

**Legislative Bulletin.....February 10, 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: 1*

Total Cost of Discretionary Authorizations: \$182,000

*Year to Date Prior to Today's Bills: \$9.95 billion over five years*

Total Amount of Revenue Reductions: \$0

*Year to Date Prior to Today's Bills: \$317 million over five years*

Total Increase in Mandatory Spending: \$0

*Year to Date Prior to Today's Bills: \$23 million over five years*

Total New State & Local Government Mandates: 0

*Year to Date Prior to Today's Bills: 0*

Total New Private Sector Mandates: 0

*Year to Date Prior to Today's Bills: 4*

**H.Con.Res. 358—Authorizing the printing of "History of the United States Capitol" as a House document (*Larson*)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.Con.Res. 358 would authorize the printing as a House document the book entitled “History of the United States Capitol” by Glenn Brown, as prepared under the auspices of the Architect of the Capitol with support from the United States Capitol Preservation Commission and the United States Capitol Historical Society. The total production and printing cost could not exceed \$182,000, and distribution would be determined jointly by the Clerk of the House and the Secretary of the Senate.

**Committee Action:** The resolution was referred to the Committee on House Administration on February 4, 2004, but was not considered by the Committee.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution would authorize up to \$182,000 for the production and printing of the book as a House document.

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

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### **H.Con.Res. 359—Permitting the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust (LaTourette)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.Con.Res. 359 would authorize the rotunda of the Capitol to be used on April 22, 2004, as part of the commemoration of the Days of Remembrance of Holocaust victims.

**Additional Background:** Holocaust Remembrance Day is a day that has been set aside for remembering the victims of the Holocaust and for reminding Americans of the horrors of that chapter in European history. The United States Holocaust Memorial Council, created by act of Congress in 1980, is mandated to lead the nation in civic commemorations and to encourage appropriate observances throughout the country. Holocaust Remembrance Day, or *Yom Hashoah* in Hebrew, corresponds to the 27<sup>th</sup> day of Nisan on the Hebrew calendar—the date on which Israel commemorates the Holocaust victims. Observances and remembrance activities can occur during the week of Remembrance that runs from the Sunday before *Yom Hashoah* through the Sunday after. This year’s Days of Remembrance are April 18-25.

For more information, visit this website: <http://www.ushmm.org/remembrance/dor/>

**Committee Action:** The resolution was referred to the Committee on House Administration on February 4, 2004, but was not considered by the Committee.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution would authorize no new expenditure.

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

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**H.Con.Res. 357— Permitting the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Dr. Dorothy Height (Watson)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, February 10, 2004, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** The resolution authorizes the use of the Capitol rotunda for use on March 24, 2004, for a ceremony to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Dr. Dorothy Height, under such conditions as the Architect of the Capitol may prescribe.

**Note:** The House passed H.R. 1821 on October 15, 2003 to award the medal to Dr. Height. CBO has estimated that it costs \$30,000 to design a Gold Medal and that each medal has \$5,500 worth of gold. To read the RSC legislative bulletin on the authorization for this gold medal go to: <http://johnshadegg.house.gov/rsc/LB101503.pdf>

**Additional Information:** Dr. Dorothy Irene Height was born March 24, 1912, and has been a preeminent civil rights activist. Dr. Height has been President of the National Council of Negro Women since 1957 and among other awards, she has received the NAACP's highest honor for civil rights contributions, The Presidential Medal of Freedom awarded by President Clinton, The William L. Dawson Award presented by the Congressional Black Caucus, and The Citizens Medal Award for distinguished service presented by President Reagan.

In September 1998, Dr. Height signed on to a statement that read in part, "The Gingrich Congress has been an unmitigated disaster for women. The Gingrich Congress has voted 97 times this session to restrict abortion rights and is now trying to prevent approval of RU 486, the early abortion pill. The Gingrich Congress is trying to defund family planning programs, has ignored the Violence Against Women Act II, and has buried the patients' bill of rights. Pay equity and childcare have not been allowed to see the light of day" (Source: [http://www.feminist.org/research/report/102\\_three.html](http://www.feminist.org/research/report/102_three.html)).

**Committee Action:** The resolution was introduced on February 4, 2003 and referred to the House Committee on Administration. The Committee did not consider the resolution.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution has no cost.

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

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**H.Con.Res. 264—Authorizing and requesting the President to issue a  
proclamation to commemorate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of  
Constantino Brumidi (Mica)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2004.

**Summary:** H.Con.Res. 264 resolves that “the President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation commemorating the 200th anniversary of the birth of Constantino Brumidi and calling upon the people of the United States, State and local governments, and interested organizations to commemorate this anniversary with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs.”

**Additional Background:** According to the resolution, Constantino Brumidi was born in Rome, Italy, on July 26, 1805, and landed at New York Harbor on September 18, 1852, as a political exile. In 1855, Brumidi began his artistic work in the Capitol, and spent more than 25 years of his life painting, decorating, and beautifying the corridors, committee rooms, and Rotunda of the Capitol. In 1865, Brumidi painted, in just 11 months, his masterpiece “The Apotheosis of Washington” in the canopy of the eye of the Capitol dome. In 1877, at the age of 72, Constantino Brumidi began his last work, the fresco frieze encircling the top of the Rotunda, and 3 years later fell from a slipped scaffolding and was never able to return to work. Brumidi died as a result 3 months later in February 1880.

2005 marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Constantino Brumidi, as well as the 150th anniversary of the beginning of his artistic career in the Capitol and the 125th anniversary of his death.

**Committee Action:** The resolution was introduced on July 25, 2003, and referred to the Committee on Government Reform. The Committee considered the bill on October 2, 2003, and reported it to the House by unanimous consent.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

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

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