



Legislative Bulletin.....April 5, 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.R. 3127 — Darfur Peace and Accountability Act — *as reported* **(Hyde, R-IL)**

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, April 5, 2006, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 3127 includes Congressional findings that “on July 22, 2004, the House of Representatives and the Senate declared that the atrocities occurring in the Darfur region of Sudan are genocide” and states the sense of Congress that “the genocide unfolding in the Darfur region of Sudan is characterized by acts of terrorism and atrocities directed against civilians, including mass murder, rape, and sexual violence committed by the Janjaweed and associated militias with the complicity and support of the National Congress Party-led faction of the Government of Sudan.” The bill would also:

- “Prohibit foreign assistance to countries that provide military assistance to Sudan, except when that assistance is for humanitarian reasons;
- “Direct the President to use the influence and vote of the U.S. at both the United Nations and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to encourage those organizations to provide additional support to the African Union Mission in Sudan;
- “Allow the President to block the assets (“consistent with the International Emergency Economic Powers Act”) of any individual determined to be complicit in acts of genocide, war crimes, or crimes against humanity in Darfur;
- “Require the President to deny visas and entry to any individual determined to be complicit in said acts, but allows a waiver if it is in the U.S. national interests, provided that the appropriate congressional committees are notified in advance;
- “State that the President “should immediately consider imposing the sanctions (described in the Comprehensive Peace in Sudan Act of 2004) against the Janjaweed commanders and coordinators identified in subcommittee hearings in June, 2004;
- “Direct the President to take all necessary and appropriate steps to deny the Government of Sudan access to oil revenues, including by prohibiting entry at United States ports to cargo ships or oil tankers engaged in business or trade activities in the oil sector of Sudan or involved in the shipment of goods for use by the armed forces of Sudan until such time as the Government of Sudan has honored its commitments to cease attacks on civilians, demobilize and demilitarize the Janjaweed and associated militias, grant free and unfettered access for deliveries of humanitarian assistance, and allow for the safe and voluntary return of refugees and internally displaced persons;
- “Prohibit foreign assistance to any government of a country that is in violation of the embargo on military assistance against Sudan pursuant to U.N. Security Council Resolutions 1556 and 1591;
- “Prohibit the current restrictions against Sudan (imposed pursuant to Executive Order 13067) from being modified or lifted until the President transmits to the appropriate congressional committees that Sudan is acting in good faith to address and resolve transgressions (enumerated in the text); and
- “Require the Department of State to provide reports dealing with the African Union Mission in Sudan.”

Committee Action: H.R. 3127 was introduced on June 30, 2005, and referred to the Committee on International Relations Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations on March 8, 2006, where the bill was marked-up on March 15, 2006, and the bill was amended and reported to the House by a voice vote (H. Rept. 109-392, Part I). The bill was also referred to the House Judiciary Committee, where it was reported to the House by a voice vote (H. Rept. 109-392, Part II).

Cost to Taxpayers: CBO estimates that “implementing H.R. 3127 would not have a significant impact on 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: The Committee Report, [H. Rept. 109-392, Part 1](#), cites constitutional authority for this legislation in Article 1, Section 8, and Clause 18 (to make all laws that are necessary and proper) of the Constitution.

House Rule XIII, Section 3(d)(1), requires that all committee reports contain “a statement citing the *specific* powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the law proposed by the bill or joint resolution.” *[emphasis added]*

RSC Staff Contact: Derek V. Baker; derek.baker@mail.house.gov; 202-226-8585

H.Con.Res. 320 — Calling on the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to immediately and unconditionally release Dr. Pham Hong Son and other political prisoners and prisoners of conscience — *as introduced* (Smith, R-NJ)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, April 5, 2006, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 320 would call on the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to immediately and unconditionally release Dr. Pham Hong Son and other political prisoners and prisoners of conscience.

The resolution resolves, among other things, that Congress:

- “condemns and deplors the arbitrary detention of Dr. Pham Hong Son by the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and calls for his immediate and unconditional release, and for the immediate and unconditional release of all other political prisoners;
- “condemns and deplors the violations of freedom of speech, religion, movement, association, and the lack of due process afforded to individuals in Vietnam; and

- “strongly urges the Government of Vietnam to consider the implications of its actions for the broader relationship between the United States and Vietnam, including the impact on trade relations.”

