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Legislative Bulletin.....July 27th, 2009

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H.R. 3219—Veterans’ Insurance and Health Care Improvements Act of 2009 (Filner, D-CA)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Monday, July 27, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill

Summary: H.R. 3219 is comprised of a number of bills introduced in the 111th Congress:

H.R. 1197, the Medal of Honor Health Care Equity Act of 2009 (*Mitchell, D-AZ*). The bill would assign a higher priority status for hospital care and medical services provided through the Department of Veterans Affairs to certain veterans who are recipients of the Medal of Honor.

H.R. 1302, establishes the position of Director of Physician Assistant Services in the office of the Under Secretary for Health of the VA (*Hare, D-IL*). The bill requires the Director of Physician Assistant Services shall serve in a full-time capacity at the Central Office of the Department and to be a qualified physician assistant who shall be responsible to and report directly to the Under Secretary for Health on all matters relating to the education and training, employment, appropriate utilization, and optimal participation of physician assistants within the programs and initiatives of the Administration.

H.R. 1335, prohibits the VA from collecting certain copayments from catastrophically disabled veterans (*Halvorson, D-IL*). The bill provides that a veteran who is catastrophically disabled shall not be required to make any payment otherwise required for the receipt of hospital care or nursing home care under this section.

H.R. 1546, the Caring for Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury Act of 2009 (*McNerney, D-CA*). The bill establishes in the Veterans Health Administration a committee to be known as the 'Committee on Care of Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury'. The Under Secretary for Health shall appoint employees of the Department with expertise in the care of veterans with traumatic brain injury to serve on the committee.

H.R. 2270, the Benefits for Qualified World War II Veterans Act of 2009 (Buyer, R-IN). The bill establishes a compensation fund made available to the Secretary of the VA to make payments to eligible individuals (those who apply within one year from the date of enactment, have engaged in qualified service, and have not received benefits under the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944). The Secretary shall make a monthly payment of \$1,000 to an eligible individual. No CBO score was available for this bill.

H.R. 2379, the Veterans' Group Life Insurance Improvement Act of 2009 (Buyer, R-IN). The bill amends title 38 to require that not more than once every five years, beginning on the date a person becomes insured under Veterans' Group Life Insurance, such person may elect in writing to increase the amount for which the person is insured if the person is under the age of 60 and the increased amount is not more than \$25,000.

H.R. 2774, the Families of Veterans Financial Security Act (*Halvorsen, D-IL*). The bill would make permanent the extension of the duration of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance coverage for totally disabled veterans.

H.R. 2926, provides without expiration health care services to certain Vietnam-era veterans exposed to herbicide and to veterans of the Persian Gulf War (*Nye, D-VA*). The bill would amend title 38 to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide, without expiration, hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care for certain Vietnam-era veterans exposed to herbicide and veterans of the Persian Gulf War.

H.R. 2968, eliminates the required reduction in the amount of the accidental death benefit payable to certain terminally-ill veterans insured under the Servicemembers' Group life Insurance or Veterans' Group life Insurance programs (*Kirkpatrick, D-AZ*)

Committee Action: On June 15, 2009, the bill was introduced and referred to the Committee on Veterans Affairs, which marked up the bill and reported it out of committee by voice vote, on July 23, 2009.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy is provided.

Cost to Taxpayers: CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 3219 would cost \$895 million over the 2010-2014 period, assuming appropriation of the specified and estimated amounts.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: Yes. The bill creates new programs and expands current ones administered by the VA.

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?: H.R. 3219 does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

Constitutional Authority: Pursuant to clause 3(d)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee finds that the Constitutional authority for H.R. 3219 is provided by Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

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H.R. 1293—Disabled Veterans Home Improvement and Structural Alteration Grant Increase Act of 2009 (Buyer, R-IN)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Monday, July 27, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 1293 would amend title 38 to provide for an increase in payment to veterans for improvements and structural alterations to their house as a part of home health services, which help modify a home so that treatment can continue for veterans with disabilities.

The bill would increase the payment under the Home Improvements and Structural Alterations (HISA) program from \$4,100 to \$6,800 for veterans with service-connected disabilities and from \$1,200 to \$2,000 for those with non-service-related disabilities.

Additional Background: The HISA program was authorized in 1973 for fear that veterans might return home from the hospital to residences that were ill-suited to functioning with a disability. The HISA grant amount was last increased in 1992.

