



Legislative Bulletin.....March 9, 2004

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Summary of the Bills Under Consideration Today:

Total Number of New Government Programs: 0

Year to Date Prior to Today’s Bills: 7

Total Cost of Discretionary Authorizations: \$0

*Year to Date Prior to Today’s Bills: \$10.319 billion over five years**

Total Amount of Revenue Reductions: 0

Year to Date Prior to Today’s Bills: \$304 million over five years

Total Change in Mandatory Spending: 0

*Year to Date Prior to Today’s Bills: -\$258 million over five years**

Total New State & Local Government Mandates: 0

Year to Date Prior to Today’s Bills: 3

Total New Private Sector Mandates: 0

Year to Date Prior to Today’s Bills: 6

*Not including the costs contained in H.R. 3783, the Surface Transportation Extension Act, which passed the House on 2/11/04. A cost estimate remains unavailable.

H.Res. 519—Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to the earthquake that occurred in San Luis Obispo County, California, on December 22, 2003 (Thomas)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, March 9th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Res. 519 would resolve that the House:

- “is saddened by the loss of life and property caused by the earthquake that occurred in San Luis Obispo County, California, on December 22, 2003, and sends its deepest condolences to the victims and their families; and
- “recognizes and honors those local officials, public safety and law enforcement personnel, and individuals, who in private or public capacity provided assistance to the victims of the earthquake and their families, and commends this dedicated service to the residents of San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties and the State of California.”

Additional Background: On Monday, December 22, 2003, an earthquake measuring 6.5 on the Richter Scale occurred in San Luis Obispo County, California. The earthquake took two lives, caused injuries to 40 other people, and caused damage to homes, businesses, and public infrastructure, costing millions of dollars to repair. A federal disaster declaration was issued on January 13, 2004.

Committee Action: On February 12, 2004, the Government Reform Committee reported the bill to the full House by unanimous consent.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution would authorize no expenditure.

Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?: No.

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

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H.R. 3536—Army Staff Sgt. Lincoln Hollinsaid Malden Post Office Designation Act (Weller)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, March 9th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 3536 would designate the U.S. Postal Service facility located at 210 Main Street in Malden, Illinois, as the “Army Staff Sgt. Lincoln Hollinsaid Malden Post Office.”

Additional Background: Twenty-seven-year-old Army Staff Sgt. Lincoln Hollinsaid, of Malden, Illinois, died in action in Iraq on April 7, 2003. For biographical information on Sgt. Hollinsaid, visit this webpage: <http://www.militarycity.com/iraq/1759693.html>



Committee Action: On February 12, 2004, the Government Reform Committee reported the bill to the full House by unanimous consent.

Cost to Taxpayers: 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 Create New Federal Programs or Rules?: 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.R. 3537—Army Pvt. Shawn Pahnke Manhattan Post Office Designation Act (Weller)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, March 9th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 3537 would designate the U.S. Postal Service facility located at 185 State Street in Manhattan, Illinois, as the “Army Pvt. Shawn Pahnke Manhattan Post Office.”

Additional Background: Twenty-five-year-old Army Pvt. Shawn Pahnke, originally of Manhattan, Illinois, died in action in Iraq on June 16, 2003. For biographical information on Pvt. Pahnke, visit this webpage: <http://www.militarycity.com/valor/1949120.html>



Committee Action: On February 12, 2004, the Government Reform Committee reported the bill to the full House by unanimous consent.

Cost to Taxpayers: 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 Create New Federal Programs or Rules?: 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.R. 3538 —To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 201 South Chicago Avenue in Saint Anne, Illinois, as the “Marine Capt. Ryan Beaupre Saint Anne Post Office” (Weller)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, March 9, 2004, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 3538 would designate the postal facility located at 201 South Chicago Avenue in Saint Anne, Illinois as the “Marine Capt. Ryan Beaupre Post Office.”

Additional Information: Thirty-year old Marine Capt. Ryan Beaupre, a marine pilot from St. Anne, Illinois, was killed March 21, 2003, in a helicopter crash in Kuwait, about 9 miles from the Iraqi border. The crash killed 8 British and 4 U.S. soldiers, among the first U.S. casualties of the war in Iraq.

A graduate of Bishop McNamara High School and Illinois Wesleyan University, he had been in the Marine Corps since 1995, and was assigned to the Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron — 268, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, Marine Corps Air Station, Camp Pendleton, California. He is survived by his parents and three siblings.

Sources: <http://www.fallenheroesmemorial.com/oif/profiles/beaupreryananthony.html>;
<http://www.nbc5.com/news/2055874/detail.html>



Committee Action: The bill was introduced on November 19, 2003 and referred to the House Committee on Government Reform, which considered the legislation and reported it to the full House on February 12, 2004, by unanimous consent.

Cost to Taxpayers: 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 Create New Federal Programs or Rules?: 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.”

Staff Contact: Sheila Moloney, sheila.moloney@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-9719.