The resolution states, among other things, the sense of Congress that the U.S. should:

- “make the immediate release of Dr. Pham Hong Son a top concern;
- “continue to urge the Government of Vietnam to comply with internationally recognized standards for basic freedoms and human rights; and
- “make clear to the Government of Vietnam that it must adhere to the rule of law and respect the freedom of the press in order for it to accede to the World Trade Organization (WTO).”

The resolution also includes numerous findings, including the following:

- “in March 2002, Dr. Pham Hong Son was arrested after he had translated an article entitled “What is Democracy?” from the Web site of the United States Embassy in Vietnam and sent it to both friends and senior party officials;
- “in none of his activities did Dr. Pham advocate violence in his opposition to the Vietnamese Government or its policies;
- “Dr. Pham was sentenced in June 2003, after a half-day closed trial in Hanoi, to 13 years of imprisonment and three years of house arrest on spurious espionage charges;
- “such spurious charges are routinely used to suppress peaceful democracy activists, as in the notorious cases of Father Thadeus Nguyen Van Ly, his two nephews and niece, and in the cases of Pham Que Duong, Tran Khue, and Tran Dung Tien;
- “Dr. Pham remains imprisoned in harsh conditions, including imprisonment for more than a year in solitary confinement, which have endangered his health;
- “Dr. Pham and other political prisoners and prisoners of conscience have been deprived of their basic human rights by being denied their ability to exercise freedom of opinion and expression;
- “the arbitrary imprisonment and the violation of the human rights of citizens of Vietnam are sources of continuing, grave concern to Congress; and
- “Vietnam continues to restrict access to Western diplomats, journalists, and humanitarian organizations to the Central Highlands and the Northwest Highlands, where there are credible reports that ethnic minorities suffer serious violations of their human and civil rights, including property rights, and ongoing restrictions on religious activities, including forced conversions.”

Committee Action: H.Con.Res. 320 was introduced on December 16, 2005, and referred to the Committee on International Relations Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations. The bill was marked-up on March 15, 2006, and it was 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.

RSC Staff Contact: Derek V. Baker; derek.baker@mail.house.gov; 202-226-8585

H.Res. 578 — Concerning the Government of Romania’s ban on intercountry adoptions and the welfare of orphaned or abandoned children in Romania — *as introduced* (Smith, R-NJ)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, April 5, 2006, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 578 would address the government of Romania’s current ban on intercountry adoptions and general welfare of orphaned and abandoned children in Romania. The resolution resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “supports the desire of the Government of Romania to improve the standard of care and well-being of children in Romania;
- “urges the Government of Romania to complete the processing of the intercountry adoption cases which were pending when Law 273/2004 was enacted;
- “urges the Government of Romania to amend its child welfare and adoption laws to decrease barriers to adoption, both domestically and intercountry, including by allowing intercountry adoption by persons other than biological grandparents;
- “urges the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to work collaboratively with the Government of Romania to achieve these ends; and
- “requests that the European Union and its member States not impede the Government of Romania’s efforts to place orphaned or abandoned children in permanent homes in a manner that is consistent with Romania’s obligations under the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption.”

The resolution includes numerous findings, including the following:

- “following the execution of Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu in 1989, it was discovered that more than 100,000 underfed, neglected children throughout Romania were living in hundreds of squalid and inhumane institutions;
- “between 1990 and 2004, United States citizens adopted more than 8,200 Romanian children, with a similar response from Western Europe;
- “the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) reported in March 2005 that more than 9,000 children a year are abandoned in Romania’s maternity wards or pediatric hospitals and that child abandonment in Romania in ‘2003 and 2004 was no different from that occurring 10, 20, or 30 years ago’;
- “there are approximately 37,000 orphaned or abandoned children in Romania today living in state institutions, an additional 49,000 living in temporary arrangements, such as foster care, and an unknown number of children living on the streets and in maternity and pediatric hospitals;

- “on December 28, 1994, Romania ratified the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption which recognizes that ‘intercountry adoption may offer the advantage of a permanent family to a child for whom a suitable family cannot be found in his or her State of origin’;
- “intercountry adoption offers the hope of a permanent family for children who are orphaned or abandoned by their biological parents; and
- “on June 21, 2004, the Parliament of Romania enacted Law 273/2004 on adoption, which prohibits intercountry adoption except by a child’s biological grandparent or grandparents.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 578 was introduced on November 18, 2005, and referred to the Committee on International Relations Subcommittee on Europe and Emerging Threats and the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations. Both subcommittees marked-up the bill and reported it 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.