Committee Action: On March 4, 2009, the bill was introduced and referred to the Committee on Veterans Affairs, which marked up the bill and reported it out of committee by voice vote, on July 23, 2009.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy is provided.

Cost to Taxpayers: “CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$20 million over the 2010-2014 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues.”

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: Yes. The bill increases the payment amount available to certain veterans with disabilities.

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?: H.R. 1293 does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

Constitutional Authority: The Committee finds that the Constitutional authority for H.R. 1293 is provided by Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

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H.R. 2770—Veterans Nonprofit Research and Education Corporations Enhancement Act of 2009 (*Filner, D-CA*)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Monday, July 27, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 2770 would amend title 38 to modify areas regarding nonprofit research and education corporations (NPCs). NPCs accept and administer private sector and federal research and education funds. Specifically, the bill would:

- Allow two or more VA medical centers to share one NPC;
- Amends the requirement that all senior management officials on the VA board at each VA medical center serve on the NPC board;
- Provides that any corporation established shall abide by the nonprofit corporation laws of the state in which the medical center is located;
- Refines the purpose of the NPC so funds can be spent on projects that would benefit general VA research and not expenditures directly linked to an approved research project (i.e. travel to conferences, lab improvements, etc.);
- Clarifies the general powers of corporations establishes under this bill;
- Provides that a corporation with revenues in excess of \$500,000 a year shall obtain an independent audit;
- Provides that a corporation with revenues between \$100,000 and \$500,000 for a year shall obtain an independent audit at least once every three years; and
- Increases from \$35,000 to \$50,000 the threshold for reporting compensation by an NPC.

Additional Background: According to the committee report, there are 82 NPCs today which supported over 4,000 research and education programs at the VA last year alone.

Committee Action: On June 9, 2009, the bill was introduced and referred to the Committee on Veterans Affairs, which marked up the bill and reported it out of committee, as amended, by voice vote, on July 23, 2009.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy is provided.

Cost to Taxpayers: According to CBO, “H.R. 2770 would amend current law pertaining to certain VA research and education facilities. Those facilities are private nonprofit entities that are prohibited from using appropriated funds and rely solely on cash or in-kind donations to conduct medical research and provide training... Enacting the bill would not affect spending subject to appropriation 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?: H.R. 2770 does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

Constitutional Authority: The Committee finds that the Constitutional authority for H.R. 2770 is provided by Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

RSC Staff Contact: Natalie Farr, natalie.farr@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-0718

H.R. 3155—Caregiver Assistance and Resource Enhancement Act ***(Michaud, D-ME)***

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Monday, July 27, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 3155 would amend title 38 to provide training, support and medical care to certain caregivers of veterans. The bill would also require the VA to pay a monthly stipend to family members who care for certain veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom (OIF/OEF). Those veterans must have a severe illness or disability connected to their military service, be unable to perform activities of daily living (such as bathing, feeding, and dressing), and require caregiver services to such an extent that without those services, they would require care in an institutional setting (such as a hospital or nursing home). The program would end in 2012.

Definitions:

- Caregiver – An individual who provides services to a disabled veteran and is not a member of the family of the veteran.
- Family caregiver – An individual who provides services to a disabled veteran and is a member of the family who may or may not reside with the veteran.

Support services for caregivers and family caregivers:

- Educational sessions via internet and in person on how to care for a veteran with post-traumatic stress disorder, a traumatic brain injury or another severe illness or injury.
- Educational sessions for caregivers of veterans deployed to Afghanistan or Iraq.
- Access to support services such as a directory of services available at the country level and tools to foster support networks.
- Information and outreach on the medical care, educational sessions, and services available for caregivers (i.e. public service announcements, brochures and pamphlets, etc.)

The bill also states that the Secretary shall provide:

- Counseling and mental health services for caregivers and family caregivers;
- Respite care to assist family caregivers;
- Medical care to a family caregiver if the Secretary determines that the family caregiver is eligible; and
- Lodging and subsistence expenses to family caregivers for the period of time in which the disabled veteran is traveling to and from a treatment facility; and the duration of the treatment episode for that veteran.

The bill establishes that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall design and conduct a survey of caregivers and family caregivers once every three years. Among other things, the survey will collect information on the number of caregivers; the number of family caregivers; and the employment status of caregivers and family caregivers.

