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Congressman Jason Smith's Capitol Report - Protecting Paychecks, Permanently

SEPTEMBER 25TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Congressman Jason Smith's Capitol Report - Protecting Paychecks, Permanently

Congressman Smith Capitol Report Protecting Paychecks, Permanently September 21, 2018

For too many years under President Obama's tenure, the federal government grew while Americans' paychecks shrank. Millions watched with disgust as their tax dollars flowed to Washington for wasteful programs and pet projects. Last year President Trump and I reversed course and overhauled the uncompetitive, outdated tax code to prioritize families first and put more money in your pocket. We took resources out of the hands of Washington bureaucrats and put it back into your paycheck. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act set the conditions for the current economic boom in the United States, but due to outdated Senate rules only understood by the swamp, many of our ideas to support families will eventually expire in the coming years, once again raising taxes on American workers, families, and small business owners.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act has done wonders for Missouri's families, who were failed the most by the old tax code. We aren't New York or California millionaires who can afford to pay a team of lawyers to comb through complicated loopholes and ways to skirt around our tax bills, and we shouldn't have to. President Trump and I simplified and lowered rates, and now a family of four making up to \$55k owes nothing on Tax Day to the federal government. Because of our pro-growth and family-first policies, middle-class

families in the United States are now taking home more money than ever before and saving billions in compliance costs.

This is what the tax bill was all about – allowing you and your family to keep more of your hard-earned money. But due to little-understood rules in the United States Senate, these tax cuts are temporary and will eventually expire. Undeterred by the obstructionists, the U.S. House of Representatives will be voting this week to permanently lock in your tax cuts and the new Child Tax Credit. We're also proposing new ideas to give you more control over your money because it's yours, not Washington's, and you should have the flexibility to spend it how you see fit.

Tax Reform 2.0 will support families through every stage of life by eliminating arbitrary Washington limits on how you can save and spend your money. As you welcome a new child into your family, you'll be able to access retirement savings penalty-free. Students will be able to use 529 education accounts to pay for more education expenses, including apprenticeships and paying off student loan debt. New tax-preferred universal savings accounts will be available for everyone, and small businesses will be able to join together to create affordable 401(k) plans for workers. It's bad enough that Washington takes a sizeable cut of your pay; it shouldn't also dictate how you can save and spend what the IRS doesn't take first.

Last year's historic tax reform was about cleaning up the tax code and putting more money in your pocket. Tax Reform 2.0 is about keeping it there, and helping families spend their money how they see fit through every stage of life. We're planning for the future so more Americans can chase their dreams, and America can continue to compete and win on the world stage.

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Congressman Jason Smith's Capitol Report - Celebrating the Constitution

SEPTEMBER 24TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Congressman Jason Smith's Capitol Report - Celebrating the Constitution

Congressman Smith Capitol Report Celebrating the Constitution September 14, 2018

On September 17th, 1787, the delegates to the Constitutional Convention finished months of tense deliberations and compromises. Standing in Independence Hall in Philadelphia where 11 years earlier America declared her independence, 39 delegates signed their names on parchment paper boldly proclaiming, “We the People of the United States...establish this Constitution for the United States of America.” This week on National Constitution Day we celebrate the greatest legal document ever written and the bedrock for American government, the U.S. Constitution.

The framers of the Constitution didn’t agree on everything, in fact they disagreed constantly. Our founding fathers and the states they represented had greatly differing opinions on the structure of government and how much power to give elected officials. Until they reached the “Great Compromise” calling for proportional representation in the House and equal representation of states in the Senate, there were doubts if they would ever reach an agreement the entire Union could get behind. Ultimately, they established a government with checks and balances, carefully designed to protect states’ rights while dividing power between three equal branches of government and guaranteeing the government does not infringe on individual liberties.

At fewer than 4,500 words, the Constitution has a beautiful simplicity to it. It is the shortest and oldest Constitution still in use today, and over 100 countries have used the U.S. Constitution as a model for their

own. While it lays out the responsibilities and procedures unique to each branch of government, the Constitution is remarkable because it clearly states what the government *cannot* do. To the framers of the Constitution, every individual in the world has fundamental rights – not given by the government, but by our Creator. They were disgusted by governments around the world infringing on the rights of the people and established a Constitution which does not grant rights, but rather bans the government from infringing on our God-given freedoms. It’s an important distinction, and one that shows how valuable and inherent our founders believed individual liberties are. In a new government of, by, and for the people, they barred the government from preventing the people from defending themselves, speaking their mind, and worshiping how they choose, among others. President Abraham Lincoln said the Constitution “must be maintained, for it is the only safeguard of our liberties.”

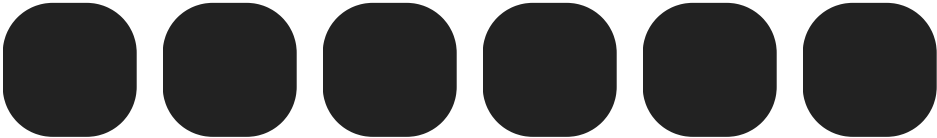
Perhaps the most important branch of government for maintaining the Constitution is the judicial branch. We trust justices on the Supreme Court with the incredible responsibility of interpreting laws and telling the government when it oversteps its Constitutional authority. It is vital to have Supreme Court justices who respect the Constitution and the proper role of the judiciary above all else, and I applaud President Trump for nominating fierce defenders of the Constitution like Justice Gorsuch and Judge Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court. One of the most revealing parts of Judge Kavanaugh’s confirmation hearings last week was how often he referred to his pocket Constitution, which he’s carried with him for 25 years. During questioning he pulled out his copy more than 300 times, showing the nation that above all else, his loyalty is to our nation’s founding document.

