

Legislative Bulletin.....May 12, 2009

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H.Res. 413—Supporting the goals and ideals of "IEEE Engineering the Future" Day on May 13, 2009 (Stearns, R-FL)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, May 12, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Res. 413 would resolve that the House of Representatives:

- “Recognizes the importance of engineering and technology to meeting our Nation's most pressing challenges;
- “Congratulates IEEE on its 125th anniversary; and
- “Supports the goals and ideals of `IEEE Engineering the Future' Day.”

The resolution lists a number of findings including:

- “IEEE is the world's largest technical professional society, with more than 375,000 members, including more than 210,000 members in the United States;
- “IEEE members are engineers, scientists, and other professionals whose technical interests are rooted in electrical and computer sciences, engineering, and related disciplines;
- “IEEE traces its roots to the founding of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers (AIEE) on May 13, 1884;
- “Renowned inventor and entrepreneur Thomas Alva Edison was a founder of AIEE;
- “IEEE maintains a vast library of technical publications;
- More than 100,000 technical professionals attend the more than 300 conferences sponsored or cosponsored by IEEE each year;
- “IEEE Engineering the Future' Day will be held by IEEE on May 13, 2009, to recognize the contributions and impact that IEEE, its members, and engineering and technology professionals have made and to raise public awareness of the diverse opportunities available in different technology fields;
- “The United States must continue its efforts to maintain its leadership in science, technology, and innovation.”

Committee Action: On May 6, 2009 the bill was introduced and referred to the House Committee on Science and Technology, which took no subsequent public action.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy is available.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution would not authorize any additional 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?: Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there's no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable for H.Res. 413.

RSC Staff Contact: Bruce F. Miller, bruce.miller@mail.house.gov, (202)-226-9720.

H.Res. 387—Supporting the goals and ideals of National Hurricane Preparedness Week (Mario Diaz-Balart, R-FL)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, May 12, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Res. 387 would resolve that the House of Representatives:

- “Supports the goals and ideals of National Hurricane Preparedness Week;
- “Encourages the staff of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, especially the National Weather Service and the National Hurricane Center, and other appropriate Federal agencies, to continue their outstanding work of educating people in the United States about hurricane preparedness; and
- “Urges the people of the United States to recognize such a week as an opportunity to learn more about the work of the National Hurricane Center in forecasting hurricanes and educating citizens about the potential risks of the storms.”

The resolution lists a number of findings including:

- “The Atlantic and central Pacific hurricane season begins June 1, 2009, and ends November 30, 2009, and the eastern Pacific hurricane season runs from May 15, 2009, through November 30, 2009;
- “In an average 3-year period, roughly 5 hurricanes strike the coastlines of the United States, sometimes resulting in multiple deaths, and 2 of these hurricanes are typically labeled ‘major’ or ‘intense’ category 3 hurricanes, as measured on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale;
- “The 2008 Atlantic hurricane season included 16 named storms, including 8 hurricanes, 5 of which were category 3 or higher;
- “During a hurricane, homes, businesses, public buildings, and infrastructure may be damaged or destroyed by heavy rain, strong winds, and storm surge;
- “The National Hurricane Center recommends that people in areas prone to hurricanes prepare a personal evacuation plan that identifies ahead of time several options of places to go in the event of evacuation, the telephone numbers of these places, and a local road map;
- “The National Hurricane Center recommends that citizens know that a ‘hurricane watch’ means conditions are possible in the specified area, usually within 36 hours, and a ‘hurricane warning’ means hurricane conditions are expected in the specified area, usually within 24 hours;
- “In the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s, inland flooding was responsible for more than half the deaths associated with tropical storms and hurricanes in the United States;
- “National Hurricane Preparedness Week will be the week of May 24 through 30, 2009”

Committee Action: On April 30, 2009 the bill was introduced and referred to the House Committee on Science and Technology, which took no subsequent public action.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy is available.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution would not authorize any additional 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?: Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there's no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

Constitutional Authority: No committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable for H.Res. 387.

RSC Staff Contact: Bruce F. Miller, bruce.miller@mail.house.gov, (202)-226-9720.

H.R. 2020—Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Act of 2009 (*Gordon, D-TN*)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday May 12, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 2020 would implement a number of recommendations provided by the Presidents Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) on their assessment of the Networking and Information Technology Research and Development (NITRD) program. Specifically, the bill aims to improve coordination between different federal agencies for advanced computing, networking, and software development goals. In addition to require that a task force of industry and academic experts develop certain information technology systems, the legislation requires the NITRD to support research and development in cyber-physical systems and human-computer interactions, visualization, and information management.