Committee Action: On July 9, 2009, the bill was introduced and referred to the Committee on Veterans Affairs, which marked up the bill and reported it out of committee, as amended, by voice vote, on July 23, 2009.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy is provided.

Cost to Taxpayers: According to CBO, the bill would authorize \$204 million over the 2010-2014 period.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: Yes. The bill would create new benefits, including a monthly stipend, for caregivers and family caregivers of disabled veterans.

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 [committee report](#), H.R. 3155 does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

Constitutional Authority: The Committee finds that the Constitutional authority for H.R. 2770 is provided by Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

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H.R. 509—The Marine Turtle Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2009 (Brown, R-SC)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Monday July 27, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: In 2004, Congress established a program that directed the Secretary of the Interior to support activities to protect and conserve marine turtles. The Marine Turtle Conservation Fund provides financial assistance to eligible government agencies, international or foreign organizations, or private entities engaged in marine turtle conservation activities. H.R. 509 reauthorizes this law for five more years through 2014. Additionally, the bill allows states to be eligible for those funds, although the bill limits the amount of total authorizations to 20 percent for the conservation of marine turtles in

the United States. The bill authorizes \$5 million per year for fiscal years 2010-2014 for the fund.

Additional Background: In 2008 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service awarded 24 project grants under this program.

Committee Action: On January 14, 2009, the bill was introduced and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources. On June 10, 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 available.

Cost to Taxpayers: According to CBO, H.R. 509 would authorize \$25 million over the 2009-2014 period. Additionally, “CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 509 would cost \$24 million over the 2010-2014 period, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts. 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?: According to Committee Report 111-200, H.R. 509 does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e) or 9(f) of rule XXI.

Constitutional Authority: According to Committee Report 111-200, article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States grants Congress the authority to enact this bill.

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

H.Res. 288 - Recognizing the importance of park and recreation facilities and expressing support for the designation of the month of July as "National Park and Recreation Month". (*Barrow, D-GA*)

Order of Business: H.Res. 288 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, July 27, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 288 resolves that Congress:

- “Recognizes the great societal value of parks and recreation facilities and their importance in local communities across the United States;

- “Recognizes and honors the vital contributions of employees and volunteers in park and recreation facilities; and
- “Supports the designation of a ‘National Park and Recreation Month.’”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “Public parks and recreation systems are dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for residents in communities around the country through recreation programming, leisure activities, and conservation efforts;
- “The creation of places for physical activity, combined with information outreach, produced a 48.4 percent increase in the frequency of physical activity;
- “Public parks and recreation facilities create enormous economic value through increased partnership, which improves the job base and the economic viability of the local economy, including business relocation and expansion in the community and increased tourism; and
- “Parks and recreation facilities reduce fuel costs and commute times by providing a place close to home to relax, exercise, and reduce stress.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 288 was introduced on March 26, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources and the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands, 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.R. 1376—The Waco Mammoth National Monument Establishment Act of 2009 (*Edwards, D-TX*)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Monday July 27, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 1376 would establish the Waco Mammoth National Monument in Texas. The bill permits the National Park Service (NPS) to acquire the land from the city of Waco and Baylor University allows for the construction of facilities on nonfederal lands within the monument's boundaries. Additionally, the act requires the NPS to provide management plan for the monument within three years.

Additional Background: In 1978, the skeletons of 24 mammoths and one camel were uncovered in a wooded ravine between the Bosque and Brazos Rivers near Waco, Texas. Some research believe the site contains the remains of several herds of mammoths, ranging from three to 55 years of age, which appear to have died together in one or more floods some 68,000 years ago. The City of Waco and Baylor University own approximately 109 acres at the site now sits on and has never been open to the public. The 107th Congress directed the National Park Service (NPS) to study the significance, suitability, and feasibility of bringing this site in to the NPS system. The NPS reported to Congress in 2008 that bringing the site into the system would protect the site and its paleontological resources while providing for public enjoyment.

Committee Action: On March 6, 2009, the bill was introduced and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources. On July 9, 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 available.

Cost to Taxpayers: According to CBO, H.R. 1376 “would cost about \$1 million over the next three years and about \$400,000 a year thereafter. The \$1 million would be used to develop a management plan for the site and construct exhibits and interpretive facilities. The \$400,000 would be needed (beginning in 2013) for the federal share of annual operating costs.”

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 Committee Report 111-229, H.R. 1376 does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e) or 9(f) of rule XXI.

