

Legislative Bulletin.....February 24, 2010

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H.Con.Res. 238 - Recognizing the difficult challenges Black veterans faced when returning home after serving in the Armed Forces, their heroic military sacrifices, and their patriotism in fighting for equal rights and for the dignity of a people and a Nation
(Kissell, D-NC)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, February 24, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 238 resolves that Congress recognizes:

- “The difficult challenges Black veterans faced when returning home after serving in the Armed Forces, their heroic military sacrifices, and their patriotism in fighting for equal rights and for the dignity of a people and a Nation; and
- “The need for the Department of Veterans Affairs to continue to work to eliminate any health and benefit disparities for our Nation's minority veterans.”

The resolution a number of findings, including:

- “There has been no war fought by or within the United States in which Blacks did not participate, including the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, the War of 1812, the Spanish American War, World Wars I and II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom;
- “In 1917, Charles Hamilton Houston encountered racism after entering World War I as a commissioned first lieutenant in the segregated 17th Provisional

Training Regiment, later writing that 'I made up my mind that if I got through this war I would study law and use my time fighting for men who could not strike back.';

- “Even after President Truman issued Executive Order 9981 desegregating the military on July 26, 1948, discrimination continued;
- “The Black veterans of the Nation's wars sowed the seeds for today's bountiful harvest through the Niagara Movement, the NAACP, and the latter-day Civil Rights Movement, all of which share a common ancestry in the Civil War, without which there would be no Civil Rights Movement and no equal rights for all Americans; and
- “Today, Black veterans suffer at a disproportionate rate from chronic illnesses and homelessness and are plagued by health disparities.”

Committee Action: H.Con.Res. 238 was introduced on February 23, 2010, and referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, which took no public 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.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: A committee reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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H.Res. 1074 - Honoring the life of Miep Gies, who aided Anne Frank's family while they were in hiding and preserved her diary for future generations (*Kilroy, D-OH*)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, February 24, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 1074 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Recognizes Miep Gies's courage in risking her own life to hide and provide for the Frank family while they were in hiding;

- “Commends Miep Gies for retrieving and preserving the diary of Anne Frank, which has served as an inspiration to countless people the world over; and
- “Honors Miep Gies for her bravery during Nazi occupation of the Netherlands and her dedication to preserving the memory of Anne Frank and the Holocaust.”

The resolution a number of findings, including:

- “Miep Gies agreed without hesitation to hide and assist the Frank family to avoid Jewish persecution at the hands of Nazi Germany;
- “Miep Gies helped hide and sustain the Frank family, along with Hermann and Auguste Van Pels, their son Peter, and later Fritz Pfeffer, for two years in a secret room above Opekta's offices, bringing them food, supplies, and writing supplies for Anne;
- “When the Gestapo captured the Frank family, the Van Pels family, and Mr. Pfeffer, on August 4, 1944, Miep Gies discovered the pages of Anne Frank's diary in the secret room and hid them for safekeeping;
- “Miep Gies represents the valor demonstrated by the countless ordinary individuals who stood up to and helped defeat Adolph Hitler's Nazi regime; and
- “Miep Gies passed away on January 11, 2010.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 1074 was introduced on February 24, 2010, and referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, which took no public 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.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: A committee reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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H.Res. 944 - Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives on religious minorities in Iraq (*Peters, D-MI*)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, February 24, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 944 expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that:

- “The United States remains deeply concerned about the plight of vulnerable religious and ethnic minorities of Iraq and is particularly concerned for the Chaldeans, Syrians, Assyrians, and other Christians, Sabeen Mandeans, Yazidis, Baha'is, Jews, and Muslim ethnic minorities, the Shabak and Turkomen, and other religious and ethnic minorities of Iraq;
- “The United States Government and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq should urge the Government of Iraq to enhance security at places of worship in Iraq, particularly where religious minorities are known to be at risk;
- “The United States Government should continue to work with the Government of Iraq to--
 - “Urgently train and deploy into the Iraqi police and security forces members of vulnerable minority communities in Iraq, including in Nineveh and other areas in which religious minorities are located, who are as representative as possible of those communities; and
 - “Ensure that members of such communities--
 - “Suffer no discrimination in recruitment, employment, or advancement in the Iraqi police and security forces; and
 - “While employed in the Iraqi police and security forces, be assigned to their locations of origin, rather than being transferred to other areas;
- “The Government of Iraq should, with the assistance of the United States Government--
 - “Ensure that the upcoming national elections in Iraq are safe, fair, and free of intimidation and violence so that all Iraqis, including religious minorities, can participate in the elections; and
 - “Permit and facilitate election monitoring by experts from local and international nongovernmental organizations, the international community, and the United Nations, particularly in minority areas;
- “The Government of Iraq and the Kurdistan regional government should work towards a peaceful and timely resolution of disputes over territories;
- “The United States Government and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq should urge the Government of Iraq to work with minority communities and their representatives to develop measures to implement article 125 of the Iraq Constitution, which guarantees ‘the administrative, political, cultural, and educational rights of the various nationalities, such as Turkomen, Chaldeans, Assyrians, and all the other constituents’ in Nineveh and other areas where these groups are present;
- “The Government of Iraq should take affirmative measures to reverse the legal, political, and economic marginalization of religious minorities in Iraq;
- “The United States Government should direct assistance to projects that develop the ability of ethnic and religious minorities in Iraq to organize themselves civically and politically to effectively convey their concerns to government;