Additional Background: The NITRD program is the main federal research and development investment portfolio in networking, computing, software, cyber security, and related information technologies. In FY 2009, 13 Federal agencies contributed funding to the NITRD program; however additional agencies that do not contribute funding participate in planning activities. The FY 2010 budget request for the NITRD program is \$3.9 billion, a \$44 million (1.1 percent) increase over the FY09 enacted amount.

Committee Action: On April 22, 2009, the bill was introduced and referred to the Committee on Science and Technology. On April 29, 2009 the committee held a mark-up and ordered the bill to be reported by voice vote.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy is provided.

Cost to Taxpayers: According to CBO, "H.R. 2020 would cost about \$500,000 annually, subject to the availability of appropriated funds. That amount includes the costs to support the task force and lead the evaluation of high-performance computing. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues."

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?: No committee report citing compliance with the House earmark rule is available.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable for H.R. 2020.

RSC Staff Contact: Bruce F. Miller, bruce.miller@mail.house.gov, (202)-226-9720

H.Res. 192—Recognizing National Nurses Week on May 6 through May 12, 2009 (*Johnson, D-TX*)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, May 12, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Res. 192 would resolve that the House of Representatives:

- “Recognizes the significant contributions of nurses to the healthcare system of the United States;
- “Supports the goals and ideals of National Nurses Week, as founded by the American Nurses Association; and
- “Encourages the people of the United States to observe National Nurses Week with appropriate recognition, ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate the importance of nurses to the everyday lives of patients.”

The resolution lists a number of findings including:

- “Since 1999, National Nurses Week is celebrated annually from May 6, also known as National Recognition Day for Nurses, through May 12, the birthday of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing;
- “Nurses are known to be patient advocates, acting fearlessly to protect the lives of those under their care;
- “Nurses represent the largest single component of the healthcare profession, with an estimated population of 2,900,000 registered nurses in the United States;
- “Nurses are best positioned to provide leadership to eliminate healthcare disparities that exist in our Nation;
- “The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) released preliminary survey data showing that enrollment in entry-level baccalaureate nursing programs increased by only 2 percent from 2007 to 2008, and though this marks the eighth consecutive year of

enrollment growth, the annual increase in student capacity in 4-year nursing programs has declined sharply since 2003 when enrollment was up by 16.6 percent;

- “United States nursing programs were forced to reject almost 100,000 qualified applications to nursing programs according to the National League for Nursing's most recent survey of all prelicensure nursing programs;
- “Increased Federal and State support is needed to enhance existing programs and create new programs to educate nursing students at all levels, to increase the number of faculty members to educate nursing students, to create clinical sites and have the appropriately prepared nurses to teach and train at those sites, to create educational opportunities to retain nurses in the profession, and to educate and train more nurse research scientists who can discover new nursing care models to improve the health status of the Nation's diverse population.”

Committee Action: On February 25, 2009 the bill was introduced and referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, which took no subsequent public action.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy is available.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution would not authorize any additional 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?: Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there's no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable for H.Res. 192.

RSC Staff Contact: Bruce F. Miller, bruce.miller@mail.house.gov, (202)-226-9720.

H.Res. 204—Congratulating the American Dental Association for its 150th year of working to improve the public's oral health and promoting dentistry, supporting initiatives to improve access to oral health care services for all Americans, and emphasizing the benefits of prevention of disease through support of community prevention initiatives and promotion of good oral hygiene (Simpson, R-ID)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, May 12, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Res. 204 would resolve that the House of Representatives:

- “Congratulates the American Dental Association for its 150th anniversary;
- “Commends the American Dental Association's work to improve the public's oral health as well as access to oral health care for all Americans, especially low-income children;
- “Recognizes the tens of thousands of dentists who volunteer their time and resources to provide charitable and uncompensated oral health care to millions of Americans; and
- “Commends the American Dental Association's efforts to keep American dentistry the best in the world.”