RSC Staff Contact: Derek V. Baker; derek.baker@mail.house.gov; 202-226-8585

H.Con.Res. 360 — Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers’ Memorial Service — *as introduced* (Schuster, R-PA)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, April 5, 2006, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 360 authorizes the Grand Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police and its auxiliary to sponsor a public event, the 25th annual National Peace Officers’ Memorial Service, on the Capitol Grounds, in order to honor the law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty during 2005. The event is to be held on May 15, 2006, or a different date as determined by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate jointly.

Additional Information: Peace officers include police officers, park police, correctional officers, and others involved in law enforcement. Based on preliminary estimates, 155 peace officers were killed in the line of duty in 2005. A total of 1,635 law enforcement officers died in the line of duty during the past 10 years, an average of 164 per year. On average, more than 57,000 law enforcement officers are assaulted each year, resulting in some 17,000 injuries (source <http://www.nleomf.com/TheMemorial/Facts/killedlod.htm>).

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed a proclamation that designated May 15th as Peace Officers Memorial Day. Over the past 22 years, over 3,000 law enforcement officers have been honored. In addition, Section 136 of title 36, United States Code, requests that the President issue each year a proclamation: 1) designating May 15 as Peace Officers Memorial Day in honor of federal, state, and local officers killed or disabled in the line of duty; 2) directing that the U.S. flag on federal buildings and property be flown at half-staff; and 3) encouraging citizens and state and local governments to observe Peace Officers Memorial Day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Committee Action: The resolution was introduced on March 16, 2006, and referred to the Committee on House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, which held a markup and ordered it to be reported by a voice vote on March 30, 2006.

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.

Staff Contact: Joelle Cannon, joelle.cannon@mail.house.gov, X69717

H.Con.Res. 371 — Honoring and congratulating the Minnesota National Guard, on its 150th anniversary, for its spirit of dedication and service to the State of Minnesota and the Nation and recognizing that the role of the National Guard, the Nation’s citizen-soldier based militia, which was formed before the United States Army, has been and still is extremely important to the security and freedom of the Nation — *as introduced* (Kennedy, R-MN)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, April 5, 2006, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.J.Res. 81 resolves that Congress

- “honors and congratulates the Minnesota National Guard for its spirit of dedication and service to the State of Minnesota and to the Nation on its 150th anniversary; and
- “recognizes that the role of the National Guard, the Nation’s citizen-soldier based militia, which was formed before the United States Army, has been and still is extremely important to the security and freedom of the Nation.”

Additional Information: The resolution lists a number of findings, including the following:

- “the Minnesota National Guard traces its origins to the formation of the Pioneer Guard in the Minnesota territory in 1856, two years before Minnesota became the 32nd State in the Union;

- “during the Civil War the First Minnesota Infantry regiment saw battle at Bull Run, Antietam, and Gettysburg;
- “during a critical moment in the Battle of Gettysburg on July 3, 1863, 262 soldiers of the First Minnesota Infantry, along with other Union forces, bravely charged and stopped Confederate troops attacking the center of the Union position on Cemetery Ridge;
- “only 47 men answered the roll after this valiant charge, earning the First Minnesota Infantry the highest casualty rate of any unit in the Civil War;
- “the Minnesota National Guard was mobilized for duty in World War I, where many Minnesotans saw duty in France, including the 151st Field Artillery, which saw duty as part of the famed 42nd ‘Rainbow’ Division;
- men of the Minnesota National Guard's 175th Field Artillery, as part of the 34th ‘Red Bull’ Division, became the first American Division to be deployed to Europe in January of 1942;
- “Minnesota National Guard troops have helped keep the peace in the former Yugoslavia, including 1,100 troops who have seen service in Bosnia, Croatia, and Kosovo;
- “over 11,000 members of the Minnesota National Guard have been called up for full-time service since the September 11th terrorist attacks; and
- “on April 17, 2006, the Minnesota National Guard will celebrate its 150th anniversary along with its historical and recent accomplishments.”