- “The United States Government should continue to fund capacity-building programs for the Iraqi Ministry of Human Rights, the independent national Human Rights Commission, and a new independent minorities committee whose membership is selected by minority communities of Iraq;
- “The Government of Iraq should direct the Iraqi Ministry of Human Rights to investigate and issue a public report on abuses against and the marginalization of minority communities in Iraq and make recommendations to address such abuses;
- “The Government of Iraq should, with the assistance of the United States Government and international organizations, help ensure that displaced Iraqis considering return to Iraq have the proper information needed to make informed decisions regarding such return; and
- “The United States Government and international organizations should continue to work with the Government of Iraq to develop the legal framework necessary to address property disputes resulting when displaced Iraqis attempt to return to their homes in Iraq.”

The resolution a number of findings, including:

- “According to the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, there are grave threats to religious freedom in Iraq, particularly for the smallest, most vulnerable religious minorities in Iraq, including Chaldeans, Syrians, Assyrians, and other Christians, Sabeen Mandaeans, and Yazidis;
- “The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom continues to recommend that the President designate Iraq as a ‘country of particular concern’, or CPC, under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998, because of the ongoing, severe abuses of religious freedom in Iraq;
- “Members of small religious minority communities in Iraq do not have militia or tribal structures to defend them, do not receive adequate official protection, and are legally, politically, and economically marginalized;
- “Many religious minorities in Iraq, who made up about 3 percent of the population of Iraq in 2003, have fled to other areas in Iraq or to other countries, where they reflect a disproportionately high percentage of registered Iraqi refugees; and
- “The ancient and once-large Jewish community in Iraq now numbers fewer than 10, and they essentially live in hiding.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 944 was introduced on December 3, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, which took no public action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditures. However, the resolution does encourage the assistance of the United States in a number of areas, each that would bring about a cost to the American taxpayer.

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.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: A committee reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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H.Con.Res. 227 - Supporting the goals and ideals of National Urban Crimes Awareness Week (*Towns, D-NY*)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, February 24, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 227 resolves the sense of the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring) that:

“It is the sense of Congress that-

- “National Urban Crimes Awareness Week provides a special opportunity to educate the people of the United States about urban violence and to take steps to encourage the prevention of urban violence, provide assistance, and support to crime victims;
- “It is appropriate to properly acknowledge the more than 209,000 men and women who have been victims of urban violence in the United States each year, and to commend the efforts of survivors, volunteers, and professionals who work to prevent urban violence;
- “National and community organizations and private sector supporters should be recognized and applauded for their work in promoting awareness about urban violent crimes, providing information and treatment to victims, families, and survivors, and increasing the number of successful prosecutions of its perpetrators;
- “Public safety, law enforcement, and health professionals should be recognized and applauded for their hard work and innovative strategies to increase the percentage of violent urban crime cases that result in the prosecution and incarceration of the offenders; and
- “Victim advocates and criminal justice professionals should be recognized, applauded, and encouraged for their work to establish effective programs as alternatives to incarceration, re-entry interventions for offenders who are

completing sentences, and rehabilitation programs for offenders and victims alike;
and

“Congress--

- “Strongly recommends national and community organizations, businesses in the private sector, colleges and universities, and the media to promote through education and prevention measures, awareness of violent urban crimes and strategies to decrease the incidence of these crimes; and
- “Supports the goals and ideals of National Urban Crimes Awareness Week.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “National Urban Crimes Awareness Week will be celebrated the second week in February 2010;
- “48,430 violent crimes occurred in New York City in 2008, compared to 28,941 in non-New York City counties;
- “According to the 2008 National Crime Victimization Survey, African-Americans experienced higher rates than Whites of every violent crime except simple assault;
- “Data suggests that more than 60 percent of the Nation's youth have been exposed to violence within the past year;
- “Numerous studies demonstrate the evidence-based prevention and intervention programs can reduce delinquency and serious juvenile crime.”

Committee Action: H.Con.Res. 227 was introduced on January 13, 2010, and referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary, which took no public 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.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: A committee reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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**H.Res. 1085 - Honoring and celebrating the contributions of African-Americans to the transportation and infrastructure of the United States
(Brown, D-FL)**

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, February 24, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 1085 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Supports the goals and ideals of National African American History Month;
- “Honors and celebrates the important contributions that African-Americans have made throughout history to the transportation and infrastructure of the United States; and
- “Urges citizens and communities throughout the United States to join with representatives of the Federal Government to recognize the substantial contributions that African-Americans have made and continue to make to the Nation’s transportation and infrastructure systems.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “African-Americans have played an instrumental role in developing and improving the transportation and infrastructure of the United States through leadership, design, and innovation;
- “The contributions of African-Americans have had significant and far-reaching impacts on modern transportation systems, including airways, highways, and rail-ways, and have led to momentous improvements to transportation safety and security;
- “The work of many influential African-Americans through the civil rights movement and other social and political movements in the United States led to desegregation in transportation as well as significant improvements to the working conditions and rights of transportation workers throughout the United States;
- “Rosa Parks, Homer Plessy, and many other civil rights activists insisted on equitable access to public transportation;
- “National African American History Month is celebrated in February 2010.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 1085 was introduced on February 22, 2010, and referred to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, which took no public 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.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: A committee reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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