Constitutional Authority: According to Committee Report 111-229, article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States grants Congress the authority to enact this bill.

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H.R. 556—Southern Sea Otter Recovery and Research Act (*Farr, D-CA*)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Monday July 27, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 556 requires the Wildlife Service and the United States Geological Survey to conduct a recovery and research program affecting the southern sea otters along the coast of California through monitoring their population and restricting certain risk factors including human activity in their habitat. The program would authorize \$25 million over 5 years to include awarding grants for research and recovery efforts. Thirty percent of the authorizations are reserved for research, another thirty percent will be reserved for recovery activities, and the remainder will be reserved for additional grants for either research or recovery projects.

Additional Background: Since 1977, the sea otter has been listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). In 1982, the FWS finalized a Southern Sea Otter Recovery Implementation Team to provide recovery efforts. Some conservatives on the committee expressed concerns that the bill may divert funds from other high priority recovery actions for threatened and endangered species in California. According to the committee, “1 percent of the total number of U.S. species listed have been recovered and/or removed from the endangered list. Today, of the 2531 listed species on the ESA list, 1,959 are US domestic species and 572 are foreign species.”

Committee Action: On January 15, 2009, the bill was introduced and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources. On June 10, 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 available.

Cost to Taxpayers: According to CBO, H.R. 556 would authorize \$5 million annually over the 2010 – 2014 period.

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 Committee Report 111-175, H.R. 556 does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e) or 9(f) of rule XXI.

Constitutional Authority: According to Committee Report 111-175, article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States grants Congress the authority to enact this bill.

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H.R. 1121—The Blue Ridge Parkway and Town of Blowing Rock Land Exchange Act of 2009 (Foxx, R-NC)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Monday July 27, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 1121 would provide for the acquisition of 192 acres of property owned by the town of Blowing Rock, North Carolina in exchange for 20 acres of land currently held by the federal government. The land exchange is supported by both the Town of Blowing Rock (the Town) and the National Park Service (NPS). The federal land is desirable to the town because it is adjacent to a local reservoir. The land currently owned by the town is desirable to the NPS because it will provide a buffer between the Blue Ridge Parkway and adjacent developed areas.

Committee Action: On February 23, 2009, the bill was introduced and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources. On July 9, 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 available.

Cost to Taxpayers: According to CBO, “implementing H.R. 1121 would have no significant effect on discretionary spending and no effect on revenues or direct spending.”

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 Committee Report 111-227, H.R. 1121 does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e) or 9(f) of rule XXI.

Constitutional Authority: According to Committee Report 111-227, article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States grants Congress the authority to enact this bill.

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H.Res. 616 - Congratulating the Louisiana State University baseball team for winning the 2009 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I College World Series. (Rep. Cassidy, R-LA)

Order of Business: H.Res. 616 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, July 27, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 616 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Commends the Louisiana State University Tigers baseball team for winning the 2009 College World Series;
- “Recognizes the achievements of all the players, coaches, and support staff who were instrumental in helping the Louisiana State University baseball team during the 2009 baseball season; and
- “Directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make available enrolled copies of this resolution to Louisiana State University for appropriate display and distribution to the coaches and members of the 2009 Louisiana State University baseball team.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “On June 24, 2009, the Louisiana State University Tigers baseball team completed a remarkable season, winning the 2009 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I College World Series Championship at the Rosenblatt Stadium in Omaha, Nebraska, by defeating the top ranked University of Texas Longhorns, 11-4;
- “The success of the team was a direct result of the talent and resolve of every player on the Louisiana State University Tigers baseball team, including Buzzy Haydel, Jared Mitchell, Chad Jones, Derek Helenihi, Leon Landry, Grant Dozar, Mikie Mahtook, Wet Delatte, Ryan Byrd, Tyler Hanover, Austin Ross, Sean Ochinko, Ryan Schimpf, DJ LeMahieu, Nicholas Pontiff, Shane Riedie, Johnny Dishon, Matty Ott, Anthony Ranaudo, Daniel Bradshaw, Randy Zeigler, Beau Didier, Louis Coleman, Chris Matulis, Chris McGhee, Micah Gibbs, Blake Dean, Austin Nola, Jordan Nicholson, Nolan Cain, Paul Bertuccini, Ben Alsup, Kevin Farnsworth, and Spencer Mathews;
- “The Louisiana State University baseball team completed the year with a 56-17 record, including a 5-1 record in the Southeastern Conference tournament, a 3-0 record in the Regional tournament, a 2-0 record in the Super Regional contest, and a 5-1 record in the College World Series; and
- “Louisiana State University's national championship spotlights one of the Nation's premier State universities, which is committed to academic and athletic excellence.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 616 was introduced on June 8, 2009 and referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no additional expenditures. However, the resolution does direct the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make available enrolled copies of this resolution to Louisiana State University for appropriate display

and distribution to the coaches and members of the 2009 Louisiana State University baseball team.

