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S. 475 – A bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to guarantee the equity of spouses to military personnel with regard to matters of residency (Sen. Burr, R-NC)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Monday, November 2, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill. The bill passed the Senate by unanimous consent on August 4, 2009.

Summary: Currently, the SCRA allows a servicemember who is absent from his or her home state to maintain residency for purposes of voting, income taxes, and personal property taxes, if the servicemember has been posted elsewhere due to military orders. S. 475 would allow military spouses to have the same residency protections. Specifically the bill does the following:

- **Section 2:** Amends section 705 of the SCRA guarantees the residency protections for spouses of military personnel for purposes of voting in federal, state, or local elections, if a spouse of a servicemember follows his or her spouse in compliance with military orders. According to the Senate [committee report](#), “the spouse will not, solely based on that absence, be deemed to have lost residence or domicile in that state, be deemed to have acquired residence or domicile in any other state, or be deemed to have become a resident of any other state.”
- **Section 3:** Allows the spouse of a servicemember to retain residency in a tax jurisdiction from which the spouse is absent for purposes of income tax and personal property tax. For example, a servicemember’s spouse may bring a car to the new location (so long as the individual’s move was due to the servicemember’s military orders), and not be taxed in that state.
- **Section 4:** Suspends certain residency requirements for a spouse of a servicemember seeking to exercise certain land rights on public lands (i.e. mining claims or homesteading).

Committee Action: S. 475 was introduced on February 25, 2009, and referred to the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, which reported the bill out of committee by unanimous consent on July 15, 2009. On August 4, 2009, the bill passed the Senate by unanimous consent.

Cost to Taxpayers: CBO estimates that implementing the bill would not have a significant effect on the federal budget. CBO further states that, “S. 475 would impose an intergovernmental mandate as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) by limiting the ability of state and local governments to collect income and property taxes. CBO estimates the total cost of complying with the mandate would fall well below the annual threshold established in UMRA (\$69 million in 2009, adjusted annually for inflation). The bill contains no private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA.”

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. However, S. 475 contains an intergovernmental mandate as defined in UMRA. According to CBO, “It would prohibit state and local governments from collecting taxes on an individual’s income or personal property, if that individual moved to the jurisdiction to accompany his or her spouse at a military-duty station.”

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: Yes.

Constitutional Authority: While a committee report is available, Senate rules do not require constitutional authority to be cited.

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H.Res. 773 - Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to the United States Submarine Force (Boozman, R-AR)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Monday, November 2, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 773 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Is committed to promoting and sustaining the spirit of unity shared by members of the United States Submarine Force;
- “Is committed to paying tribute once again to the seven submariners who were awarded the Medal of Honor, including two who were awarded the medal posthumously;
- “Wishes to help keep alive the memory of the Submarine Force veterans and honor their service just as their fellow shipmates do at their gatherings by performing the ceremony known as the ‘Tolling of the Boats’; and
- “Is committed to keeping alive their memory so that the American people never forget their courage and sacrifice.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “100 years ago, American naval officials who witnessed a submarine, the ‘Holland VI’, submerge and surface in the Potomac River knew this was the first successful United States submarine that would inspire the powerful undersea fighting force that would contribute so much to the United States victory in World War II;
- “During World War II, the United States Submarine Force served with honor and valor to protect and preserve the freedoms of the United States, as well as those of the allies of the United States;
- “During World War II, United States submariners sank over 30 percent of the Japanese Navy including eight aircraft carriers, one battleship and 11 cruisers, and more importantly, the Submarine Force sank 1,300 Japanese merchant ships totaling approximately 5,000,000 tons, which was almost 60 percent of the Empire's total merchant ship losses;
- “52 American submarines were lost during World War II, 49 in the Pacific; and
- “Members of the Submarine Forces, known as the ‘silent service’, assumed the difficult task of pioneering a new way of fighting so as to protect the liberties and freedoms of the United States.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 773 was introduced on September 24, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, which took no public action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

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

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

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

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

RSC Staff Contact: Curtis Rhyne, Curtis.Rhyne@mail.house.gov (202) 226-8576

H.R. 1168 – Veterans Retraining Act of 2009 (Boozman, R-AR)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Monday, November 2, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 1165 would amend Chapter 42 of title 38, United States Code to add a new section entitled, "Employment Training Assistance for Unemployed Veterans."