We are blessed to live in a country where our founding fathers crafted a masterpiece of a Constitution to balance our rights and the need for a government with restrained power. I firmly believe every American should study the Constitution because Constitutional issues confront the nation daily, and it’s important for the public to understand the basis on which all American laws are formed. If you would like a copy of the Constitution, my office can help direct you to the most affordable options. Studying our country’s founding document is the surest way to ensure your liberties, granted only by our Creator, will be guaranteed in the United States of America.

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Congressman Jason Smith Named “Hero of Main Street”

SEPTEMBER 13TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Congressman Jason Smith Named “Hero of Main Street”

U.S. Representative Jason Smith (MO-08) was named a “Hero of Main Street” for consistently supporting small businesses and cutting taxes while serving in Congress. The “Hero of Main Street” Award was presented by the National Retail Federation, which represents the interests of millions of small businesses.

“I’m proud to work with President Trump every day to grow the economy and support small businesses, family farmers, and American workers,” said Congressman Smith. “Thanks to tax cuts, regulatory relief, and shrinking the size of the federal government, small business optimism has now reached the highest point in our country’s history.”

Congressman Smith is an original author of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which President Trump signed into law in late 2017. Since the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act was enacted, 1.5 million jobs have been created in the United States and last quarter’s GDP growth in the U.S. was 4.2%, the strongest growth pace in nearly four years.

The overwhelming majority of retailers are small businesses, with more than 98 percent of all retail companies employing fewer than 50 people.

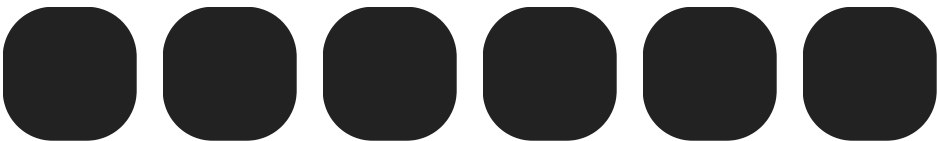
“Retailers and consumers are feeling good about the state of the U.S. economy, and a big part of that is the result of lawmakers who have made economic growth and job creation a top priority,” NRF President and CEO Matthew Shay said. “As a Hero of Main Street, Congressman Smith truly understands that the decisions made in Washington have a real impact on local businesses and communities across the country.”

The National Retail Federation is the world’s largest retail trade association. NRF represents discount and department stores, home goods and specialty stores, Main Street merchants, grocers, wholesalers, chain restaurants and internet retailers from the United States and more than 45 countries. Retail is the nation’s largest private-sector employer, supporting one in four U.S. jobs — 42 million working Americans. Contributing \$2.6 trillion to annual GDP, retail is a daily barometer for the nation’s economy.

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Ste. Gen Historic Properties to be Preserved for Future

SEPTEMBER 03RD 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Ste. Gen Historic Properties to be Preserved for Future

U.S. Senator Roy Blunt (Mo.) released the following statement today after attending a ceremonial signing of the cooperative agreements that will ensure Ste. Genevieve historic properties are preserved, marking the final statutory step needed to establish Ste. Genevieve as a national park.

“Generations of Ste. Genevieve residents have worked painstakingly to preserve and share this unique part of our nation’s French colonial history,” said Blunt. “Thanks to their efforts, Ste. Genevieve will now be a part of our National Park System. This process took a lot of time and dedication on the part of all involved, and I appreciate their partnership in getting to this final step today. I hope even more Americans will take the opportunity to visit Ste. Genevieve and experience the rich history that defines Missouri’s oldest town.”

Blunt joined public officials, members of the community, and National Park Service (NPS) employees at today’s ceremony. In July, Blunt attended a roundtable discussion with the NPS and toured the Bequette-Ribault House and Amoureux House.

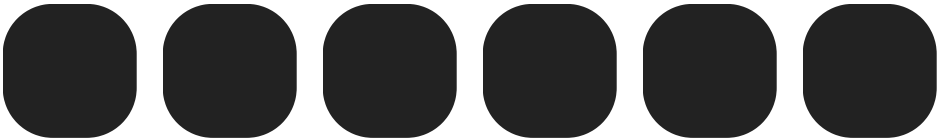
In March, Blunt’s legislation to establish the Ste. Genevieve National Historic Park and designate it as a unit of the NPS was signed into law. Blunt introduced similar legislation in May 2016. The NPS released its final Ste. Genevieve Special Resource Study in May 2016, which found that portions of the Ste. Genevieve historic district met the criteria for inclusion in the National Park System.

Ste. Genevieve was founded as a French colony in the early 1700s and is Missouri’s oldest town. The Ste. Genevieve National Historical Park will showcase nearly 300 years of history, including centuries-old homes featuring French colonial architecture.

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99 Year Old WWII Veteran Receives Medals

AUGUST 31ST 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

99 Year Old WWII Veteran Receives Medals

Poplar Bluff, Missouri - On Thursday, August 30, 2018 U.S. Representative Jason Smith (M)-08 presented World War II medals to George "Bud" Hartwell, a 99 year old veteran.

George 'Bud' Hartwell was born in Hayti, Missouri in 1918 and joined the United States Army in 1942 as an airplane and engine mechanic and technical instructor. When he was discharged from the Army in December 1945 he held the rank of Corporal, but never received a proper medal ceremony in the haste to bring soldiers home.

Congressman Smith will present Mr. Hartwell the WWII Victory Medal and the Honorable Service Lapel Button at the American Legion Hall Thursday. Mr. Hartwell will turn 100 years old on September 17th.

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