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.R. 1035—Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental Policy Amendment Act of 2009 (*Grijalva, D-AZ*)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Monday, July 27, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 1035 would change the current authorization amount for the Morris K. Udall Foundation from \$40 million to “such sums as are necessary”. The bill makes administrative changes and amends the title of the Foundation to add the name, “Stewart L. Udall.”

Additional Background: The Morris K. Udall Foundation was created by Congress in 1992. It operates scholarship, internship, and fellowship programs for areas of study related to the environment and Native American tribal policy and health care. It aims to contribute to public policy in the areas of environmental, energy, and related economic problems.

Stewart L. Udall (D-AZ) was a member of Congress (1955-1961), Secretary of the Interior (1961-1969), environmental lawyer, and author.

Morris K. Udall (D-AZ) was a member of Congress from 1961 to 1991. He ran unsuccessfully for President in 1976. Stewart L. Udall was his brother.

Conservative Concerns: some conservatives may be concerned that the bill changes the authorization level from \$40 million to “such sums as are necessary.”

Committee Action: On February 12, 2009, the bill was introduced and referred to the Committee on Education and Labor and the Committee on Natural Resources. The Committee on Natural Resources held hearings on the bill.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy is provided.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO cost estimate for H.R. 2938 is not provided.

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 is 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 explanation of constitutional authority is available.

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H.J. Res. 44 – Recognizing the service, sacrifice, honor, and professionalism of the Noncommissioned Officers of the United States Army. (Rep. Skelton, D-MO)

Order of Business: H.J. Res. 44 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, July 27, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.J. Res. 44 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Recognizes the service, sacrifice, honor, and professionalism of the Noncommissioned Officers of the United States Army;
- “Expresses its deepest appreciation to the Noncommissioned Officers of the Army who serve or have served in defense of the United States; and
- “Encourages the people of the United States to recognize, commemorate, and honor the role and contribution of Noncommissioned Officers, past and present, in defense of the United States.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “The Noncommissioned Officer ranks, namely corporals and sergeants, date back more than 230 years in United States Army history, beginning with the birth of the Continental Army in 1775 and highlighted in the westward

expansion of the United States, the Civil War, World War I, World War II, the Korean Conflict, the Vietnam Conflict, the liberation of Kuwait, and the current Global War on Terror;

- “Noncommissioned Officers have provided invaluable service and have made great sacrifices in the line of duty, a virtue held most high, and they have continually proven their dedication and a willingness to make great sacrifices on behalf of the United States;
- “Noncommissioned Officers are the ‘eyes and ears’ of the commander, and have a well-earned reputation for having operational and strategic awareness to interpret and issue orders as necessary within their duties and in the absence of commissioned officers; and
- “The United States Army is an institution rich in cultural, ethnic, and gender diversity, and Noncommissioned Officers are outstanding role models for all Americans and are exemplary representatives of the moral character and strength of the United States.”

Committee Action: H.J.Res. 44 was introduced on April 29, 2009, and referred to the House Armed Services Committee and Subcommittee on Military Personnel 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. 593 - Recognizing and celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the entry of Hawaii into the Union as the 50th State.
(Rep. Abercrombie, D-HI)

Order of Business: H.Res. 593 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, July 27, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Res. 593 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Recognizes and celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the entry of Hawaii into the Union as the 50th State.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “August 21, 2009, marks the 50th Anniversary of President Dwight D. Eisenhower's signing of Proclamation 3309, which admitted Hawaii into the Union in compliance with the Hawaii Admission Act, enacted by the United States Congress on March 18, 1959;
- “Hawaii has contributed to the diversity of Congress in electing the first Native Hawaiian member of Congress, Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalaniana`ole, the first Asian-American member, Hiram Fong, the first woman of color, Patsy T. Mink, and the first Native Hawaiian to serve in the Senate, Daniel Kahikina Akaka;
- “The Hawaii Statehood Commission has held a Joint Session of the Hawaii State Legislature in honor of statehood and will be celebrating this milestone with a public discussion and with the arrival of the USS Hawaii; and
- “For all of these reasons Hawaii is a truly unique State.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 593 was introduced on June 26, 2009 and referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, 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. 373 - Expressing support for designation of the month of
September as "National Hydrocephalus Awareness Month"
(Rep. Bachmann, R-MN)**