Committee Action: The resolution was introduced on March 30, 2006, and referred to the Committee on Armed Services, 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.

Staff Contact: Joelle Cannon, joelle.cannon@mail.house.gov, X69717

H.Con.Res. 370 — Expressing the sense of the Congress that Saudi Arabia should fully live up to its World Trade Organization commitments and end all aspects of any boycott on Israel — *as introduced* (Shaw, R-FL)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, April 5, 2006, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 370 expresses the sense of Congress that:

- “Saudi Arabia should maintain and fully live up to its commitments under the World Trade Organization (WTO) and end all aspects of any boycott on Israel; and
- “the President, the United States Trade Representative, and the Secretary of State—

- “should continue their active involvement on this issue by strongly urging the Government of Saudi Arabia to comply with its WTO obligations; and
- “should urge Saudi Arabia to end any boycott on Israel.”

Additional Information: The resolution lists a number of findings, including the following:

- “the United States supported the accession of Saudi Arabia to the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2005;
- “as part of the working party report for the accession of Saudi Arabia to the WTO, Saudi Arabia reiterated its commitment to terminate the secondary and tertiary boycotts on Israel;
- Saudi Arabia also committed not to discriminate against any WTO members and specifically did not invoke the non-application provisions of the WTO Agreement, and thus has rights and obligations to all WTO members, including Israel;
- “in spite of these commitments to WTO members and United States officials, press reports indicate that an official of the Government of Saudi Arabia has stated that Saudi Arabia has not committed to ending the primary boycott on Israel, which would violate Saudi Arabia’s WTO obligations toward Israel;
- “United States Trade Representative Portman has testified to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives that Saudi Arabia’s application of the boycott is a ‘big concern’ of the United States; that Saudi Arabia did not invoke non-application of WTO commitments to Israel, so that Saudi Arabia is required to provide nondiscriminatory treatment to Israel; and that the United States Trade Representative has received assurances from Saudi Arabia that it will abide by its WTO commitments; and
- “the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) scheduled its ‘Ninth Meeting of the Liaison Officers of Islamic Regional Officers for the Boycott of Israel’ for the week of March 13, 2006, at the OIC’s headquarters in Saudi Arabia.”

Committee Action: The resolution was introduced on March 29, 2006, and referred to the House Committees on Ways and Means and International Relations, neither of which took any 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.

Staff Contact: Joelle Cannon, joelle.cannon@mail.house.gov, X69717

H.Res. 737 — Supporting the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month — as introduced (Biggert, R-IL)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, April 5, 2006, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Earlier in the 109th Congress, the House passed an almost identical resolution, H. Res. 148, by a vote of 409 - 2 ([Roll no. 95](#)). In the 108th Congress, the House passed two substantively similar resolutions: H.Res. 127 (by a vote of 380-1) and H.Res. 578 (by a vote of 391-0).

Summary: H.Res. 737 would support the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month. The resolution resolves that the House of Representatives

- “supports the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month, including raising public awareness about the importance of financial education in the United States and the serious consequences that may result from a lack of understanding about personal finances; and
- “requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on the Federal Government, States, localities, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, other entities, and the people of the United States to observe the month with appropriate programs and activities with the goal of increasing financial literacy rates for individuals of all ages and walks of life.”

Additional Background: Congress established the Financial Literacy and Education Commission in H.R. 2622 (Section 513 of Public Law 108-159) in 2003.

According to the resolution’s findings, April has been designated as “Financial Literacy Month” to educate the public on the need to increase financial literacy throughout the nation by the National Council on Economic Education and the Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy.

Also found in the resolution’s findings are the following statements:

- “a study completed in 2004 by the Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy found that high school seniors know less about principles of basic personal finance than did high school seniors 7 years earlier;
- “studies show that as many as 10 million households in the United States are ‘unbanked’ or are without access to mainstream bank products and services; and
- “Congress sought to implement a national strategy for coordination of Federal financial literacy efforts through the establishment of the Financial Literacy and Education Commission (FLEC) in 2003, the designation of the Office of Financial Education of the Department of the Treasury to provide support for the Commission, and requirements that the Commission’s materials, website, toll-free hotline, annual report, and national multimedia campaign be multilingual.”