The resolution lists a number of findings including:

- “Access to good oral health care is a vital element of overall health;
- “The American Dental Association works to improve access to oral health care services that are essential to help ensure the health of the American public;
- “The American Dental Association supports community prevention initiatives and promotion of good oral hygiene;
- “The American Dental Association continually works to improve dental technologies and therapies through research and adherence to sound scientific principles;
- “‘The Journal of the American Dental Association’ is recognized internationally as a leader in peer-reviewed dental science;
- “The American Dental Association encourages its membership of more than 157,000 dentists to donate their time, resources, and services to providing charitable and uncompensated care;
- “Dental practices provide over \$2,000,000,000 in charitable and uncompensated care to specific underserved populations annually; and
- “The American Dental Association advocates sufficient funding for Federal dental research and military readiness programs.”

Committee Action: On March 3, 2009 the bill was introduced and referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, which took no subsequent public action.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy is available.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution would not authorize any additional 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?: Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there’s no accompanying committee

report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable for H.Res. 204.

RSC Staff Contact: Bruce F. Miller, bruce.miller@mail.house.gov, (202)-226-9720.

H.R. 23 — Belated Thank You to the Merchant Mariners of World War II Act of 2009 (*Filner, D-CA*)

Order of Business: H.R. 23 is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, May 12, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 23 would direct the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to establish a Merchant Mariner Equity Compensation Fund to provide benefits to certain Merchant Marines. The bill requires the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall distribute, out of the compensation fund, monthly payments of \$1,000 and military burial and cemetery rights to certain Merchant Marines who served during World War II.

The bill would authorize payments to persons that served in the merchant marines between December 7, 1941, and December 31, 1946, as a crewmember of a vessel that was:

- Operated by the War Shipping Administration or the Office of Defense Transportation;
- Operated in waters other than inland waters, the Great Lakes, and other lakes, bays, and harbors of the United States;
- Under contract or the property of the U.S. government; or
- Serving the Armed Forces

The person also had to have been licensed or otherwise documented for service as a crewmember of such a vessel by an officer or employee of the United States authorized to license or document the person for such service.

H.R. 23 would also extend such benefits to the spouse of a deceased person listed above so long as they had been married for more than one year.

Additional Information: Because the Merchant Marines were a civilian corps, they did not receive the same benefits as the Armed Forces after WWII and were not given those benefits in the original GI bill of 1944. However, over the years, they have been given many of those benefits via Congressional action and via the courts. In fact, litigation in 1988 essentially gave the Merchant Marines the benefits they wanted. However, since the Merchant Marines were not given these benefits until decades after WWII ended, many of them want compensation for benefits lost. According to CRS, “Since then, [the 1988 litigation] certain merchant seamen have been eligible for the same benefits administered by the VA as veterans of the U.S. Armed

Forces. However, some merchant seamen are advocating for a monthly payment because benefits were not provided until years after World War II.”

According to the United States Merchant Marines (USMM), the merchant marines "provided the greatest sealift in history between the production army at home and the fighting forces scattered around the globe in World War II. The prewar total of 55,000 experienced mariners was increased to over 215,000 through U.S. Maritime Service training programs." The group goes on to report that merchant marine ships were the target of attack from submarines, mines, armed raiders, aircraft, and the elements. According to the USMM, about 8,300 merchant marines were killed in WWII and at least 12,000 were wounded, as 31 ships were destroyed by enemy attacks.

Merchant marines contend that, as contractors of the United States Armed Forces, they were asked to go on numerous dangerous and vital military missions during WWII. The USMM believes that the services provided by merchant marines helped to keep the military adequately supplied and helped bring about victory for the U.S. As such, the USMM believes that merchant marines deserve benefits like those given to members of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Some veterans’ groups, however, contend that there are greater inequalities and injustices towards former service members that the VA should address first. The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), for instance, has pointed out the \$1,000 monthly payment would exceed the amount that a WWII veteran who served 20 years and retired in 1955 by \$100. In 2007, when this bill was considered in the House, the MOAA released a statement saying that "Congress has a fundamental responsibility to establish relative priorities, put first things first, and ensure that there is better proportionality between compensation and service and sacrificed rendered."

Possible Conservative Concerns: Some conservatives may be concerned by the cost (authorization level: \$485 million over five years) of providing monthly payments of \$1,000 to merchant marines who do not need to show disability or financial need. The only veterans group to receive a service pension of this sort (without having to prove financial need or disability) is Medal of Honor recipients.

