

votes even if the electorate sides more with the pair. A larger problem though is that this would require an amendment, an amendment that would most likely never be able to be passed. An amendment requires three-fourths of the states to support it. In an amendment such as this, most states would lose their influence in presidential politics. Few states would endorse this.

What then is there to do? I suggest retaining the Electoral College but reforming it. Instead of the "winner-takes-all" system that the Electoral College runs under now, electors should instead be chosen by congressional districts, with two electors-at-large for the senators in each state. With this idea, candidates would receive an electoral vote from each district they win. This would much more accurately reflect popular mandate. An advantage of this is that it would not take a Constitutional amendment. States can already do this if they wish, a couple of states already do. In this last election, the results would have been much more simplified as well. Bush won counties with an aggregate population of 143 million, compared to the 127 million that Gore would have won. This system would preserve then the weighting of votes in favor of the less populous states instead of letting the more populous states totally dominate over presidential elections.

To keep our country secure and free then, the Electoral College should by all means stay as part of our government. However, I do believe that the process should be looked at due to the amount of controversy recently surrounding it.

JAMES MADISON, THE FATHER OF THE
CONSTITUTION
(By Keith Root)

James Madison, the president of the United States from 1809-1817, is known today as the Father of the Constitution because of his major role in the Constitutional Convention. His many other accomplishments include serving as Thomas Jefferson's secretary of state from 1801-1809 and sponsoring the Bill of Rights.

James Madison was born on March 16, 1751 in Port Conway, Virginia. He was the son and heir to a wealthy planter. He received a full education, and graduated from the College of New Jersey (which is now Princeton University) in 1771. In 1776, he was elected to the Virginia Convention, a convention that was called to urge independence from Britain. He was elected in 1780 to the Continental Congress, of which he was the youngest member. Despite this potential drawback, he gained much respect and rose to a position of leadership. During his term he worked with Alexander Hamilton (unsuccessfully) to give Congress the power to tax and regulate trade.

Madison was instrumental in persuading Congress to revise the Articles of Confederation (the current constitution at that time) and, ultimately, create the Constitution that we have today. The Constitutional Convention met in May 1787 in Philadelphia. Madison played a huge role. He drafted the Virginia Plan, the basis for the new government's structure. He also created the checks and balances system, which insures that none of the branches of government become too powerful. Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and John Jay created the Federalist Papers, essays that defended the Constitution against people who feared a strong central government. Madison then shepherded the new Constitution through the ratification process through 1787 and 1788.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Madison was elected to the House of Representatives in 1789, where he sponsored the Bill of Rights, the first ten amendments to the Constitution. He broke with Alexander Hamilton and the Federalist Party in 1791 and joined Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe in creating the Democratic-Republican, or Jeffersonian Republican, Party. In 1794, Madison married Dolley Payne Todd, who was a widow.

In 1801 Madison was appointed secretary of state under Thomas Jefferson, where he failed to persuade the British to stop interfering with American trade. In 1809, he ran in the presidential election and defeated Charles Pickney, the Federalist Candidate with 122 electoral votes to 47. He repealed the embargo by which Thomas Jefferson (who was President before him) tried to avoid war with Europe by banning trade with them. (The major European powers were at war themselves.) However, this didn't stop tensions between Britain and America. Madison declared the War of 1812 on June 12. In 1814, Madison replaced Secretary of War John Armstrong (who wasn't managing the war very well) with James Monroe when Washington was captured. A peace treaty was signed in Belgium in December 1814, but it didn't solve any of the outstanding issues between the U.S. and Britain.

After the war, Madison chartered a national bank and negotiated an agreement (called the Rush-Bagot Agreement) for demilitarization of the frontier between the U.S. and Canada. However, this agreement wasn't ratified until Madison had left office.

When Madison left office, he retired to his estate in Orange County, Virginia. He avoided further participation in politics, and helped Thomas Jefferson found the University of Virginia in 1826. Ten years later, at his estate, James Madison died. That night, America lost one of the most important men in its development as a country.

TRIBUTE TO BEAVER COUNTY POLICE OFFICERS

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2001

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I rise to the floor today to pay tribute to the law enforcement community of Beaver County, Pennsylvania. These heroic men and women of uniform will be honored on Friday, May 18, 2001 as part of Peace Officers Memorial Day.

Pursuant to a joint resolution of the United States Congress issued June 21, 1961, the President of the United States has designated a week in May as Police Week, in honor of the federal, state, and municipal law enforcement officers who have lost their lives or suffered injuries while safeguarding the lives and properties of the communities they serve.

I join all the residents of Beaver County in recognizing the courageous service these police officers provide to their communities. Their dedication to protecting and preserving the laws of this great land and ensuring that all citizens receive justice deserves the praise and gratitude of all Americans.

I congratulate these men and women who selflessly risk their lives to protect ours, and I thank them for all their service.

May 15, 2001

FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 2002 AND 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration: the bill (H.R. 1646) to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal years 2002 and 2003, and for other purposes:

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, once again, I would like to speak in opposition to the DeLay amendment to H.R. 1646.

The intent of the International Criminal Court (ICC) is to try individual perpetrators of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity when nations cannot or will not hold perpetrators accountable. I can think of no Member of the U.S. Congress, the administration, or any federal agency, including the Department of Defense and all branches of our armed forces, opposed to ensuring that war criminals are brought to justice. If the accused perpetrator of a war crime is an American citizen, civilian or soldier, then I would strongly support our civilian and/or military systems of justice do everything in their power to bring this individual to trial in the appropriate American court as would be permissible under the ICC treaty.

The argument by supporters of this amendment that American servicemen and service-women would be at risk of being tried in foreign courts under the ICC treaty is not accurate. Presently, any alleged crime, including war crimes, committed by U.S. citizens on foreign soil can already be tried in that nation's courts. The ICC would do nothing to diminish the role a U.S. court would have in bringing to trial accused war criminals if they were American citizens. In fact, the ICC could only intervene in trying Americans in the very unlikely event that the American judicial system would be unwilling or unable to try a case.

I do not believe the formation of the ICC will threaten American military personnel. The ICC will provide a forum to bring individuals to justice that commit the most heinous and inhuman acts of systematic violence around the world. To ensure that the U.S. Congress is committed to achieve this needed justice I oppose the DeLay amendment.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. BETTY R. HORNER

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2001

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Betty R. Horner, Conejo Valley Civic Leader and pioneer in the communities of Westlake Village and Thousand Oaks, California. Her volunteer service spans more than 32 years.

Betty Horner's community service began in 1968, in the Westlake Village Foxmoor neighborhood homeowners association. At the