For more information on the Jump\$tart Coalition, visit this website:

<http://www.jumpstart.org/>.

For more information on the National Council on Economic Education, visit this website:
<http://www.ncee.net/>.

According to GuideStar, neither the Jump\$tart Coalition nor the National Council on Economic Education receives government funds. For more information, visit this webpage:
<http://www.guidestar.org>.

Conservative Concerns: Some conservatives may be concerned that while Congress has passed three resolutions encouraging financial literacy for both youths and adults alike in the past two years, this Congress is currently residing over a record budget deficit of \$400 billion, and has not passed a balanced budget since FY2000. Further, the United States public debt is approximately \$8.2 trillion and counting.

According to Article I, Section 7, Clause 1 of the Constitution, “all bills for raising revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives...”

Committee Action: H.Res. 737 was introduced on March 28, 2006, and referred to the Committee on Government Reform. The bill was marked-up on March 30, 2006, and it was 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.

RSC Staff Contact: Derek V. Baker; derek.baker@mail.house.gov; 202-226-8585

H.R. 4688 — Mayor John Thompson “Tom” Garrison Memorial Post Office Designation Act — *as introduced* (Hayes, R-NC)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, April 5, 2006, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: The bill designates the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1 Boyden Street in Badin, North Carolina, as the “Mayor John Thompson ‘Tom’ Garrison Memorial Post Office.”

Additional Information: John Thompson “Tom” Garrison, was the former mayor of Badin, North Carolina. He died at the age of 80 in October 2005. Rebecca Anne Marbry Garrison, his wife of fifty-five years, preceded him in death. In September of 1943, Mr. Garrison entered the Army and played an active role in the European Theater of Operations for 22 months during WWII. He was awarded the Silver Star and other military honors. Mr. Garrison’s professional career was in the insurance and real estate fields until his retirement in 1995. He was an active

member of the First Baptist Church in Albemarle for over 50 years. (Source: <http://www.legacy.com/charlotte/DeathNotices.asp?Page=LifeStory&PersonId=15434081>)

Committee Action: On February 1, 2006, the bill was introduced and referred to the House Committee on Government Reform, which marked it up and reported it to the full House by unanimous consent on March 9, 2006.

Cost to Taxpayers: The only costs associated with a postal facility 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.”

RSC Staff Contact: Sheila Cole, sheila.cole@mail.house.gov (202) 226-9719

H.R. 4561 — Francisco “Pancho” Medrano Post Office Building Designation Act — *as introduced (Eddie Bernice Johnson, D-TX)*

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, April 5, 2006, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: The bill designates the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8624 Ferguson Road in Dallas, Texas, shall be known and designated as the “Francisco ‘Pancho’ Medrano Post Office Building.”

Additional Information: According to an April 4, 2002, *Dallas Morning News* story about his death at age 81, Francisco “Pancho” Medrano Sr., was the “patriarch of what was once Dallas’ most powerful political family...” The son of a Mexican laborer, he was a pivotal force for bringing Hispanics into the city’s mainstream and quashing discrimination. He served on the Dallas Park and Recreation Board from 1997 to 2001, though he is remembered for his contributions that largely began with the civil rights movement of the 1960s. “Outside Dallas, Mr. Medrano is known for his five decades of union and civil rights work with the United Automobile Workers. He began organizing a union for the North American Aviation plant in Dallas prior to World War II. During his half century with the union, he integrated lunch counters in Dallas, took part in civil rights marches in the Deep South and organized farm workers in the Texas valley with the late civil rights leader and union organizer César Chávez. Along the way he was a successful heavy-weight prize fighter and an aircraft jig builder.”

Committee Action: On December 15, 2005, the bill was introduced and referred to the House Committee on Government Reform, which marked it up and reported it to the full House by unanimous consent on March 30, 2006.

Cost to Taxpayers: The only costs associated with a postal facility 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.”

