



Legislative Bulletin.....February 8, 2006

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Summary of the Bills Under Consideration Today:

Total Number of New Government Programs: 0

Total Cost of Discretionary Authorizations: \$0

Effect on Revenue: \$0

Total Change in Mandatory Spending: \$0

Total New State & Local Government Mandates: 0

Total New Private Sector Mandates: 0

Number of Bills Without Committee Reports: 1

Number of Reported Bills that Don't Cite Specific Clauses of Constitutional Authority: 0

H.Res. 670 — Congratulating the National Football League champion Pittsburgh Steelers for winning the Super Bowl XL and completing one of the greatest postseason runs in professional sports history — *as introduced* (Murphy, R-PA)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, February 8, 2006, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 670 congratulates the Pittsburgh Steelers for winning Super Bowl XL (40). The resolution states, among other findings, that:

- “The Pittsburgh Steelers won Super Bowl XL by defeating the Seattle Seahawks 21–10 in Detroit, Michigan, on February 5, 2006;
- “With this victory, the Pittsburgh Steelers franchise has tied the San Francisco 49ers and the Dallas Cowboys for the most Super Bowl championships in National Football League history with 5 each;
- “For 73 years, the people of the City of Pittsburgh have seen themselves in the grit, tenacity, and achievement of the Pittsburgh Steelers franchise, and they proudly celebrate the team’s 5th Super Bowl championship.”

The resolution resolves that the House of Representatives congratulates the National Football League champion Pittsburgh Steelers for winning Super Bowl XL and completing one of the greatest postseason runs in professional sports history.

Committee Action: H.Res. 670 was introduced on Tuesday, February 7, 2006, and referred to the Committee on Government Reform, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

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H.R. 4456 — Hattie Caraway Station Post Office Designation Act — *as introduced (Berry, D-AR)*

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, February 8, 2006, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 4456 would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2404 Race Street in Jonesboro, Arkansas, as the “Hattie Caraway Station.”

Additional Information: Mrs. Hattie Caraway was a former U.S. Senator from Arkansas. Her husband, Thaddeus Horatius Caraway, was first elected to Congress in 1912 and to the Senate in 1920. He had just been reelected to the U.S. Senate when he died unexpectedly in 1931. Arkansas Governor Harvey Parnell then appointed Hattie Caraway to her husband’s Senate seat. She was sworn in on December 9, 1931 and was confirmed in a special election on January 12, 1932. She thus became the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate. She was reelected in 1938, and ran again in 1944, losing to then-Congressman William Fulbright.

Committee Action: H.R. 4456 introduced on December 7, 2005, and referred to the Committee on Government Reform. The bill was marked-up on February 6, 2006, and reported to the House by unanimous consent.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO score of H.R. 4456 is unavailable, but the only costs associated with a post office renaming are those for sign and map changes, none of which significantly affect the federal budget.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Constitutional Authority: Although no committee report citing constitutional authority is available, Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution grants Congress the authority to establish Post Offices and post roads.

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H.Res. 389 — Supporting the goals and ideals of The Year of the Museum — *as introduced (Slaughter, D-NY)*

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday February 8, 2006, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 389 would support “the goals and ideals of The Year of the Museum.” The resolution states, among other findings, that:

- “museums are institutions of public service and education that foster exploration, study, observation, critical thinking, contemplation and dialogue to advance a greater public knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of history, science, the arts, and the natural world;
- “the Nation's more than 16,000 museums found in 9 out of every 10 counties in the United States receive approximately 865,000,000 visits annually from people of all ages and backgrounds, with attendance being free at more than half of these museums.”

The resolution resolves that the House of Representatives:

- 1) “supports the goals and ideals of The Year of the Museum; and
- 2) “requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe such a year with appropriate programs and activities.”

For more information on the Year of the Museum, visit the American Association of Museums website at: <http://www.aam-us.org/sp/yom/learnmore.cfm>

Committee Action: H.Res. 389 was introduced on July 26, 2005, and referred to the Committee on Government Reform. The bill was marked-up on September 29, 2005, and reported to the House by unanimous consent.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

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H.Res. 660 - Supporting the goals and ideals of National Mentoring Month – *as introduced (Osborne, R-NE)*

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, February 8th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 22 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “supports the goals and ideals of National Mentoring Month;
- “acknowledges the hard work of individuals and groups who promote mentoring and who are observing the month with appropriate ceremonies and activities that promote awareness of and volunteer involvement with youth mentoring; and
- “recognizes with gratitude the contributions of the millions of caring adults who are already serving as mentors and encourages more adults to volunteer as mentors.”