The section would require the Secretary of Labor to pay a monthly training assistance allowance to each covered veteran (defined below) for each month he or she is enrolled in an employment and training program that teaches a skill in demand, as determined by the Secretary.

According to the committee, the amount of the assistance will be equal to the basic allowance for housing payable to a military E-5 (mid-level rank) with independents, in the same zip code the veteran resides. A covered veteran is entitled to assistance for no more than six months during each 10-year period.

In addition to the assistance, the veteran will receive no more than \$5,000 for moving expenses related to the training he or she is receiving.

Definition of Covered Veteran. One who is unemployed for a period of no less than four consecutive months at the time of applying for assistance; able to successfully complete the employment and training program; and is ineligible for education or training assistance under this title except as provided under this section.

Appropriations. Authorizes \$100 million each year subject to appropriation.

Background: According to the sponsor's office, "Recent reports from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics indicate that unemployment among veterans has grown from 510,696 in August of 2008 to 933,000 in August of 2009. This is a shocking increase of 422,304 veterans or 82% in just one year. Veterans who are between 35 to 54 years old – the prime earning years – comprise 534,000 of the total number of unemployed veterans."

Committee Action: H.R. 1165 was introduced on February 25, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, which reported the bill out of committee, as amended, by voice vote on October 28, 2009.

Cost to Taxpayers: CBO estimates that the bill authorizes \$400 million over a five year 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?: Yes.

Constitutional Authority: No committee report citing constitutional authority is available.

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

H.Res. 828 - To recognize October 24, 2009, the 20th chartered flight of World War II veterans through Louisiana HonorAir, as "Louisiana HonorAir Day," and to honor the invaluable service and dedication of the World War II veterans to our Nation (Cao, R-LA)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Monday, November 2, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 828 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- "Recognizes Louisiana HonorAir for its 20 chartered flights of World War II veterans to Washington, DC, to visit the National World War II Memorial, honors the invaluable service and dedication of the World War II veterans to our Nation, and supports the designation of a 'Louisiana HonorAir Day'."

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “In late 2006, T.D. Smith of Louisiana founded Louisiana HonorAir, a nonprofit organization, which charters flights for World War II veterans on an all-expenses-paid, day-long trip from Louisiana to Washington, DC, to see the World War II Memorial, the Marine Corps Memorial, and to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier;
- “Since its first flight out of Lafayette, Louisiana in early 2007, Louisiana HonorAir has flown close to 2,000 World War II veterans to Washington, DC, to be honored for their invaluable service, sacrifice, and dedication to our Nation;
- “October 24, 2009, marks the 20th chartered flight of World War II veterans through Louisiana HonorAir; and
- “With the average World War II veteran being 86 years old and becoming too ill to visit the World War II Memorial in Washington, DC, there are not many opportunities left to honor them for their service.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 828 was introduced on October 14, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, which took no public action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

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

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

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

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

RSC Staff Contact: Curtis Rhyne, Curtis.Rhyne@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-8576

H.R. 3949 – Veterans’ Small Business Assistance and Servicemembers Protection Act of 2009 (*Filner, D-CA*)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Monday, November 2, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: Among other things, H.R. 3949 would:

Title I

- Authorize the VA Secretary to access personal information to verify the information on the application for small business ownership, and requires that the Secretary receives information to verify the status before the small business is put on the database.
- Prohibits a small business concern from being included in the database until the Secretary confirms that the business is owned by a veteran.
- Reauthorizes the Veterans' Advisory Committee on Education through December 31, 2015. It currently expires on December 31, 2009.

