

to know they could not foresee the future. As a result, Article V provides for a mechanism to amend the Constitution.

We all know the Constitution is not perfect, even after 27 amendments. The Constitution has, although, protected the individual liberties all Americans have enjoyed for over 200 years.

As the proud holder of the seat first held by James Madison, my first objective is to never do any harm to the Constitution. However, the Founding Fathers acknowledged a need to amend the Constitution. The States' Initiative is a direct descendant of Madison's writings.

In Federalist paper 43, James Madison wrote,

... useful alterations will be suggested by experience. The Constitution moreover equally enables the general and the state governments to originate the amendment of errors as they may be pointed out by the experience on one side or on the other.

At present, Article V provides for two ways to amend the Constitution.

The first involves the presentation of an amendment by Congress to the states for ratification.

The second is by constitutional convention, convened at the request of the State legislatures.

Even with both methods available, to date, all amendments to the Constitution have been enacted following passage by the Congress and ratification by three-fourths of the States.

Some have asserted that the second method has not been as effective as intended by the Framers.

On the Op/Ed pages of the Richmond Times-Dispatch, my local newspaper, Edward Grimsley wrote about the dilemma which would be remedied by the States' Initiative. Edward Grimsley wrote, "In the hands of the people the amending process could produce some truly wonderful results."

By allowing the States an effective mechanism to amend the Constitution, more power can be returned to the people. After all, "We the People" are the first 3 words of the Constitution.

Why is the States Initiative necessary? Persuasive arguments have been made that a constitutional convention might alter the Constitution more expansively than intended by proponents of a specific proposed amendment. This is known as the fear of a "run-away" convention.

The States Initiative implements a more effective method by which states could take the initiative in the process by which the Constitution is amended. This bill allows the States to initiate the amendment process that is devoid of the perils of a "run-away" constitutional convention.

Another problem with a constitutional convention is that even if it isn't a "run-away" convention (that is, even if the constitutional convention met to adopt only one amendment), the mere fact that the States met could have a far-reaching jurisprudential impact. Would the Supreme Court view a constitutional convention which kept the pre-existing Constitution as an implicit ratification of prior Supreme Court rulings? This would cause those on the left (who oppose certain Rehnquist Court rulings) and those on the

right (who oppose certain Warren Court rulings) a considerable amount of trouble.

To restore the Framers' design, that is a design where the states could initiate the amendment process, our proposal would allow a constitutional amendment to be presented to Congress after two-thirds of the States indicated approval of an identical amendment via their State legislatures.

If two-thirds of each House of Congress does not agree to disapprove of the proposed amendment, it would be submitted to the States for ratification.

Upon ratification by three-fourths of the States legislatures, the amendment would become part of the Constitution.

I am proud to sponsor this constitutional amendment which will return power back to States, where the Framers intended it to be.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 12, 1999

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 14 (H.R. 435), I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO JOHN RUTHVEN, A GREAT LIVING CINCINNATIAN

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 12, 1999

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to John Ruthven, a longtime friend and leader in my community, who will be honored as a Great Living Cincinnati on February 19, 1999 by the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce. He was selected based on his community service, business and civic accomplishments, awareness of the needs of others, and achievements that have brought favorable attention to the Cincinnati area.

As a child of the Depression, John says his family didn't have much—except of lot of love. He grew up in Walnut Hills and graduated from Withrow High School. After serving in the Navy during World War II, he graduated from the Cincinnati Art Academy and opened a commercial art studio. John won the prestigious Federal Duck Competition in 1960 with "Redhead Ducks," and his work began to be known across the country. In 1971, he founded Wildlife Internationale to produce limited edition lithographs. He has earned numerous awards, including Ducks Unlimited's First Artist, and Trout Unlimited Artist of the Year. John's art is displayed in the White House, in the Congress and in other prominent places around the world.

He has given generously of his time and extraordinary skill to benefit numerous charities over the years. He is a modern day Audubon who is both an internationally known wildlife artist and a committed naturalist. John Ruthven is also a warm and caring person

who brightens the lives of those he meets. He is a truly great Living Cincinnati. All of us in Cincinnati are proud of his accomplishments and are grateful for his service to others.

IN MEMORY OF JERRY FELDMAN

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 12, 1999

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Jerry Feldman, a generous and ground-breaking community leader who will be greatly missed in South Florida.

After spending a large portion of his life in New York as a highly successful corporate executive and private business owner, Jerry and his wife Jacqueline retired to Century Village in South Florida. Adding to his already extraordinary list of accomplishments, Jerry Feldman plunged himself into community service in the hopes of improving the lives of his new neighbors and friends. As his wife so eloquently expressed, "He felt that God put him on this earth to make things better for people, and his reward would be a better life," she said. "If you cast your bread on the water, he felt, it would come back twofold."

Jerry Feldman became involved in many community organizations in his attempts to galvanize the community and create an open dialogue between South Florida's citizens. Besides being the President of the Condominium Owners of the Pembroke Pines Association, Mr. Feldman also served as Chairman of the Pembroke Pines Board of Adjustment, President of the Pembroke Pines Seniors and Law Enforcement Working Together (SALT) Council, and President of the Cambridge 4 Condominium Association in Century Village. As the Mayor of Pembroke Pines, Alex Fekete, noted, "he was a great community leader * * * he helped to resolve issues * * * there is a more harmonious relationship in Century Village now because of it."