According to the Veterans Affairs Committee Minority, there are twenty-eight other groups that provided military-related service during WWII that have received veterans status the same way the Merchant Marines did. They do not receive a \$1,000 per month benefit. (Mr. Buyer offered an amendment that was defeated in committee which would have made those 28 groups eligible for the same payment).

Committee Action: H.R. 23 was introduced on January 6, 2009, and referred to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs. On May 7, 2009, the Veterans’ Affairs Committee held a mark up and reported the bill, as amended, by voice vote.

Cost to Taxpayers: According to CBO, H.R. 23 would authorize a total of \$485 million from FY2010-FY2014.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? Yes, it authorizes a new federal payment to Merchant Marines who served in World War II, or their surviving spouses.

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

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

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H.R. 1178 – To Direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on the use of Civil Air Patrol personnel and resources to support homeland security missions, and for other purposes (Dent, R-PA)

Order of Business: H.R. 1178 is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, May 12, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 1178 requires the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on the capability of the Civil Air Patrol to support the homeland security mission of state, local, and tribal governments and the Department of Homeland Security. The legislation requires the Comptroller General to submit a report to Congress within 180 days of enactment. The bill requires the report to include:

- An assessment of the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of using Civil Air Patrol assets to support the homeland security missions of state, local, and tribal governments.
- An assessment as to whether the current mechanisms for federal agencies and states to request support from the Civil Air Patrol are sufficient or whether new agreements between federal agencies and the Civil Air Patrol are necessary.

Committee Action: H.R. 1178 was introduced on February 25, 2009 and referred to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, as well as the Homeland Security Committee. On April 2, 2009, the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee held a mark-up and reported the bill by voice vote.

Cost to Taxpayers: According to CBO, it will cost less than \$1 million for the GAO and the Department of Homeland Security to complete the reports required by the bill.

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?: According to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, in House Report [111-093](#), the bill contains no earmarks.

Constitutional Authority: The House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, in House Report [111-093](#), states that: “H.R. 1178 is a resolution of the House of Representatives and therefore does not have the force of law. As such, clause 3(d)(1) of rule XIII does not apply.” However, H.R. 1178 is *not* a resolution, and *does* have the force of law. Therefore clause 3(d)(1) of rule XIII *does* apply.

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H.Res. 405 – Commending the heroic efforts of the people fighting the floods in North Dakota (*Pomeroy, D-ND*)

Order of Business: H.Res. 405 is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, May 12, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 405 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Commends the people of North Dakota for their heroic efforts in fighting the floods in North Dakota;
- “Commends the many people from around the United States who assisted the people of North Dakota during this time of need;
- “Expresses appreciation to the officials of the numerous Federal agencies, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency, working on the ground in North Dakota for their consistently rapid, efficient, and effective response to the disaster; and
- “Continues to stand with the communities of North Dakota in the efforts to recover from the flooding during 2009, and to improve protections against flooding in the future.”

The resolution lists a variety of findings including:

- “Wide swaths of North Dakota have faced unprecedented flooding crises, including cities along the Des Lacs, Heart, James, Knife, Missouri, Little Missouri, Park, Pembina, Red, Sheyenne, Souris, and Wild Rice Rivers and Beaver Creek;
- “The people of North Dakota have suffered tremendous damage to their homes, livelihoods, and communities; and
- “The response of the people of North Dakota to the disaster has shown the world how communities can unite, fight, and win in a crisis.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 405 was introduced on May 6, 2009 and referred to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, which took no further action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no additional 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?: No committee report citing compliance with the House earmark rule is available. However, the resolution does not appear to contain any earmarks.

Constitutional Authority: No committee report is available.

RSC Staff Contact: Brad Watson, brad.watson@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-9719.

H.Con.Res. 84—Supporting the goals and objectives of a National Military Appreciation Month (Wamp, R-TN)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, May 12, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 84 would resolve that the House of Representatives:

- “ Supports the goals and objectives of a National Military Appreciation Month; and
- “Urges the President to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States, all Federal departments and agencies, States, localities, organizations, and media to annually observe a National Military Appreciation Month with appropriate ceremonies and activities.”