Title II

- Allows a servicemember to terminate a contract for cell phone service, telephone exchange service, multichannel video programming service, internet, electricity, and other services, at any time after he or she receives orders to deploy for a period of no less than 90 days, or change of duty station that does not office the service.
- Requires lease amounts (residential and motor vehicle) to be paid on a prorated basis for a time preceding the lease termination. The lessor may not charge an early termination fee. However, any other unpaid lease charges must be paid by the lessee.
- Allows the Attorney General to commence a civil action against any person who engages in a pattern or practice of violating this act or engages in a violation of this act that raises an issue of significant public importance (includes restraining orders, injunctions, damages, and penalties).
- Includes a private right of action for enforcement by a servicemembers, dependent, or other protected person under this act.

Title III

- Establishes an outreach program to coordinate between the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Office of the Secretary, the Office of Public Affairs, the Veterans Health Administration, the Veterans Benefits Administration, and the National Cemetery Administration. The purpose of the program is to help ensure that veterans, spouses, children, and parents of veterans are fully informed about any veterans-related benefits and programs for which they are eligible. Priority will be given to areas with high concentrations of eligible individuals.
- Establishes a grant program for states or county veterans' agencies to be used for outreach activities and activities to assist in the development and submittal of claims. A state veterans agency that receives a grant may award all or part of the grant to county veterans agencies for outreach services. To be eligible, a state or county shall submit an application with a three-year plan for the use of the grant; and a description of the programs through which the agency will meet the annual outcome measures. Authorizes for FY2008, 2009, and 2010, \$25 million annually to carry out this program.

- Establishes a scholarship program to provide financial assistance to an individual who is accepted for enrollment or currently enrolled in a program of study leading to a degree in visual impairment or orientation and mobility. The purpose is to increase the supply of qualified blind rehabilitation specialists for the Department and the nation.
- Allows for the interment of certain parents of eligible deceased servicemembers. Requires the VA Secretary to determine that there is available space in a gravesite cemetery for the interment of the parent.

Committee Action: H.R. 3949 was introduced on October 28, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, which reported the bill out of committee by voice vote on the same day.

Cost to Taxpayers: CBO estimates that implementing this legislation would cost \$81 million over the 2010-2014 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. The bill also contains provisions that would increase both direct spending and revenues, but CBO estimates that those impacts would be insignificant.

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?: According to CBO, H.R. 3949 would impose intergovernmental and private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA). CBO estimates that the costs of the mandates would not exceed the thresholds established in UMRA for intergovernmental or private sector mandates (\$69 million and \$139 million, respectively, in 2009, adjusted annually for inflation).

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: Yes.

Constitutional Authority: No committee report citing constitutional authority is available.

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H.Res. 398 - Recognizing the 60th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift's success (Fortenberry, R-NE)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Monday, November 2, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 398 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Recognizes the 60th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift, and commends all of the operation's United States veterans for their valor and determination to represent

the noble ideals that thwarted the fall of the Iron Curtain over Berlin's western strongholds;

