



Legislative Bulletin.....May 11, 2004

Contents:

- H.R. 2523**—Tomochichi United States Courthouse Designation Act
- H.Con.Res. 389**—Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the D.C. Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run
- H.Res. 608**—Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Department of Defense should rectify deficiencies in the military postal system to ensure that members of the Armed Forces stationed overseas are able to receive and send mail in a timely manner as well as receive and send election ballots in time to be counted in the 2004 elections
- H.R. 4299**—Dr. Miguel A. Nevarez Post Office Building Designation Act
- H.Res. 622**—Supporting the goals and ideals of Peace Officers Memorial Day
- H.R. 3939**—Mary Ann Collura Post Office Building Redesignation Act
- H.Res. 613**—Recognizing and honoring the tenth anniversary of Vietnam Human Rights Day
- H.Con.Res. 352**—Recognizing the contributions of people of Indian origin to the United States and the benefits of working together with India towards promoting peace, prosperity, and freedom among all countries of the world
- H.Res. 577**—Recognizing 50 years of relations between the United States Government and the European Union
- H.Con.Res. 378**—Calling on the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to immediately and unconditionally release Father Thaddeus Nguyen Van Ly
- H.J.Res. 91**—Recognizing the 60th anniversary of the Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944
- H.Con.Res. 409**—Recognizing with humble gratitude the more than 16,000,000 veterans who served in the United States Armed Forces during World War II and the Americans who supported the war effort on the home front and celebrating the completion of the National World War II Memorial on the National Mall in the District of Columbia

Summary of the Bills Under Consideration Today:

Total Number of New Government Programs: 0

Year to Date Prior to Today’s Bills: 17

Total Cost of Discretionary Authorizations: \$0

Year to Date Prior to Today’s Bills: At least \$205.26 billion[#] over five years

Total Amount of Revenue Reductions: \$0

Year to Date Prior to Today’s Bills: \$43.92 billion over five years

Total Change in Mandatory Spending: \$0

Year to Date Prior to Today’s Bills: \$474 million over five years

Total New State & Local Government Mandates: 0

Year to Date Prior to Today’s Bills: 11[#]

Total New Private Sector Mandates: 0

Year to Date Prior to Today’s Bills: 11

[#] This figure does not include H.R. 3873, the Child Nutrition Improvement and Integrity Act. A CBO analysis of this bill is not yet completed.

H.R. 2523—Tomochichi United States Courthouse Designation Act (Burns)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, May 11th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 2523 designates the United States courthouse located at 125 Bull Street in Savannah, Georgia, as the “Tomochichi United States Courthouse.”

Additional Background: Tomochichi was born around the year 1650 into the Creek Indian tribe town of Coweta. He was raised as a Creek warrior and became well respected within his village for his good judgment and wisdom. Even at a young age, he was consulted on various matters of politics and law.

In 1728, he established the town of Yamacraw located on the Savannah River. In 1733, Tomochichi encountered English settlers led by General James Edward Oglethorpe, who arrived at what was to become the new colony of Georgia. Tomochichi befriended Oglethorpe and assisted him in not only the creation of a new English colony to be named Savannah, but also in the colony's relations with neighboring Creek tribes. In 1734, Tomochichi accompanied Oglethorpe to England to approve a treaty between the Creek Nation and the English.

The friendship between Tomochichi and Oglethorpe aided in the peaceful coexistence between the Creek and the English during the period prior to the founding of the United States. Tomochichi died in 1739, and was buried in what is now known as Wright Square in Savannah, Georgia.

Committee Action: The Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management forwarded H.R. 2523 to the full committee by voice vote on July 16, 2003. The full Transportation and Infrastructure Committee reported the bill to the House by voice vote on February 25, 2004.

Cost to Taxpayers: The only costs associated with a courthouse 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: The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, in House Report 108-447, cites Article I, Section 8, but fails to cite a specific clause.

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H.Con.Res. 389 — Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the D.C. Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run (LaTourette)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, May 11, 2004, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: The resolution authorizes the 2004 District of Columbia Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run to be run through the Capitol grounds on June 4, 2004, as part of the journey of the Special Olympics torch to the District of Columbia Special Olympics summer games. It provides that the Capitol Police Board may take actions necessary to carry out the event and that the Architect of the Capitol may prescribe conditions for physical preparations.