The resolution lists a number of findings including:

- “The vigilance of the members of the Armed Forces has been instrumental to the preservation of the freedom, security, and prosperity enjoyed by the people of the United States;
- “The success of the Armed Forces depends on the dedicated service of its members, their families, and the civilian employees of the Department of Defense and the Coast Guard;
- “The role of the United States as a world leader requires a military force that is well-trained, well-equipped, and appropriately sized;
- “The Federal Government has a responsibility to raise awareness of and respect for this aspect of the heritage of the United States and to encourage the people of the United States to dedicate themselves to the values and principles for which Americans have served and sacrificed throughout the history of the Nation;
- “The observance of events recognizing the contributions of the Armed Forces is a tangible and highly effective way of sustaining morale and improving quality of life for service members and their families;
- “On April 30, 1999, the Senate passed S. Res. 33 (106th Congress), entitled ‘Designating May 1999 as ‘National Military Appreciation Month’, calling on the people of the United States, in a symbolic act of unity, to observe a National Military Appreciation Month in May 1999, to honor the current and former members of the Armed Forces, including those who have died in the pursuit of freedom and peace;

- “On March 24, 2004, the House of Representatives passed H. Con. Res. 328 (108th Congress), entitled ‘Recognizing and honoring the United States Armed Forces and supporting the goals and objectives of a National Military Appreciation Month’, and on April 26, 2004, the Senate passed H. Con. Res. 328 by unanimous consent; and
- “It is important to emphasize to the people of the United States the relevance of the history and activities of the Armed Forces through an annual National Military Appreciation Month that includes associated local and national observances and activities”

Committee Action: On March 26, 2009 the bill was introduced and referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. On May 6, 2009 the committee had a markup and ordered the bill to be reported by unanimous consent.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy is available.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution would not authorize any additional 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?: Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there’s no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable for H.Con.Res. 84.

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**H.Res. 370—Expressing support for designation of April 27, 2009, as
"National Healthy Schools Day" (Tonko, D-NY)**

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, May 12, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Res. 370 would resolve that the House of Representatives:

- “Supports the designation of ‘National Healthy Schools Day’.”

The resolution lists a number of findings including:

- “There are approximately 54,000,000 children and 7,000,000 adults who spend their days in the Nation's 120,000 public and private schools;
- “Over half of schools in the United States have problems linked to indoor air quality;
- “Children are more vulnerable to environmental hazards as they breathe in more air per pound of body weight due to their developing systems;
- “Poor indoor environmental quality is associated with a wide range of problems that include poor concentration, respiratory illnesses, learning difficulties, and cancer;
- “An average of 1 out of every 13 school-age children has asthma, the leading cause of school absenteeism, accounting for approximately 14,700,000 missed school days each year;
- “The Nation's schools spend approximately \$8,000,000,000 a year on energy costs, causing officials to make very difficult decisions on cutting back much needed academic programs in efforts to maintain heat and electricity;
- “New building construction, especially new school buildings, should be designed to optimize energy efficiency, lower energy costs and reduce carbon dioxide emissions.
- “Congress has demonstrated its interest in this compelling issue by including the Healthy High-Performance Schools Program in the No Child Left Behind Act and the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007;
- “Our schools have the great responsibility of guiding the future of our children and our Nation.”

Committee Action: On April 27, 2009 the bill was introduced and referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. On May 6, 2009 the committee had a markup and ordered the bill to be reported by unanimous consent.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy is available.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution would not authorize any additional 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?: Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there’s no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable for H.Res. 370.

RSC Staff Contact: Bruce F. Miller, bruce.miller@mail.house.gov, (202)-226-9720.

H.Res. 388—Celebrating the role of mothers in the United States and supporting the goals and ideals of Mother's Day (Fortenberry, R-TX)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, May 12, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Res. 388 would resolve that the House of Representatives:

- “Celebrates the role of mothers in the United States and supports the goals and ideals of Mother's Day.”

The resolution lists a number of findings including:

- “Mother's Day is celebrated on the second Sunday of each May;
- “The first official Mother's Day was observed on May 10, 1908, in Grafton, West Virginia, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania;
- “In 1908, Elmer Burkett, a U.S. senator from Nebraska, proposed making Mother's Day a national holiday;
- “In 1914, Congress passed a resolution designating the second Sunday of May as Mother's Day;
- “We honor ourselves and mothers in the United States when we revere and emphasize the importance of the role of the home and family as the true foundation of the Nation; and
- “May 10, 2009 is recognized as Mother's Day.”

Committee Action: On April 30, 2009 the bill was introduced and referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. On May 6, 2009 the committee had a markup and ordered the bill to be reported by voice vote.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy is available.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution would not authorize any additional 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?: Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there's no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable for H.Res. 370.

