



Legislative Bulletin.....April 16, 2007

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Summary of the Bills Under Consideration Today:

Total Number of New Government Programs: 0

Total Cost of Discretionary Authorizations: \$0

Effect on Revenue: \$0

Total Change in Mandatory Spending: 0

Total New State & Local Government Mandates: 0

Total New Private Sector Mandates: 0

Number of Bills Without Committee Reports: 1

Number of Reported Bills that Don’t Cite Specific Clauses of Constitutional Authority: 0

H.R. 988 — To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5757 Tilton Avenue in Riverside, California, as the “Lieutenant Todd Jason Bryant Post Office” (Calvert, R-CA)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Monday, April 16, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 988 would designate the U.S. Postal Service facility located at 5757 Tilton Avenue in Riverside, California, as the “Lieutenant Todd Jason Bryant Post Office.”

Addition Information: Second Lieutenant Todd J. Bryant of Riverside, California, was killed on October 31, 2003, in Al Fallujah, Iraq. Bryant was on patrol when an improvised explosive device exploded. He was 23 years old.

Todd Bryant’s parents worked for Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena while he attended La Canada High School. At age 17, Bryant joined the Army Reserves and completed boot camp. He returned to Riverside and applied to Rep. Calvert’s office for a nomination to West Point Academy in New York, where he graduated in 2003. On August 30, 2003, he married Jenifer (Reardon) Bryant; nine days later Bryant was deployed to Iraq

Bryant was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C., on November 18, 2003. He was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart and the National Defense Service Ribbon.

(Source: <http://www.arlingtoncemetery.net/tjbryant.htm>)

Committee Action: H.R. 988 was introduced on February 12, 2007, and was referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which held a mark-up and reported the bill by voice vote on March 29, 2007.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO score of H.R. 988 is unavailable, but the only costs associated with a 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 Government?: No.

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

Constitutional Authority: Although no committee report citing constitutional authority is available, Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution grants Congress the authority to establish Post Offices and post roads.

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H.Res. 273 — Supporting the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month, and for other purposes (*Hinojosa, D-TX*)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Monday, April 16, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 273 would resolve that the House of Representatives:

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

The resolution also states a number of findings, including the following:

- “personal financial literacy is essential to ensure that individuals are prepared to manage money, credit, and debt, and become responsible workers, heads of households, investors, entrepreneurs, business leaders, and citizens;
- “personal financial management skills and lifelong habits develop during childhood;
- “a study completed in 2006 by the Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy found that high school seniors know less about principles of basic personal finance than did high school seniors 7 years earlier, and the average scores in both years were failing grades;
- “United States consumer debt totaled \$2,400,000,000,000 in 2006, of which credit card debt alone exceeded \$825,000,000,000;
- “personal savings as a percentage of income dropped to negative 1 percent in 2006, the lowest since the Great Depression;
- “studies show that as many as 10,000,000 households in the United States are ‘unbanked’ or are without access to mainstream financial products and services; and
- “expanding access to the mainstream financial system provides individuals with lower-cost and safer options for managing finances and building wealth and is likely to lead to increased economic activity and growth.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 273 was introduced on March 27, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which held a mark-up and reported the bill by voice vote on March 29, 2007.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

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

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

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H.Con.Res. 71 — Commemorating the 85th Anniversary of the founding of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA), a leading association for the Nation’s 1.3 million American citizens of Greek ancestry, and Philhellenes (*Maloney, D-NY*)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Monday, April 16, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 71 would resolve that the House of Representatives:

- “recognizes the significant contributions of American citizens of Hellenic heritage to the United States;
- “commemorates the 85th Anniversary of the founding of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA), applauds its mission, and commends the many charitable contributions of its members to communities around the world, and;
- “requests the President of the United States to issue a proclamation acknowledging the 85th Anniversary of AHEPA and its many accomplishments.”

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

- “the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA) was founded July 26, 1922, in Atlanta, Georgia, by eight visionary Greek immigrants to help unify, organize, and protect against the bigotry, discrimination, and defamation faced by people of all ethnic, race, and religious backgrounds perpetrated predominantly by the Ku Klux Klan;
- “the mission of AHEPA is to promote the ideals of ancient Greece, which include philanthropy, education, civic responsibility, and family and individual excellence through community service and volunteerism;
- “since its inception, AHEPA has instilled in its members an understanding of their Hellenic heritage and an awareness of the contributions made to the development of democratic principles and governance in the United States and throughout the world;
- “AHEPA has done much throughout its history to foster American patriotism;
- “AHEPA raised more than \$253 million for United States War Bonds during World War II, for which AHEPA was named an official Issuing Agent for United States War Bonds by the Department of Treasury, an honor that no other civic organization was able to achieve at the time;

- “the members of AHEPA donated \$612,000 toward the restoration of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, New York, for which AHEPA received special recognition by the Department of the Interior;
- “AHEPA was recognized by the Department of State as an organization that has engaged in ‘Track Two Diplomacy’ to foster reconciliation and rapprochement in the Eastern Mediterranean, which is in the best interest of the United States; and
- “members of AHEPA have been Presidents and Vice Presidents of the United States, United States Senators and Representatives, and United States Ambassadors, and have served honorably as elected officials at the local and State levels throughout the United States.”

