



Legislative Bulletin.....March 16, 2004

Contents:

- H.Res. 551**—Thanking C-SPAN for its service to the House of Representatives on the anniversary of its first coverage of the proceedings of the House
- H.R. 3733** — To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 410 Huston Street in Altamont, Kansas, as the “Myron V. George Post Office”
- H.Res. 433** — Honoring the life and legacy of Luis A. Ferre
- H.J.Res. 87**—Honoring the life and legacy of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and recognizing his contributions on the anniversary of the date of his birth

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 million over five years

*Year to Date Prior to Today's Bills: \$10.347 billion over five years**

Total Amount of Revenue Reductions: \$ 0

Year to Date Prior to Today's Bills: \$303 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: 4

Total New Private Sector Mandates: 0

Year to Date Prior to Today's Bills: 7

*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. 551—Thanking C-SPAN for its service to the House of Representatives on the anniversary of its first coverage of the proceedings of the House (Ney)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, March 16th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Res. 551 resolves that the House:

“(1) expresses the thanks of the House of Representatives to the Cable-Satellite Public Affairs Network (C-SPAN) for its service to the House on the 25th anniversary of its first coverage of the proceedings of the House;

“(2) recognizes that for 25 years C-SPAN has met, and continues to meet each day, its mission of providing the Members of the House with a direct, unfiltered conduit to the American people on whose behalf they go to work every day, and in turn has provided direct access for the American people to their elected officials through call-in and other programs;

“(3) recognizes that since its inception 25 years ago, C-SPAN has forever changed the face of American political life, provided tremendous benefits to the American people and their elected officials, and has had a significant positive impact on the American democracy;

“(4) expresses its deep gratitude to Brian Lamb and the more than 275 C-SPAN employees who bring the proceedings of the House into the homes of tens of millions of Americans each day; and

“(5) commends C-SPAN and its employees for a tremendous 25 years of service to the American people and the Federal Government.”

Additional Background: C-SPAN is a nonprofit educational organization created in 1979 by Brian Lamb in order to provide live, gavel-to-gavel coverage of the House of Representatives. According to the resolution, C-SPAN’s first broadcast on March 19, 1979 brought the live proceedings of the House into 3.5 million American homes. Today, C-SPAN has a staff of 275, its around-the-clock programming is available to 86 million households via 7,900 cable systems, and an estimated 28,000,000 people watch C-SPAN each week;

Committee Action: The resolution was referred to the Committee on House Administration on March 9, 2004, but was not considered.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditures.

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. 3733 — To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 410 Huston Street in Altamont, Kansas, as the “Myron V. George Post Office” (Ryun)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, March 16, 2004, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 3733 would designate the postal facility located at 410 Huston Street in Altamont, Kansas as the “Myron V. George Post Office.”

Additional Information: Myron George was born January 6, 1900 and died on April 11, 1972. He was a Republican Congressman from Kansas who served from November 1950-January 1959. He was elected to fill the seat vacated upon the death of Herbert Meyer and he served for three succeeding congresses until his unsuccessful 1958 bid. He was a 2-year veteran of the United States Army with rank of corporal, was an officer with the Kansas State Highway Commission from 1939-1950, and was engaged in public relations in the transportation and construction fields. Source: <http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=G000129>

Committee Action: The bill was introduced on January 27, 2004 and referred to the House Committee on Government Reform, which considered the legislation and reported it to the full House on February 26, 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.”

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H.Res. 433 — Honoring the life and legacy of Luis A. Ferre (*Serrano*)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, March 16, 2004, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Res. 433 contains findings regarding the late Governor of Puerto Rico Luis A. Ferre, and states that it is resolved:

“That the House of Representatives—

- honors Luis A. Ferre for his outstanding political leadership, business savvy, advocacy for social justice, and great love and support of the arts; and
- expresses condolences on his passing to his wife, Tiody de Jesus, and his two children, Antonio Luis and Rosario, and grandchildren.

Additional Information: Luis Ferre was born in Puerto Rico on February 17, 1904, soon after Spain ceded control of Puerto Rico to the United States in 1898, and died on October 21, 2003. He studied at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and built his father's business, Puerto Rico Iron Works, into a successful industrial enterprise. He was a delegate to the Constitutional Convention in 1951 and was elected to the Puerto Rican House of Representatives in 1953. According to the resolution's findings “Luis Ferre saw the opportunity to advocate Puerto Rican statehood in 1967, the year of the first political status plebiscite on the island,” which he used, though it was unsuccessful, “to mobilize statehood forces and to establish a new political entity, the New Progressive Party.” He served as Governor for one term, from 1969 to 1973 and received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1991 from President George H.W. Bush. The governor signed into law “several pieces of social legislation that contributed to the betterment of Puerto Rican workers, including pay increases for teachers and policemen as well as other public employees and ‘Christmas bonuses’, whereby workers received a check for at least 4 percent of their annual salary during the holiday season” and founded the Ponce Museum of Arts.

Committee Action: The bill was introduced on November 5, 2003 and referred to the House Committee on Government Reform, which considered the legislation and reported it to the full House on February 26, 2004, by unanimous consent.

Cost to Taxpayers: None.

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.J.Res. 87—Honoring the life and legacy of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and recognizing his contributions on the anniversary of the date of his birth (*Slaughter*)

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

Summary: H.J.Res. 87 would resolve that Congress, “on behalf of the American people, honors the life and legacy of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and recognizes his contributions on the anniversary of the date of his birth.”

The resolution asserts that, “President Roosevelt fulfilled his promise to lead the Nation through the Great Depression by creating a series of New Deal programs that fundamentally changed the role of Government.”

The resolution also points out that FDR led the nation through World War II, directing “the most productive partnership with private enterprise in the Nation's history.” The result was the United States’ out-producing all the Axis and the Allied powers combined, contributing nearly 300,000 planes, 100,000 tanks, 2,000,000 trucks, and 87,000 warships to the Allied cause.

Additionally, the resolution notes President Roosevelt’s extensive efforts to support the search for a cure for polio, by which he had been paralyzed in 1921.

Lastly, the resolution discusses Eleanor Roosevelt’s expansion of the role of the First Lady, with her work on civil rights, women's rights, and human rights (she was the first chairman of the U.N. Commission on Human Rights).

Additional Background: President Roosevelt was born in Hyde Park, New York, on January 30, 1882, and became the only U.S. President elected to a fourth term in office.

To learn more about FDR, visit these two websites:

<http://www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu/index.html>

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/history/presidents/fr32.html>

Committee Action: On February 26, 2004, the Government Reform Committee marked up the resolution and by unanimous consent ordered it reported to the full House.

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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