

that Senator CARPER has laid out, there is no planning for these issues. So this Senate is being used as part of a political campaign. I resent that, when we have men and women dying every single day in Iraq, newspaper reporters being blown up. But we have to talk about a subject that is being handled by the States.

As I said before, we have never amended our Constitution to take away rights. We don't do that in America. We are too strong for that. We are too good for that. We are a model of freedom because of that. But that is precisely what is being proposed here, an amendment that is unnecessary because the States are handling this and all this does is divide us instead of uniting us.

Look at some of the great examples of our constitutional amendments.

The Bill of Rights—the first ten amendments—guarantee important liberties to Americans, from freedom of speech to freedom from unwarranted search and seizure to freedom of religion. And the 10th amendment reserves for the States all powers not specifically given to the Federal Government.

The 13th, 14th and 15th amendments corrected the horrific injustices of slavery by giving African-Americans the right to vote and equal protection under the law.

The 19th amendment gave women the right to vote, and the 26th amendment gave 18-year-olds the right to vote.

This short but impressive list of amendments demonstrates that our Constitution is meant to expand, not restrict, freedom and equality.

I want to say to my colleagues that there is something about this debate that has bothered me. As I have listened to some of my colleagues comment in support of this proposed amendment—which is their total right to support—I have been troubled by the suggestion that gay Americans are responsible for a host of problems in our society, from children born out of wedlock to poverty to divorce. These comments are wrong. These comments are wrong. It is wrong to find scapegoats in our great country. Gays and lesbians, they are God's children too. They wake up every morning, they try to do the best to live their lives, the best for the people they love. And they live their lives one day at a time.

We can solve problems such as unintended pregnancies, poverty, divorce, and adoption without stooping to scapegoat and hurt so many people.

If we want to strengthen families, let's strengthen families. Let's help families with their college tuition. Let's help families with their child care. Let's help them by raising the minimum wage. Let's clean up Superfund sites that are near schools. Let's help the 44 million Americans who need health insurance. Let's help those who are reaching retirement age, who are so frightened because the promise of the golden years is not there.

Let's reach out to each other and do that instead of being forced to deal

with manufactured political issues which, again, pop up every election year. That sends false hopes out to some Americans who really want this constitutional amendment. They are being used. It also sends out fear and sadness to so many other Americans.

We can do better. We must do better for all Americans.

I yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to proceed to the marriage amendment be temporarily withdrawn and that the Senate resume that motion immediately upon convening tomorrow morning.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

WEST UNION, WV: STILL MAKING HISTORY

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, among the beautiful, rolling-green hills of northern West Virginia is a little town with a big history. I am speaking of the town of West Union, the county seat of Doddridge County.

Once a center for railroading and other forms of transportation, as well as oil drilling, coal mining, and other forms of businesses and manufacturing, West Union was an important and thriving commercial center in the late nineteenth century. Unfortunately, like too many small towns in West Virginia and across the country, West Union has fallen into some hard times.

Nevertheless, West Union retains its rich and colorful history. Indeed, the entire downtown district of West Union has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. The downtown section contains buildings that feature a wealth of architectural styles, with four of them having been listed on the National Register. These historic buildings include the Doddridge County Court House with its Romanesque architecture, and the Silas Smith Opera House which was built at the turn of the last century and now serves as the county library.

For a small town in the hills of West Virginia, the town of West Union has been the home of a number of prominent American citizens. General Bantz Craddock, who rose to be the Commander of U.S. Southern Command and is responsible for military operations in the Caribbean, Central America, and South America, was raised in West Union.

For many years, West Union was the home to Clyde Ware, a novelist who has been actively involved in television and film production. In fact, Mr. Ware wrote and directed many episodes of what was one of my favorite television series, "Gunsmoke."

The town's most famous historic resident was the legendary Ephriam Bee. Mr. Bee was a pioneer, a black-

smith, the U.S. Postmaster for West Union, and the owner of a highly popular inn and restaurant, appropriately referred to as the "Bee-Hive." At the age of 60, Mr. Bee served as captain of the Doddridge militia which protected the area from Confederate forces, thieves, and outlaws.

In 1863, Mr. Bee was elected to the West Virginia State Legislature, defeating Joseph H. Diss Debar, the person who later designed the State seal of West Virginia, which is still in use today, without change.

Another contest that Mr. Bee won was being named the Ugliest Man in the State of West Virginia. For that victory, he was awarded a beautiful pocket knife, a proud possession which he was forced to relinquish a few years later when the State found a man whom it deemed to be even uglier.

In 1845, Mr. Bee originated the Ancient and Honorable Order of E. Clampus Vitus, ECV, of which he became Grand Lama. ECV was originally formed as a secret order for playing practical jokes, but as it spread across the country, it took on different purposes and missions. Today, ECV has become an important historic preservation society, with more than 100,000 members.

Mr. Bee also operated an important station on the underground railroad. He hid his guests in a nearby cave until it was filled, then, it appears, he used ECV to create a diversion so that the escaped slaves could be sent on their way to freedom.

What became the town of West Union was originally settled in 1807. It was incorporated on July 20, 1881, which means the town of West Union will be celebrating its 125th anniversary this summer. The town will be using this milestone anniversary in an effort to promote and celebrate the town's history and as a jump start toward the economic revitalization of the town. The festivities are planned for July 22, and they promise to be a time of fun, entertainment, and education as the town wants to share its unique and colorful history with the world.

The town of West Union has adopted as a slogan, "We love our history—that's why we're still making it!" With its history—and its energetic, creative residents, I am confident that the town of West Union will be making history for a long time into the future.

I wish them the best on their 125th anniversary.

HONORING RETIRING JOURNALIST DICK KAY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Dick Kay, a man of great journalistic integrity. Many things have changed in the past 40 years, but from Martin Luther King, Jr., to Adlai Stevenson, from Iraq to the Daleys, from Watergate to the 1985 Bears, there has been one voice Chicagoans have consistently trusted for an objective and thoughtful perspective. Dick Kay has established