- “Honors the veterans of the Berlin Airlift who lost their lives to bring the means of survival and sustenance to civilians under siege in the service to their country;
- “Commends the spirit of collaboration which characterized this united allied operation involving both military and civilian aircraft and crews; and
- “Honors the men and women of the United States military whose continued dedication to the ideals of integrity, compassion, and liberty upholds the honorable legacy of the United States Armed Forces, as illustrated by the Berlin Airlift, and renews our faith in the power of freedom and goodness to prevail over tyranny.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “Pursuant to mutual agreement among allies concluded at the Potsdam Conference following the unconditional surrender of Adolf Hitler's National Socialist (NAZI) regime on May 8, 1945, the German capitol of Berlin was divided into four zones of military occupation controlled by the United States, the Soviet Union, Great Britain, and France;
- “In a bid to maintain leverage over Germany by perpetuating its economic instability, and in opposition to the United States' Marshall Plan and the allies' proposal for a new, more stable German currency, then Soviet Dictator Joseph Stalin ordered a blockade of Berlin on June 22, 1948;
- “Britain's Foreign Minister Ernest Brevin, at the suggestion of Commander Sir Brian Robertson, proposed employing a military airlift as an alternative to an armed convoy through the Soviet sector to provide humanitarian relief to Berlin's traumatized and beleaguered population;
- “The Berlin Airlift resulted in the total delivery of 1,783,573 tons of supplies by the United States and 541,937 tons of supplies totaling 2,300,000 tons delivered on 277,569 total flights to Berlin; and
- “The determined actions of the Berlin Airlift sent a clear message to the Soviet Union that the United States held an unquestionable commitment and unwavering resolve to prevent tyranny in Europe.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 398 was introduced on May 4, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs and Armed Services, 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. 291 - Recognizing the crucial role of assistance dogs in helping wounded veterans live more independent lives, expressing gratitude to The Tower of Hope, and supporting the goals and ideals of creating a Tower of Hope Day (*Hastings, D-FL*)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Monday, November 2, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 291 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Acknowledges the importance of assistance dogs in helping combat-wounded veterans live happier and more independent lives;
- “Applauds the outstanding work of The Tower of Hope and its dedication to training and providing assistance dogs to wounded veterans, as well as educating people about the benefits of such animals;
- “Expresses deep gratitude and support to volunteers and donors who have made this great program possible by generously offering time and funds;
- “Encourages the general public to support wounded veterans by volunteering or donating to help train assistance dogs;
- “Calls for a vigorous promotion of, and advocacy for, the benefits of assistance animals for physicians and the general public; and
- “Supports the goals and ideals of creating a Tower of Hope Day in honor of wounded American veterans and their service dogs, the work of The Tower of Hope, and the many generous donors.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “Thousands of America's returning veterans were seriously wounded in combat, including brain injuries, single and double amputations, and other traumatic wounds;
- “These recovering soldiers who are teamed up with assistance dogs lead more comfortable and more independent lives;

- “There are fewer than 75 veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan who currently have assistance dogs because they either cannot afford them or do not know about the benefits that assistance dogs provide;
- “The Tower of Hope was created following the attacks of September 11, 2001, to bring hope to wounded veterans by providing them with assistance dogs at no cost; and
- “The Tower of Hope has substantially improved many lives by raising funds for the training of assistance dogs, providing grants for American combat wounded veterans, and advocating for the benefits of these animals.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 291 was introduced on March 26, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, which took no public action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

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

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

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

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

RSC Staff Contact: Curtis Rhyne, Curtis.Rhyne@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-8576

H.Res. 866 - Expressing support for designation of a National Veterans History Project Week to encourage public participation in a nationwide project that collects and preserves the stories of the men and women who served our nation in times of war and conflict (*Kind, D-WI*)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Monday, November 2, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 866 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Recognizes ‘National Veterans Awareness Week’;
- “Supports the designation of a ‘National Veterans History Project Week’;
- “Calls on the people of the United States to interview at least one veteran in their families or communities according to guidelines provided by the Veterans History Project; and

- “Encourages local, State, and national organizations along with Federal, State, city and county governmental institutions to participate in support of the effort to document, preserve, and honor the service of American wartime veterans.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “The Veterans History Project was established by a unanimous vote of the United States Congress to collect and preserve the wartime stories of American veterans;
- “Congress charged the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress to undertake the Veterans History Project and to engage the public in the creation of a collection of oral histories that would be a lasting tribute to individual veterans and an abundant resource for scholars;
- “There are 17,000,000 wartime veterans in America whose stories can educate people of all ages about important moments and events in the history of the United States and the world and provide instructive narratives that illuminate the meanings of ‘service’, ‘sacrifice’, ‘citizenship’, and ‘democracy’; and
- “‘National Veterans Awareness Week’ commendably preceded this resolution in the years 2005 and 2006.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 866 was introduced on October 23, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, which took no public action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