Committee Action: H.Con.Res. 71 was introduced on February 16, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which held a mark-up and reported the bill by voice vote on March 29, 2007.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

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

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

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H.Res. 179 — Expressing support for a National Foster Parents Day (Nancy Boyda, D-KS)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Monday, April 16, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res.179 would express the sense of the House of Representatives that:

- “a National Foster Parents Day should be established to recognize the contributions of foster parents across the Nation; and
- “the President should issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States and interested groups to conduct appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate support for foster parents across the Nation.”

Additional Background: According to the Department of Health and Human Services, over 513,000 American children are in foster care because their own guardians are in crisis and unable to provide for their welfare. It is predicted that by the year 2020 9 million children will experience living in foster care. In 1988, foster care organizations worked to establish May as national foster care month.

(Source: http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/stats_research/)

Committee Action: H.Res.179 was introduced on February 16, 2007, and was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. On March 29, 2007, a mark-up was held and H.Res.179 was reported to the House by a voice vote.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

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

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

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H.Con.Res. 88 — Honoring the life of Ernest Gallo (*Cardoza, D-CA*)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Monday, April 16, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 88 would resolve “that Congress honors the life of Ernest Gallo, a pioneer in the field of winemaking, dedicated philanthropist, and community leader.”

Additional Information: According to the bill, Ernest Gallo was born March 18, 1909, in Jackson, California, the son of Italian immigrants, graduated from Modesto High School in 1927, earned a degree from Modesto Junior College, and married Amelia Franzia. At the end of the Prohibition Era in 1933, he and his brother Julio founded E & J. Gallo Winery with only \$5,900 in savings and a winemaking pamphlet from the Modesto Public Library. Eventually their small family-owned winery grew into the world's second largest by volume, and selling an estimated 75,000,000 cases a year worldwide under approximately 100 different labels.

Gallo, demonstrating great vision, anticipated the growth of the wine industry and developed the first-of-its kind vertically integrated company, with vineyards stretching across California, an on-site bottling plant, and an art department to design bottles and labels, changing the face of California's wine industry. Today, the Gallo Winery employs 4,600 people in the State of California, providing critical highly-skilled employment opportunities in the San Joaquin Valley and greatly contributing to the economic strength of the State.

Gallo was widely known for his generous philanthropic work in the City of Modesto and throughout the state of California, including an endowment for the Gallo Center for the Arts in Modesto, the establishment of the Ernest Gallo Clinic and Research Center at the University of California at San Francisco for research into genetic, biochemical, and neurobiological aspects of alcohol abuse, and countless other healthcare and educational endeavors

Committee Action: H.Con.Res. 88 was introduced on March 9, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which held a mark-up and reported the bill by voice vote on March 29, 2007.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

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

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

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H.Con.Res.76 — Honoring the 50th Anniversary of the International Geophysical Year (IGY) and its past contributions to space research, and looking forward to future accomplishments (*Udall, D-CO*)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Monday, April 16, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 76 would resolve that the Congress;

- “honors the 50th anniversary of the International Geophysical Year (IGY) and its contributions to the scientific investigations of the Earth and outer space; and
- “encourages the public, and especially American youth, to attend IGY celebrations and seminars, such as those being planned at locations around the United States by the National Academy of Sciences and other organizations, and participate in discussions about the future of space science and Earth science.”

The resolution also states a number of findings, including the following:

- “the IGY initiated the Space Age with the successful launch of the first artificial satellites, Sputnik by the former Soviet Union, and Explorer I by the United States;
- “the interdisciplinary approach of IGY and the use of new space-based platforms enabled fundamental changes in the conduct of research concerning the Earth and its surrounding space environment;
- “the interdisciplinary approach of IGY enabled coordinated, synchronous, global observations and measurements of the Earth, oceans, atmosphere, ice, and near-Earth space environment;
- “the IGY increased our understanding of the causes of magnetic storms, ionospheric disturbances, and the origins of cosmic rays;
- “the use of new space-based platforms enabled the discovery of the Van Allen radiation belts, which are trapped, charged particles in the Earth’s upper

- atmosphere, showed that those particles form belts of energy around the Earth, and contributed to the understanding of the Northern Lights; and
- “the IGY, which occurred during the height of Cold War tensions, facilitated international cooperation in science and helped lead to the Antarctic Treaty, which established the use of Antarctica for peaceful purposes and promoted continued, cooperative scientific investigations on the continent.”

Additional Information: According to the National Academies, “following a suggestion by National Academy of Sciences member Lloyd Berkner, the International Council of Scientific Unions in 1952 proposed a comprehensive series of global geophysical activities to span the period July 1957-December 1958. The International Geophysical Year (IGY), as it was called, was modeled on the International Polar Years of 1882-1883 and 1932-1933 and was intended to allow scientists from around the world to take part in a series of coordinated observations of various geophysical phenomena. Although representatives of 46 countries originally agreed to participate in the IGY, by the close of the activity, 67 countries had become involved.”

(Source: <http://www.nas.edu/history/igy/>)

Committee Action: H.Con.Res.76 was introduced on March 1, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Science and Technology, which held a mark-up and reported the bill by voice vote on March 28, 2007.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

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

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

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