RSC Staff Contact: Bruce F. Miller, bruce.miller@mail.house.gov, (202)-226-9720.

H.R. 2162—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 123 11th Avenue South in Nampa, Idaho, as the "Herbert A Littleton Postal Station" (Minnick, D-ID)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, May 12, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.R. 2162 would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 123 11th Avenue South in Nampa, Idaho, as the "Herbert A Littleton Postal Station"

Additional Information: Private First Class Herbert Littleton was a United States Marine killed in action on April 22, 1951 during the Korean War. For his actions of smothering his body over a grenade to protect his fellow soldiers, he was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor by President Harry Truman. In addition to this honor, he received the Purple Heart. Littleton's parents were residing in Nampa, Idaho at the time he enlisted for service in Marine Corps.

Committee Action: H.R. 2162 was introduced on April 29, 2009 and referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. The committee held a mark-up on May 6, 2009 and the bill was ordered to be reported by unanimous consent.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy is provided.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO score for H.R. 2162 is unavailable, but the only costs associated with a U.S. 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.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there's no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

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. 378 – Recognizing the 30th anniversary of the election of Margaret Thatcher as the first female Prime Minister of Great Britain (Poe, R-TX)

Order of Business: H.Res. 378 is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, May 12, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 378 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Acknowledges the 30th anniversary of the election of Margaret Thatcher as the first female Prime Minister of Great Britain;
- “Pays tribute to the remarkable professional achievements of Margaret Thatcher;
- “Recognizes Prime Minister Thatcher's dedicated work in promoting individual rights and free markets around the world; and
- “Appreciates the strong diplomatic relationship between the United States and Great Britain fostered by Prime Minister Thatcher.”

The resolution lists a new of findings including:

- “May 4, 2009, marks the 30th anniversary of the first woman sworn in as the Prime Minister of Great Britain, Margaret Hilda Thatcher;
- “Margaret Thatcher was Prime Minister of Great Britain from 1979 to 1990 and at the time of her resignation, was Britain's longest continuously serving Prime Minister since 1827;
- “Prime Minister Thatcher was Leader of the Conservative Party from 1975 to 1990 and the only woman to ever hold that post;
- “Margaret Thatcher is the only woman to have ever held the post of Prime Minister of Great Britain;
- “Margaret Thatcher is the only British Prime Minister in the 20th century to win three consecutive terms;
- “Margaret Thatcher gave birth to a new distinctive ideology known as ‘Thatcherism’ which emphasized individual responsibility in the British Government's monetary and social policies;
- “Time Magazine named Margaret Thatcher one of the 20 most influential leaders of the 20th century;
- “The strong, cooperative stances held by Prime Minister Thatcher, President Ronald Reagan, and Pope John Paul II are widely acknowledged to have been key forces in the collapse of communism in the former Soviet Union;
- “The special relationship between the United States and Great Britain was greatly strengthened under the tenure of Prime Minister Thatcher;
- “On January 19, 1976, Prime Minister Thatcher delivered a bold speech against the communist regime of the Soviet Union, which prompted the Soviet Union Army's newspaper, the Red Star, to coin her the ‘Iron Lady’;
- “In 1990, Margaret Thatcher was honored by Queen Elizabeth II with the Order of Merit, one of the United Kingdom's highest distinctions; and
- “In 1992, the Queen of England bestowed a life peerage upon Margaret Thatcher, conferring upon her the title of Baroness and providing a lifetime seat in the House of Lords.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 378 was introduced on April 29, 2009 and referred to the House Foreign Affairs Committee, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no additional 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. 171 – Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives on the need for constitutional reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the importance of sustained United States engagement in partnership with the European Union (EU) (*Berman, D-CA*)

Order of Business: H.Res. 171 is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, May 12, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 171 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “It is increasingly urgent that Bosnia and Herzegovina work toward the creation of an efficient and effective state able to meet its domestic and international obligations with more functional institutions, including a state government capable of making self-sustaining reforms and fulfilling European Union (EU) and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) requirements;
- “Any agreement on constitutional reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina should advance the principles of democracy and tolerance, rectify provisions that conflict with the European Charter of Human Rights, include the general public in the process, and be consistent with the goal of EU membership;
- “Continued efforts should be made domestically and at the International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia (ICTY) to achieve justice for victims of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide, as well as to promote reconciliation among ethnic groups;
- “The United States should appoint a Special Envoy to the Balkans who can work in partnership with the EU and political leaders in Bosnia and Herzegovina to facilitate

reforms at all levels of government and society, while also assisting the political development of other countries in the region;