Additional Information: The resolution lists the following findings regarding youth mentoring:

- “youth mentoring is a centuries-old concept, through which a dependable adult provides guidance, support, and encouragement to help a young person become a responsible, productive adult;
- “mentoring, when done well, helps young people stay in school and improve academically, boosts self-esteem and communication skills, and improves the chances of going on to higher education;
- “there are thousands of mentoring programs in communities of all sizes across the United States, focused on building strong, effective relationships between caring and responsible adults and young people who need positive adult role models;
- “in spite of the great benefits mentoring provides, America has a serious mentoring gap, with more than 15 million young people currently in need of caring adult role models;
- “the demand for mentoring far exceeds the current capacity of local mentoring programs and the number of adults who currently volunteer as mentors;
- “on December 22, 2005, the President designated January 2006 as National Mentoring Month to focus the Nation's attention on the essential role mentoring plays in the lives of young people;

- “the month-long celebration of mentoring will encourage more individuals and organizations, including schools, businesses, nonprofit organizations, faith institutions, and foundations, to become engaged in mentoring; and
- “National Mentoring Month will, most importantly, build awareness of mentoring and recruit more individuals to become mentors, helping close our Nation's mentoring gap.”

Committee Action: On January 31, 2006, the bill was introduced and referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

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H.Res. 657 – Honoring the contributions of Catholic schools (Kennedy, R-MN)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, February 8, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Note: In 2003, 2004, and 2005 the House passed similar resolutions, H.Res. 26 by a vote of 398-1 (<http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2003/roll013.xml>), H.Res. 492 by a vote of 398-1 (<http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2004/roll002.xml>), H.Res. 23 by a vote of 408-0 (<http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2005/roll014.xml>)

Summary: H.Res. 657 would resolve that the House:

“(1) supports the goals of Catholic Schools Week, an event co-sponsored by the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and established to recognize the vital contributions of America's thousands of Catholic elementary and secondary schools; and

“(2) congratulates Catholic schools, students, parents, and teachers across the Nation for their ongoing contributions to education, and for the key role they play in promoting and ensuring a brighter, stronger future for this Nation.”

Additional Background: January 29 to February 4, 2006, has been designated as Catholic Schools Week by the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. The theme of the 2006 Catholic Schools Week is: “Catholic Schools: Character. Compassion. Values.” According to one of the week’s sponsors, “Catholic Schools Week celebrates education that goes beyond preparation for a secular life; it is an education that prepares students for a Christian life.” The week also “build[s]

community awareness of, and involvement in, Catholic schools throughout the country” (Source: <http://www.ncea.org/newinfo/nceacommunications/csw-fact.asp>).

The resolution’s findings note that Catholic schools “ensure a broad, values-added education emphasizing the lifelong development of moral, intellectual, physical, and social values in America’s young people” and “produce students strongly dedicated to their faith, values, families, and communities by providing an intellectually stimulating environment rich in spiritual, character, and moral development.” The total Catholic school student enrollment for the 2005-2006 academic year is approximately 2.5 million and the student-teacher ratio is 15 to 1, with more than 27 percent of students from minority backgrounds.

Committee Action: On January 31, 2006, the resolution was introduced and referred to the Education and Workforce Committee, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution would authorize no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

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**H.Con.Res. 331 – Honoring the sacrifice and courage of the 12 coal miners killed and the stamina and courage of the one who survived the mine disaster in Sago, West Virginia, and the sacrifice and courage of the two coal miners killed in the Aracoma Alma mine disaster, and recognizing the rescue crews for their outstanding efforts in the aftermath of the tragedies —
*as introduced (Capito, R-WV)***

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, February 8th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 331 resolves that Congress:

- “recognizes Thomas Anderson, Alva Martin Bennett, Jim Bennett, Jerry Groves, George Hamner Jr., Terry Helms, David Lewis, Martin Toler, Fred Ware Jr., Jack Weaver, Jesse Jones, and Marshall Winans for their sacrifice in the Sago, West Virginia, coal mine;
- “recognizes Don Israel Bragg and Ellery ‘Elvis’ Hatfield for their sacrifice in the Aracoma Alma, West Virginia coal mine;
- “extends the deepest condolences of the Nation to the families of these men;
- “recognizes Randal McCloy for his stamina and courage that enabled him to survive in severe conditions for over 40 hours;
- “recognizes the rescue crews for their outstanding effort resulting in the safe rescue of Randal McCloy; and

- “recognizes the many volunteers who provided support for the miners’ families during the rescue operations.”

Additional Information: According to the resolution, “coal generates more than half of domestic electricity... [and] West Virginia is the Nation’s second largest coal producing State. ...An average of 7,600 pounds of coal per person per year is used in the United States... [and] coal continues to be the economic engine for many communities. Coal miners are among the most productive of all American workers, producing 7 tons of coal per miner per day, which results in coal consistently being the most cost-effective choice for generating electricity in the United States.”

On January 2, 2006, 13 miners from West Virginia were trapped for over 40 hours in the Sago mine. The following 12 miners lost their lives while trapped in the mine: Thomas Anderson, Alva Martin Bennett, Jim Bennett, Jerry Groves, George Hamner Jr., Terry Helms, David Lewis, Martin Toler, Fred Ware Jr., Jack Weaver, Jesse Jones, and Marshall Winans. Randal McCloy was the only miner to be safely rescued. Only two weeks later, Don Israel Bragg and Ellery Hatfield also died in the Aracoma Alma Mine in West Virginia.

The RSC prepared a document outlining information on occupational fatalities. To view this document, please click here:

http://www.house.gov/pence/rsc/doc/010506_Occupational_Fatalities.doc.

Committee Action: On January 31, 2006, the bill was introduced and referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

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