H.Res. 392— Congratulating the Detroit Shock for winning the 2003 Women's National Basketball Association championship (*Conyers*)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, March 3, 2004, under suspension of the rules.

Summary: The resolution contains 17 findings regarding the Detroit Shock, the 2003 Women's National Basketball Association champions, and states that it is resolved:

“That the House of Representatives—

- “congratulates the Detroit Shock for winning the 2003 Women's National Basketball championship and for their outstanding performance during the entire 2003 season, and congratulates all of the 8 WNBA teams who played in the postseason;
- “salutes the achievements of all of the players, coaches, and staff of the Shock, who worked hard and who were instrumental in bringing the City of Detroit its first WNBA championship;
- “commends the Los Angeles Sparks for a valiant performance during the playoff finals and for displaying their strength and skill as a team; and

Additional Information: The Detroit Shock won the 2003 Women's NBA championship on September 16, 2003, defeating 2-time defending champion Los Angeles Sparks, and finishing with a 25-win season. Their coach Bill Laimbeer, was named 2003 WNBA Coach of the Year. According to the resolution’s findings, “the WNBA and the Shock exemplify the highest standards of sportsmanship and success, and help to encourage the participation of women in professional sports; and the Shock have displayed great strength, ability, and perseverance this season, which are all reflective of the hardworking people of the metropolitan Detroit region and the great State of Michigan” Setting a new attendance record for the WNBA, 22,076 attended the final game.

Committee Action: The resolution was introduced on October 8, 2003, and referred to the House Committee on Government Reform. The Committee considered the bill and ordered it to be reported to the full House on February 12, 2004, by unanimous consent.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure though there will be a minor cost for the Clerk of the House of Representatives to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the Shock players, Head Coach Bill Laimbeer, and President and team owner William Davidson, as required under the resolution.

Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?: No.

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

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H.Res. 475 — Congratulating the San Jose Earthquakes for winning the 2003 Major League Soccer Cup (*Honda*)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, March 3, 2004, under suspension of the rules.

Summary: The resolution contains 13 findings regarding the San Jose Earthquakes, the 2003 Major League Soccer Cup champions, and states that it is resolved:

“That the House of Representatives—

- “congratulates the San Jose Earthquakes for winning the 2003 Major League Soccer Cup;
- “recognizes the achievement of the San Jose Earthquakes' players, coaches, staff, and supporters in bringing the 2003 Major League Soccer Cup to San Jose;
- “commends the San Jose community for its enthusiastic support of the Earthquakes; and
- “expresses the hope that Major League Soccer will continue to inspire fans and young players in the United States and around the world by producing teams of San Jose's high caliber.”

Additional Information: On November 23, 2003, the San Jose Earthquakes defeated the Chicago Fire to win the 2003 Major League Soccer Cup. The teams scored 6 goals combined, breaking the Major League Soccer Cup championship match scoring record. According to the resolution's findings, the League has only been around for only eight seasons.

Committee Action: The resolution was introduced on December 8, 2003, and referred to the House Committee on Government Reform. The Committee considered the bill and ordered it to be reported to the full House on February 26, 2004, by unanimous consent.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?: No.

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

Staff Contact: Sheila Moloney, sheila.moloney@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-9719.

S. 1881—Medical Devices Technical Corrections Act (Sen. Alexander)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, March 9th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The Senate passed S. 1881 on November 25, 2003. The House approved a similar bill (H.R. 3493) on January 27, 2004, by a vote of 333-0.

Summary: S. 1881 would make technical and clarifying corrections to the Medical Device User Fee and Modernization Act of 2002 (H.R. 5651; Public Law 107-250). This law established a user fee program for the federal regulation of medical devices. S. 1881 leaves the underlying substance of the program unchanged.

Committee Action: The Committee on Energy and Commerce approved S. 1881, with amendment, by voice vote on March 3, 2004. The amendment made in Committee aligned S. 1881 with the bill previously passed by the House, H.R. 3493.

Cost to Taxpayers: There is no indication that anything in S. 1881 would yield a cost to taxpayers.

Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?: No.

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

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is not available.

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H.Con.Res. 373— Expressing the sense of Congress that Kids Love a Mystery is a program that promotes literacy and should be encouraged (*Miller of California*)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, March 9th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 373 expresses the sense of Congress that:
“(1) Kids Love a Mystery is a program that helps promote literacy and reading and should be supported and encouraged; and

“(2) the President should issue a proclamation encouraging the people of the United States and interested groups to promote Kids Love a Mystery with appropriate programs and activities.”

Additional Background: Kids Love a Mystery was founded in 1997 and is sponsored by the Mystery Writers of America. The group has designated October as “Kids Love a Mystery Month.” According to the Kids Love a Mystery website, its goals are:

1. To increase literacy;
2. To heighten public awareness of the fact that more kids choose mysteries to read than any other genre of fiction;
3. To get kids and mystery authors together;
4. To get kids and mystery stories together—no matter the format (books, plays, games, website, etc.).

Committee Action: The resolution was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce on February 26, 2004, but was not considered.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?: No.

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

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