RSC Staff Contact: Sheila Cole, sheila.cole@mail.house.gov (202) 226-9719

H.R. 4646 — Coach John Wooden Post Office Building Designation Act — *as introduced (Sherman, D-CA)*

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, April 5, 2006, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: The bill designates the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7320 Reseda Boulevard in Reseda, California, shall be known and designated as the “Coach John Wooden Post Office Building.”

Additional Information: According to the Basketball Hall of Fame, “John Wooden was a fabulous basketball player before becoming the most successful coach in college basketball history.” He was All-State in high school, and at Purdue University was called the “Indiana Rubber Man.” He was a three-time Helms Athletic Foundation All-America and named College Player of the Year in 1932, the year Purdue won the national championship. While he was coach of UCLA, the Bruins set all-time records with four perfect 30-0 seasons, 88 consecutive victories, 38 straight NCAA tournament victories, 20 PAC 10 championships, and 10 national championships, including seven in a row. Six times, John Wooden was named Coach of the Year, and he is one of only three people enshrined in the Basketball Hall of Fame as both a player and a coach. (Source: <http://www.hoophall.com/halloffamers/Wooden.htm>)

Committee Action: On December 18, 2005, the bill was introduced and referred to the House Committee on Government Reform, which marked it up and reported it to the full House by unanimous consent on March 30, 2006.

Cost to Taxpayers: The only costs associated with a postal facility 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.”

RSC Staff Contact: Sheila Cole, sheila.cole@mail.house.gov (202) 226-9719

H.Res. 556 — Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a National Methamphetamine Prevention Week should be established to increase awareness of methamphetamine and to educate the public on ways to help prevent the use of that damaging narcotic — *as introduced (Rep. Baird, D-WA)*

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, April 5, 2006, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: The resolution has 11 findings and resolves that it is the sense of the House of Representatives that:

“a National Methamphetamine Prevention Week should be established to increase awareness of methamphetamine and educate the public on effective ways to help prevent methamphetamine use at the international, Federal, State, and local levels; and

“the people of the United States and interested groups should be encouraged to observe National Methamphetamine Prevention Week with appropriate ceremonies and activities” (emphasis added).

Note: This resolution violates the spirit of the House Rules enacted by the Republican Congress on the first day of the 104th Congress. The 104th Congress changed House rules to prohibit a bill from being considered on the House floor if “it establishes or expresses a commemoration”, which is defined as “a remembrance, celebration, or recognition for any purpose through the designation of a specified period of time” (<http://clerk.house.gov/legisAct/legisProc/rules/rule12.html>). The resolution states that “a National Methamphetamine Prevention Week should be established.” Because the resolution states that a week should exist and technically does not establish a month, the parliamentarian’s office will likely rule that it is allowable under House rules.

Additional Information: According to the resolution’s findings, methamphetamine is a highly addictive, man-made drug that can be injected, snorted, smoked, or ingested orally, the effects of

which include feelings of euphoria that last for up to 24 hours and psychotic behavior such as auditory hallucinations, mood disturbances, delusions, and paranoia, potentially causing the user to experience homicidal or suicidal thoughts as well as violent behavior and brain damage. Meth is typically produced in clandestine laboratories, known as “meth labs,” using a variety of volatile and toxic ingredients available in stores, and presents a danger to the individual preparing the methamphetamine, the community surrounding the laboratory, and the law enforcement personnel who discover the laboratory. The National Association of Counties has conducted surveys with law enforcement and child welfare officials in more than 500 counties, and found that 40 percent of all the child welfare officials in the survey reported increased out-of-home placements of children due to methamphetamine use.

Committee Action: On November 16, 2005, the bill was introduced and referred to the House Committee on Government Reform, which marked it up and reported it to the full House by unanimous consent on March 9, 2006.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution has no cost.

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.