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

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

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

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

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**H.Res. 461 - Honoring Sentinels of Freedom and commending the dedication, commitment, and extraordinary work of the organization
(McNerney, D-CA)**

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Monday, November 2, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 461 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Honors Sentinels of Freedom;
- “Commends Sentinels of Freedom's dedication and commitment to the brave men and women who have served the United States; and
- “Praises Sentinels of Freedom for its extraordinary work for the well-being of the Nation's veterans.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “In 2003, Sentinels of Freedom, based in San Ramon and Danville, California, was established;
- “The mission of Sentinels of Freedom is to provide life-changing opportunities for men and women who served in the United States Armed Forces and who have suffered severe injuries;
- “Sentinels of Freedom provides four-year scholarships that help veterans to become self-sufficient; and
- “Thanks to Sentinels of Freedom, 39 veterans have benefitted from scholarships and many more will in the coming years.”

Additional Information: Sentinels of Freedom Scholarship Foundation is a non-profit organization that provides severely wounded veterans with grants.

Committee Action: H.Res. 461 was introduced on May 20, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs which took no public action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

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

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

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

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

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S. 509 - A bill to authorize a major medical facility project at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Walla Walla, Washington (*Murray, D-WA*)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Monday, November 2, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: S. 509 would authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a major medical facility project at the VA Medical Center in Walla Walla, WA, in an amount not to exceed \$71.4 million.

Committee Action: S. 509 was introduced in the Senate on March 2, 2009 and passed without amendment by Unanimous Consent on July 15, 2009. It was then referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on July 16, 2009, which took no public action.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO score for S. 509 is unavailable. However, the bill authorizes \$71.4 million to be spent.

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 bill does not contain any earmarks.

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

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H.R. 3157 - To name the Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Alexandria, Minnesota, as the "Max J. Beilke Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic" (*Peterson, D-MN*)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Monday, November 2, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 3157 would designate the Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Alexandria, Minnesota, as the "Max J. Beilke Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic."

Additional Information: Retired Master Sgt. [Max J. Beilke](#) grew up in Alexandria, Minnesota, and was drafted in 1952 into the Korean War. He reenlisted in 1956 and retired in 1974 after 22 years of active duty in the U.S. Army. The Army lists him as the last combat soldier to leave Saigon, on March 29, 1973. He was meeting with Lieutenant General Timothy Maude and retired Lieutenant Colonel Gary Smith in the Pentagon on September 11, 2001, and was killed when the plane struck the building.

According to the [Pentagon Memorial Fund](#), he worked with Congress on the “TRICARE for Life” program for military retirees. He also advocated for open enrollment in the Survivor’s Benefit Plan.

Committee Action: H.R. 3157 was introduced on July 9, 2009 and referred to the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs which took no public action.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO score for H.R. 3157 is unavailable, but the only costs associated with a U.S. federal building 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?: 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: 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.R. 174 - To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a national cemetery for veterans in the southern Colorado region
(Salazar, D-CO)**

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Monday, November 2, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 174 would direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a new national cemetery in the southern Colorado region. The cemetery would be required to be built in El Paso County and the Secretary would be authorized to accept donated land for the construction of the cemetery.

The bill also states that the construction of the cemetery shall not supersede any of the construction projects of the National Cemetery Administration on the five-year capital plan.

Committee Action: H.R. 174 was introduced on January 6, 2009 and referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, and the House Committee on Ways and Means, which took no public action.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO score for H.R. 174 is unavailable.

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 bill does not contain any earmarks.

