



Legislative Bulletin.....September 7, 2004

Contents:

- H.R. 4381—Harvey and Bernice Jones Post Office Building Designation Act
- H.R. 4442—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1050 North Hills Boulevard in Reno, Nevada, as the “Guardians of Freedom Memorial Post Office Building” and to authorize the installation of a plaque at such site
- H.R. 4556—General William Carey Lee Post Office Building Designation Act
- H.R. 4618—Anthony I. Lombardi Memorial Post Office Building Designation Act
- H.R. 4654—To reauthorize the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 through fiscal year 2007

Summary of the Bills Under Consideration Today:

Total Number of New Government Programs: 0

Total Cost of Discretionary Authorizations: \$75 million over three years

Effect on Revenue: \$0

Total Change in Mandatory Spending: \$0

Total New State & Local Government Mandates: 0

Total New Private Sector Mandates: 0

H.R. 4381—Harvey and Bernice Jones Post Office Building Designation Act (Boozman)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, September 7th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 4381 would designate the U.S. postal facility located at 2811 Springdale Avenue in Springdale, Arkansas, as the “Harvey and Bernice Jones Post Office Building.”

Additional Background: Harvey and Bernice Jones were well-known philanthropists and civic leaders in Arkansas.

Committee Action: On May 18, 2004, the bill was referred to the Government Reform Committee, which, on July 8th, marked up and by unanimous consent ordered the bill reported to the full House.

Cost to Taxpayers: The only costs associated with a postal facility 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.

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. 4442—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1050 North Hills Boulevard in Reno, Nevada, as the “Guardians of Freedom Memorial Post Office Building” and to authorize the installation of a plaque at such site (Gibbons)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, September 7th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 4442 would designate the U.S. postal facility located at 1050 North Hills Boulevard in Reno, Nevada, as the “Guardians of Freedom Memorial Post Office Building” and would authorize the Office of Veterans' Services of the State of Nevada to install, maintain, and update a plaque honoring Nevada’s members of the Armed Forces who were killed in the war on terrorism. The plaque, which would be paid for exclusively by the State of Nevada, would have to include the following inscription: “This post office building is dedicated in the memory of those men and women of the State of Nevada who have lost their lives while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States in the Global War on Terrorism and in Operation Iraqi Freedom.” Further, the plaque would have to feature inscriptions containing the names, ranks, branches of service, hometowns, and dates of death of such men and women.

Committee Action: On May 20, 2004, the bill was referred to the Government Reform Committee, which, on July 8th, marked up and by unanimous consent ordered the bill reported to the full House.

Cost to Taxpayers: The only costs associated with a postal facility renaming are those for sign and map changes, none of which significantly affect the federal budget. The State of Nevada would be responsible for the costs of producing, installing, maintaining, and updating the memorial plaque at the post office.

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.

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. 4556—General William Carey Lee Post Office Building Designation Act (*Etheridge*)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, September 7th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 4556 would designate the U.S. postal facility located at 1115 South Clinton Avenue in Dunn, North Carolina, as the “General William Carey Lee Post Office Building.”

Additional Background: General William Carey Lee was the first commanding general of the 101st Airborne Division parachute troops. His decorations and awards include the Distinguished Service Medal; World War I Victory Medal, with clasps for the Meuse-Argonne; Army of Germany Medal; World War II Victory Medal; America Defense Service Medal; American Campaign Medal; and the European, African, and Middle Eastern ribbons.

Committee Action: On June 14, 2004, the bill was referred to the Government Reform Committee, which, on July 21st, marked up and by unanimous consent ordered the bill reported to the full House.

Cost to Taxpayers: The only costs associated with a postal facility 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.

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. 4618—Anthony I. Lombardi Memorial Post Office Building Designation Act (*Engel*)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, September 7th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 4618 would designate the U.S. postal facility located at 10 West Prospect Street in Nanuet, New York, as the “Anthony I. Lombardi Memorial Post Office Building.”

Additional Background: Anthony I. Lombardi grew up in an orphanage in Nanuet, New York, won two Bronze Stars in World War II, and was a mailman in Nanuet during his 30-year career with the U.S. Postal Service.

Committee Action: On June 18, 2004, the bill was referred to the Government Reform Committee, which, on July 21st, marked up and by unanimous consent ordered the bill reported to the full House.

Cost to Taxpayers: The only costs associated with a postal facility 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.

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. 4654—To reauthorize the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 through fiscal year 2007 (Portman)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, September 7th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 4654 reauthorizes the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 (allows the President to reduce a foreign nation's debt if that nation redirects the money toward conservation efforts) through fiscal year 2007. The bill authorizes \$20 million for FY05, \$25 million for FY06, and \$30 million for FY07. The President's budget request for the TFCA in FY05 was \$20 million.

The bill also makes the following changes to the TFCA:

- Authorizes the use of \$200,000 each year for audits and evaluations; and
- Allows debt reduction agreements to redirect reduced principal payments (current law allows only the redirection of reduced interest payments).

Additional Background: Since the passage of the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998, seven agreements have been made, totaling \$42.8 million in U.S. contributions to reduce debt. The Administration expects to make at least three agreements annually through FY07.

Committee Action: H.R. 4654 was introduced on June 23, 2004, and referred to the Committee on International Relations. On June 24, 2004, the Committee favorably reported the bill by voice vote.

Cost to Taxpayers: H.R. 4654 authorizes \$75 million over three years.

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.

Constitutional Authority: The Committee on International Relations, in House Report 108-603, cites Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 (all laws "necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers").

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