



Legislative Bulletin.....February 16, 2005

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H.Res. 91—Honoring the life and legacy of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri (*Rahall*)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, February 16th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Res. 91 would resolve that the House:

- “Condemns, in the strongest possible terms, the heinous act of terrorism that killed former Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri and others;
- “Extends its deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of all the victims and to the people of Lebanon in this moment of tragedy;
- “Recognizes the significant contributions made by Rafiq Hariri during his lifetime
- “Reaffirms that the people of Lebanon deserve the right to choose their leaders free of intimidation, terror, and foreign occupation in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1559; and
- “Urges all members of the international community to facilitate any investigation into this terrorist action and help bring the perpetrators of these ghastly actions to justice.”

Additional Background: A bomb exploded in Beirut, Lebanon on Monday, February 14, 2005, wounding 100 people and killing 15 others so far, including Rafiq Hariri, former Prime Minister of Lebanon.

Committee Action: On February 14, 2005, the resolution was referred to the International Relations Committee, which took no official action on it.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution would authorize 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.J.Res. 18—Recognizing the historic commitment of the U.S. to the recovery of and full accounting for Americans who are prisoners of war or in a missing status (Franks)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, February 16th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.J.Res. 18 would resolve that Congress:

- “recognizes the rescue missions carried out by units of the United States Army, including the 11th Airborne Division, 60 years ago in the Philippines during World War II as sterling examples of that commitment; and
- “recognizes the bravery and courage of the soldiers and the Filipino guerillas who participated in those rescue missions.”

The resolution also emphasizes that “the United States has an historic commitment to the recovery of and full accounting for Americans who are prisoners of war or in a missing status.”

Additional Background: During World War II, more than 75,000 American and Filipino military servicemen were captured on the Bataan Peninsula in the Philippines. These prisoners were forced to endure the 65-mile Bataan Death March through the jungles of the Philippines and were subjected to brutal abuse, from which many hundreds of Americans and many thousands of Filipinos died. Thousands more American and Filipino civilians were jailed across the region.

Toward the end of the war, U.S. Army units, together with various Filipino guerilla groups, successfully liberated thousands prisoners of war and civilians. In February 1945, elements of the 11th Airborne Division, particularly the 511th Parachute Infantry Regiment of that division, and the 672nd Amphibious Tractor Battalion conducted a risky mission behind enemy lines to rescue over 2,000 people at the Los Banos internment camp.

Committee Action: On February 14, 2005, the resolution was referred to the Armed Services Committee, which took no official action on it.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution would authorize 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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