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

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H.Res. 89 - Supporting and encouraging greater support for Veterans Day each year (*Baca, D-CA*)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Monday, November 2, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 89 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Encourages Americans to demonstrate their support for veterans on Veterans Day each year by treating that day as a special day of reflection;
- “Encourages schools and teachers to educate students on the great contributions veterans have made to the country and its history, both while serving as members of the United States Armed Forces and after completing their service; and
- “Requests that the President issue a proclamation each year in connection with the observance of Veterans Day calling on the people of the United States to observe that day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “The American people owe the security of the Nation to those who have defended it;
- “We must honor and express our sincere gratitude to all our veterans for their unwavering commitment to country, justice and democracy;
- “The observance of Veterans Day is an expression of faith in democracy, faith in American values, and faith that those who fight for freedom will defeat those whose cause is unjust; and
- “Section 6103(a) of title 5, United States Code, provides that ‘Veteran's Day, November 11' is a legal public holiday.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 89 was introduced on January 26, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, which took no public action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

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

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

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

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

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H.Res. 780 - Recognizing the celebration of Filipino American History Month in October (*Filner, D-CA*)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Monday, November 2, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 780 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Recognizes the celebration of Filipino American History Month as a study of the advancement of Filipino Americans, as a time of reflection and remembrance, and as a time to renew efforts toward the research and examination of history and culture in order to provide an opportunity for all people in the United States to learn and appreciate more about Filipino Americans and their historic contributions to the Nation; and

- “Urges the people of the United States to observe Filipino American History Month with appropriate programs and activities.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “The Filipino American community is the second largest Asian American group in the United States with a population of approximately 3,100,000 people;
- “Filipino Americans are an integral part of the United States healthcare system as nurses, doctors, and other medical professionals;
- “It is imperative for Filipino American youth to have positive role models to instill in them the importance of education, complemented with the richness of their ethnicity and the value of their legacy; and
- “Filipino American History Month is celebrated during the month of October.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 780 was introduced on September 25, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, 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. 159 - Honoring the New Hampshire State Senate for becoming
the 1st statewide legislative body with a majority of women in the
United States (*Hodes, D-NH*)**

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Monday, November 2, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 159 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Honors the New Hampshire State Senate for becoming the 1st statewide legislative body with a majority of women in the United States.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “From 1931 to 1933, E. Maude Ferguson served as the 1st female member of the New Hampshire State Senate;
- “Vesta Roy served as the 1st female State Senate President, and in 1983 she became the 1st female Governor of the State of New Hampshire;
- “The New Hampshire State Senate was comprised of 13 women and 11 men for the legislative session beginning on December 3, 2008; and
- “The New Hampshire State Senate had 9 women chairing committees and 5 men chairing committees for the legislative session beginning on December 3, 2008.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 159 was introduced on February 11, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, 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. 736 - Honoring President Lincoln's Gettysburg Address on "Dedication Day", November 19, 2009 (Platts, R-PA)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Monday, November 2, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 736 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Honors President Lincoln's greatest speech, the Gettysburg Address; and

- “Encourages people in the United States to read the Gettysburg Address on ‘Dedication Day’ in public places across the Nation.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “On November 19, 1863, Abraham Lincoln dedicated the Soldiers' National Cemetery on the battlefield at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, with the Gettysburg Address, which harkened back to the promises of the Declaration of Independence in the first sentence, ‘Four score and seven years ago, our fathers brought forth, on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal’, and which called upon people of the United States to dedicate themselves to the principles of democracy so that government ‘of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth’;
- “Congress adopted a joint resolution on August 7, 1946, declaring the Gettysburg Address to be ‘the outstanding classic of the ages’, designating November 19 as ‘Dedication Day’ in honor of the Gettysburg Address, and suggesting that the Gettysburg Address ‘be read on that day in public assemblages throughout the United States and its possessions, on our ships at sea, and wherever the American flag flies’; and
- “2009 is the 200th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln and bicentennial tributes to his birth are expected throughout the United States.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 736 was introduced on September 10, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, 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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