In summary, Jerry's genuine leadership is rare in this age and he will be surely missed by the Century Village Community, as well as by the Pembroke Pines community at large. Jerry was an extraordinary human being who went above and beyond what he needed to be, because of his sincere desire to help his fellow man. We will all miss Jerry, but we are lucky to have so many wonderful memories of his life and work.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 12, 1999

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 15, Boehlert amendment to H.R. 350, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING SUSAN B. ANTHONY

HON. BARBARA CUBIN

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 12, 1999

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, one hundred and seventy-nine years ago, on February 15, a remarkable woman was born. Her passion for establishing equal rights for women led her to champion the rights of others dispossessed as well.

That woman is Susan B. Anthony. Today she is mainly, and rightly, remembered as one of our greatest foremothers in the drive for women's rights. And this drive for women's rights led her to champion the rights of others as well. Anthony was a fierce opponent of slavery. And she also championed the rights of those who today have become the most dispossessed of all: the unborn. Although she herself was childless, she considered amongst her greatest achievements, to have saved the lives of the unborn. She said, "... Sweeter even than to have had the joy of caring for children of my own has it been to me to help bring about a better state of things for mothers generally, so that their unborn little ones could not be willed away from them."

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that we take the anniversary of her birth as an opportunity to remember this great woman, Susan B. Anthony, and to rededicate ourselves to her life's work of guaranteeing full rights for both women and their unborn children.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM F. BOWEN,
A GREAT LIVING CINCINNATIAN

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 12, 1999

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to William F. Bowen, an outstanding individual who will be honored as a Great Living Cincinnatian on February 19, 1999 by the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce. He was selected based on his exemplary community service, business and civic accomplishments, and achievements that have brought favorable attention to the Cincinnati area. Bill has enriched the lives of all Greater Cincinnatians through his dedication, leadership and love for our community.

William Bowen, the eldest of seven children, was born before the American civil rights movement. He likes to tell people, "I spent my time fighting the battles; I worked full time at fighting for civil rights." His long history in the civil rights movement includes the presidency of the Cincinnati Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Bill grew up in Cincinnati's West End, graduated from Woodward High School and studied business administration at Xavier University. His career as a legislator began when he was elected to the Ohio House of Representatives in 1966. During his tenure, he served as House Minority Whip. In 1970, Bill was appointed to the Ohio Ninth Senatorial District

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

seat. He was elected to the seat later that year and reelected in 1974, 1978, 1982, 1986 and 1990.

He is known for his commitment and for being a good friend to his hometown. All of us in Cincinnati are grateful for his leadership and service to our community.

EXTENSION OF THE RESEARCH
AND DEVELOPMENT TAX CREDIT:
H.R. 760

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 12, 1999

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced a bill to permanently extend the Research and Development Tax Credit.

A permanent extension of the R&D Tax Credit is necessary to assuring those who conduct long-term research and development that the federal government values their efforts and will continue to provide support for the type of research that is the foundation of our economic prosperity. Failure to permanently extend the credit has created uncertainty in the research community. This uncertainty has created a disincentive for private industry to conduct long-term research projects to the detriment of our national welfare.

We must find ways to leverage our Nation's resources to support Research and Development. Even with a \$70 billion federal budget surplus, the Administration indicates that discretionary spending for science research and development programs will not be increased. As federal discretionary spending for R&D is squeezed, incentives must be used to maintain America's investment in private sector innovation so that we can maintain our global leadership in high-technology, high-growth industries that help to keep our economy the strongest in the world.

Congress realizing the need for such a credit, has extended the R&D tax credit eight times over a period of 17 years. It is clear that the repeated extensions demonstrate Congressional support. However, it has become apparent in recent years that this approach does not allow for industry to plan their R&D in ways that increase the level, and efficiency of research spending.

There is clear bipartisan support for permanent extension of the R&D Tax Credit and I urge my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 12, 1999

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 16, Waxman amendment to H.R. 350, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

*February 12, 1999*BENJAMIN WOMICK—NATIONAL
VOLUNTEER AWARD RECIPIENT**HON. JIM DeMINT**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 12, 1999

Mr. DeMINT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor a young South Carolinian from my district who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in his community. Benjamin Womick of Spartanburg has just been named one of my state's top honorees in The 1999 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in the nation.

Ben, a senior at Daniel Morgan Vocational Center, is the youngest commissioned state fire marshal in South Carolina history. He has helped to save three houses from destruction, aided in medical assistance calls, and helped many people injured in accidents as a firefighter with a volunteer fire department. Since joining the department at age 17, he has dedicated an average of 2 hours a day to his responsibilities, recruited five friends to become firefighters, and signed up for nearly 350 hours of training.

In light of numerous statistics that indicate Americans today are less involved in their communities than they once were, I believe it's vital that we encourage and support the kind of selfless contribution this young citizen has made. People of all ages need to think more about how we, as individual citizens, can work together at the local level to ensure the health and vitality of our towns and neighborhoods. Young volunteers like Ben are inspiring examples to all of us, and are among our brightest hope for a better tomorrow.

The program that brought this young role model to our attention—The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards—was created by The Prudential Insurance Corporation of America in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 1995 to impress upon all youth volunteers that their contributions are critically important and highly valued, and to inspire other young people to follow their example. In only 4 years, the program has become the nation's largest youth recognition effort based solely on community service, with more than 50,000 youngsters participating.

Ben should be extremely proud to have been singled out from such a large group of dedicated volunteers. I heartily applaud Ben for his initiative in seeking to make his community a better place to live, and for the positive impact he has had on the lives of others. He has demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world, and deserves our sincere admiration and respect. His actions show that young Americans can—and do—play important roles in our communities, and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future.