Order of Business: H.Res. 373 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, July 27, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Res. 373 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Supports the designation of `National Hydrocephalus Awareness Month.’”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “Hydrocephalus may cause head enlargement, blurred vision or blindness, seizures, impaired physical development, learning disabilities, progressive irreversible damage to the nerve cells in the brain, and even death;
- “1 out of every 500 children in the United States are born with hydrocephalus, and the condition is the leading cause of brain surgery in children;
- “Public awareness, professional education, and scientific research regarding hydrocephalus should increase through partnerships between the Federal Government, health care professionals, and patient advocacy groups, such as the Pediatric Hydrocephalus Foundation;
- “These public-private partnerships would ensure that individuals suffering with hydrocephalus and their families are empowered with educational materials, informed about the latest research, have access to quality health care, and are able to advocate for increased research and funding in order advance the public's understanding of the condition, improve the diagnosis and treatment of hydrocephalus, and one day, find a cure; and
- “September would be an appropriate month to designate as `National Hydrocephalus Awareness Month.’”

Committee Action: H.Res. 373 was introduced on April 28, 2009 and referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, 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.R. 3072 - To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 9810 Halls Ferry Road in St. Louis, Missouri, as the "Coach Jodie Bailey Post Office Building". (Clay, D-MO)

Order of Business: H.R. 3072 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, July 27, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 3072 would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 9810 Halls Ferry Road in St. Louis, Missouri, as the "Coach Jodie Bailey Post Office Building."

Additional Information: Coach Jodie Bailey was a coaching legend in the St. Louis area. Bailey compiled a record of 824 wins and 198 losses in a career that spanned 42 seasons. Bailey worked at three different schools, Vashon, O'Fallon Tech and Northwest. Bailey had a remarkable amount of success with Vashon, where he was a standout athlete in the early 1930's. The Wolverines dominated the all-black "Ill-Mo League" throughout much of the 1940's. Under Bailey, the Wolverines won Ill-Mo League titles in 1943, '45, '47 and '48. He also guided the Wolverines to the Missouri Negro Interscholastic Athletic Association state championship in 1944, '47, '48 and '49. When school integration took place, Bailey and his Vashon team broke through in 1963 when he led the Wolverines to a regional championship and berth in the state quarterfinals. He moved to O'Fallon Tech, where he led the Hornets to their only state championship in 1968, thus becoming the first all-black PHL team to win a state championship in the state of Missouri. After that he moved to Northwest High School, where he immediately won a regional title in 1969. He stayed at Northwest until 1983, and won seven regional championships while there.

Committee Action: H.R. 3072 was introduced on June 26, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which took no official action.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy is available.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO score for H.R. 3072 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. 483 - Supporting the goals and ideals of Veterans of Foreign Wars Day (Rep. Kline, R-MN)

Order of Business: H.Res. 483 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, July 27, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Res. 483 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Supports the goals and ideals of Veterans of Foreign Wars Day.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “Veterans of the Spanish-American War and Philippine Insurrection, the Nation's first major foreign conflicts, faced hardships to include a complete lack of medical care and pensions upon discharge from the service;
- “On September 29, 1899, the American Veterans of Foreign Service and in December 1899, the National Society of the Army of the Philippines, were established to advocate for the rights and benefits then denied to veterans of the Spanish-American War and Philippine Insurrection;
- “The 2.3 million members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Ladies Auxiliary remain committed to the organization's mission of `ensuring rights, remembering sacrifices, promoting patriotism, performing community services, and advocating for a strong national defense’;
- “The organization continues this honorable mission by effectively advocating for our Nation's veterans, to include helping establish the present-day Department of Veterans Affairs, creating the Montgomery G.I. Bill, developing the national cemetery system, and assisting combat wounded veterans receive compensation for their injuries; and
- “The members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars celebrate the organization's establishment and achievements on September 29th while carrying on the vital mission of their predecessors.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 483 was introduced on May 21, 2009 and referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, 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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