other Government officials or entities acting under color of State law; to prevent Federal courts from abstaining from exercising Federal jurisdiction in actions where no State law claim is alleged; to permit certification of unsettled State law questions that are essential to resolving Federal claims arising under the Constitution; and to clarify when Government action is sufficiently final to ripen certain Federal claims arising under the Constitution:

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 1534 and compliment my colleague, Mr. GALLEGLY, on bringing this long overdue legislation to the floor today. H.R. 1534 will greatly increase the ability of landowners in this country to protect their basic civil and constitutional rights. The fifth amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees that no private property shall be taken for a public use without the payment of just compensation. We have seen an increasing disregard by various levels of government for this fundamental civil right.

As chairman of the ESA Task Force of the Committee on Resources in the 104th Congress, I held hearings around the country on how the Endangered Species Act has impacted private property owners. The task force found that our Government often declares private property to be habitat for various species, with little if any concern about how that impacts the legal right of the landowners. We tried to address this problem by setting up a system of administrative appeals and arbitration to insure that landowners are promptly and fairly compensated when the needs of wildlife are placed above the needs of individual landowners. The response by the Government and environmental groups was that we should simply let the courts resolve these problems.

The Environmental Defense Fund, the National Audubon Society, the National Wildlife Federation, the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Sierra Club. These are the groups leading the opposition to H.R. 1534. Have any of these groups ever professed their faith in the abilities of local officials to make land use decisions? No. In fact, they have always taken the exact opposite position, that Federal environmental programs like the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, and Superfund have to be run in Washington. In their eyes, local officials are not capable of protecting the health and environment of the areas they represent.

Why the sudden change of heart? Why are these environmental groups and their supporters in Congress now posing as champions of States' rights and local decision-making? Because they don't want individual property owners to have fifth amendment rights protected.