RSC Staff Contact: Sheila Cole, sheila.cole@mail.house.gov (202) 226-9719

H.Con.Res. 366 — To congratulate the National Aeronautics and Space Administration on the 25th anniversary of the first flight of the Space Transportation System, to honor Commander John Young and the Pilot Robert Crippen, who flew Space Shuttle Columbia on April 12-14, 1981, on its first orbital test flight, and to commend the men and women of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and all those supporting America’s space program for their accomplishments and their role in inspiring the American people — *as introduced* (Calvert, R-CA)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, April 5, 2006, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 366 resolves the following sense of the House of Representatives:

- “congratulates the National Aeronautics and Space Administration on the 25th anniversary of the first flight of the Space Transportation System;
- “honors Commander John Young and the Pilot Robert Crippen, who flew Space Shuttle Columbia on April 12-14, 1981, on its first orbital test flight; and
- “commends the men and women of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and all those supporting America’s space program for their accomplishments and their role in inspiring the American people.”

Additional Information: The resolution lists a number of findings, including the following:

- “Space Shuttle Columbia was the first manned, reusable spacecraft that was flown into orbit without benefit of previous unmanned orbital test flights;
- “the Space Shuttle Columbia was the first spacecraft to launch with wings, using solid rocket boosters;
- “the Space Shuttle program has allowed the United States to partner with other nations to build and to inhabit the International Space Station;
- “the successful return to flight of the Space Shuttle represents the first leg of the Nation’s Vision for Space Exploration;
- “the very specialized and highly valued workforce of the Space Shuttle program will contribute greatly to the Vision for Space Exploration as we return to the Moon, and go on to Mars and beyond; and
- “heroes such as John Young and Robert Crippen are a great inspiration to our next generation of Americans as they stimulate interest in the study of math and science.”

Committee Action: H.Con.Res. 366 was introduced on March 29, 2006, and referred to the House Committee on Science, 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.

RSC Staff Contact: Joelle Cannon; joelle.cannon@mail.house.gov; (202) 226-9717.

H.Res. 541 — Honoring Drs. Roy J. Glauber, John L. Hall, and Theodor W. Hansch for being awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics for 2005, and Drs. Yves Chauvin, Robert H. Grubbs, and Richard R. Schrock for being awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for 2005, and for other purposes — *as introduced* (Baird, R-WA)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, April 5, 2006, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 541 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “recognizes and honors Drs. Roy J. Glauber, John L. Hall, and Theodor W. Hansch;
- “recognizes and honors Drs. Yves Chauvin, Robert H. Grubbs, and Richard R. Schrock; and
- “acknowledges the importance of National Institute of Standards and Technology research and its contributions to United States industry, academia, and government.”

Additional Information: The resolution lists a number of findings, including the following:

- “on October 10, 2005, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics for 2005 to Drs. Roy J. Glauber, John L. Hall, and Theodor W. Hansch for their pioneering discoveries in the field of optics;
- “their contributions to the quantum theory of optical coherence and development of laser-based precision spectroscopy, including the optical frequency comb technique, has led to improvements in the accuracy of precision instruments such as GPS locators, atomic clocks, and navigation systems;
- “John L. Hall recently retired from a long career with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Quantum Physics Division, and was one of the founding fellows of the JILA, a joint Federal lab/university cooperative effort supporting research and post-graduate training;
- “the NIST, founded in 1901, and its laboratories and collaborations with academia have contributed to the achievements of present and past Nobel Prize winners by supporting research that strengthens the global economic competitiveness of the United States through the development of technologies, measurement methods, and standards;
- “John L. Hall is one of three NIST researchers to have received a Nobel Prize;
- “on October 10, 2005, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for 2005 to Drs. Yves Chauvin, Robert H. Grubbs, and Richard R. Schrock for their pioneering discoveries in the field of organic chemistry; and
- “their research on metathesis reactions and the development of the metathesis method in organic synthesis has resulted in a major advance for ‘green chemistry’ and the development of pharmaceuticals that can be made through methods that are more efficient and generate fewer hazardous wastes.”

Recent news stories have reported that Glauber and Hall have made several comments regarding the current Congress and President Bush, inferring that decisions to fund science initiatives and policies have been motivated by politics and not policy or knowledge. To view more information about these statements, please visit:

http://www.usatoday.com/tech/science/2005-12-08-nobellaureates_x.htm?csp=34.

Committee Action: H.Res. 541 was introduced on November 11, 2005, and referred to the House Committee on Science, 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.

RSC Staff Contact: Joelle Cannon; joelle.cannon@mail.house.gov; (202) 226-9717.

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