- “The Office of the High Representative (OHR) should not be closed until the Peace Implementation Council (PIC) can definitively determine that Bosnia and Herzegovina have met the five conditions and two principles;
- “The EU should carefully consider its plans for the future deployment of the European Union Force (EUFOR) given the psychological reassurance of security and deterrence of violence provided by its continued presence in Bosnia and Herzegovina; and
- “The United States should work closely with and support the EU in the transition to a European Union Special Representative (EUSR) to ensure that the EUSR has the authority and tools to manage effectively post-OHR Bosnia and Herzegovina, including a clear set of EU candidacy and membership conditions with explicit and objective yardsticks and a precise list of benchmarks to increase the functionality of the Bosnian state to be achieved by constitutional reform.”

The resolution lists a new of findings including:

- “A brutal conflict marked by aggression and ethnic cleansing, including the commission of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide, was brought to an end by the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina (commonly referred to as the `Dayton Peace Accords'), which was agreed to at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, on November 21, 1995, and signed in Paris, France, on December 14, 1995;
- “In the 13 years since the signing of the Dayton Peace Accords, the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina have worked in partnership with the international community to achieve considerable progress in building a peaceful and democratic society based on the rule of law, respect for human rights, and a free market economy;
- “Political leaders of Bosnia and Herzegovina have agreed to significant reforms of public administration and broadcasting, the creation of state-level law enforcement and judicial institutions, the establishment of a unified armed services and Ministry of Defense, and the creation of an Indirect Taxation Authority;
- “The United States has continued to support the sovereignty, legal continuity, and territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina within its internationally recognized borders as well as the equality of the three constituent peoples and others within a united, multi-ethnic country in accordance with the Dayton Peace Accords;
- “The full incorporation of Bosnia and Herzegovina into the Euro-Atlantic community is in the national interest of the United States and important for the stabilization of southeastern Europe;
- “Bosnia and Herzegovina committed to the shared values of democracy, security, and stability by joining the Partnership for Peace program of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in December 2006;
- “NATO recognized Bosnia and Herzegovina's progress in achieving political and defense reforms by inviting the country to begin an Intensified Dialogue at the Bucharest Summit in April 2008;
- “Bosnia and Herzegovina took the first step on the road toward European Union (EU) membership by signing a Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) in June 2008;

- “The international community has successfully preserved peace and stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina since the signing of the Dayton Peace Accords, through NATO’s Stabilization Force (FOR) and by a European Union Force (EUFOR) since December 2004;
- “The Office of the High Representative (OHR) has similarly promoted peace and stability by facilitating implementation of the civilian aspects of the Dayton Peace Accords, including through use of the extensive powers given it by the international Peace Implementation Council (PIC), with the goal of transferring its responsibilities to a European Union Special Representative (EUSR) at the appropriate time;
- “These notable accomplishments notwithstanding, the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to face significant challenges in its efforts to progress toward Euro-Atlantic integration;
- “The Dayton Peace Accords included many compromises imposed by the need for quick action to preserve human life that have hindered efforts to develop efficient and effective political institutions;
- “The Council of Europe’s Venice Commission has concluded that the current constitutional arrangements of Bosnia and Herzegovina are neither efficient nor rational, and that the state-level institutions need to become more effective and democratic if the country is to move toward EU membership;
- “The ‘April package’ of reforms, agreed upon by five major political parties in 2006, failed to achieve the requisite two-thirds majority in parliament;
- “In February 2008, the PIC stipulated five objectives (resolution of state property, resolution of defense property, completion of Brcko Final Award, fiscal sustainability, and entrenchment of rule of law) and two conditions (signing of SAA with the EU and a ‘positive assessment’ by the PIC) that must be met before the OHR is closed; and
- “The March 2009 meeting of the PIC provides a critical opportunity for an honest and accurate assessment of whether Bosnia and Herzegovina have met the five conditions and two principles established to determine when the OHR should be closed and oversight power transferred to the EUSR.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 171 was introduced on February 13, 2009 and referred to the House Foreign Affairs Committee, which marked up the bill on March 25, 2009 and reported it (amended) by unanimous consent.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no additional 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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