Additional Background: The Law Enforcement Torch Run® for Special Olympics is the movement's largest grass-roots fundraiser and public awareness vehicle. According to its website, more than 85,000 law enforcement officers around the world carried the “Flame of Hope” across 35 nations, raising awareness and funds for Special Olympics, and raising more than \$19 million in 2003 for Special Olympics.
(Source: http://www.specialolympics.org/Special+Olympics+Public+Website/English/Support/Law_Enforcement_Torch_Run/default.htm)

Committee Action: The resolution was introduced on March 17, 2004, and referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. The Committee reported the resolution to the full House by unanimous consent on March 24, 2004.

Cost to Taxpayers: CBO estimates that passage of H.Con.Res. 389 would result in no significant cost to the Federal government.

Constitutional Authority: The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, in Report 108-468, finds authority under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution (Powers of Congress) but fails to cite a specific clause.

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.

H.Res. 608—Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Department of Defense should rectify deficiencies in the military postal system to ensure that members of the Armed Forces stationed overseas are able to receive and send mail in a timely manner as well as receive and send election ballots in time to be counted in the 2004 elections (Forbes)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, May 11th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Res. 608 would resolve a sense of the House that:

- “it is in the interest of the United States to immediately resolve long-standing military mail delivery problems so that our troops may receive mail from their families when they most need it;
- “it is in the interest of the United States to immediately resolve long-standing military mail delivery problems so that our troops are not disenfranchised in the 2004 election;
- “the Secretary of Defense should establish a system that expedites the delivery of election ballots to the members of our Armed Forces so that they may be counted in the election;
- “the Secretary of Defense should establish a system that accurately tracks military postal transit times; and
- “the House of Representatives stands ready to assist in resolving these issues.”

Committee Action: On April 28, 2004, the resolution was referred to the Committee on Armed Services, which did not consider it.

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. 4299—Dr. Miguel A. Nevarez Post Office Building Designation Act
(Hinojosa)**

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, May 11th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 4299 designates the U.S. Postal Service facility located at 410 South Jackson Road in Edinburg, Texas, as the “Dr. Miguel A. Nevarez Post Office Building.”

Additional Background: Dr. Nevarez was the first Hispanic President of The University of Texas-Pan American and is the longest seated Hispanic of any four-year university or college, serving 23 years. Dr. Nevarez recently announced he would be stepping down as president of UTPA by August of 2004.

During his career, several Texas governors and U.S. presidents have recognized Dr. Nevarez for his contributions to the world of education. In 2000, he was featured in The Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education where he was credited with creating a Hispanic middle class in South Texas. Dr. Nevarez has repeatedly been named to Hispanic Business Magazine's "100 Most Influential Hispanics in America." Most recently, he was named to Hispanic Engineer and Information Technology Magazine's list of "50 Most Influential Hispanics in Business Technology."

Committee Action: H.R. 4299 was introduced on May 6, 2004, and referred to the Committee on Government Reform. The committee did not take action on the bill.

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 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 a committee report citing constitutional authority is not 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. 622—Supporting the goals and ideals of Peace Officers Memorial Day (Hefley)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, May 11th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Res. 622 would resolve that the House:

- "supports the goals and ideals of Peace Officers Memorial Day to honor Federal, State, and local peace officers killed or disabled in the line of duty; and
- "calls upon the people of the United States to observe such a day with appropriate ceremonies and respect."

Additional Background: Peace officers include police officers, park police, correctional officers, and others involved in law enforcement. According to the resolution, 145 peace officers were killed in the line of duty in 2003. In addition, every year one out of every nine

peace officers is assaulted, one out of every 25 peace officers is injured, and one out of every 4,400 peace officers is killed in the line of duty.

Section 136 of title 36, United States Code, requests that the President issue each year a proclamation: 1) designating May 15 as Peace Officers Memorial Day in honor of federal, state, and local officers killed or disabled in the line of duty; 2) directing that the U.S. flag on federal buildings and property be flown at half-staff; and 3) encouraging citizens and state and local governments to observe Peace Officers Memorial Day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

On May 15, 2004, more than 20,000 peace officers are expected to gather in Washington, D.C., to honor the fallen.

On June 3, 2003, the House passed a nearly identical resolution (H.Res. 231) by a vote of 422-0.

Committee Action: On May 4, 2004, the resolution was referred to the Committee on Government Reform, which did not consider the resolution.

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. 3939—Mary Ann Collura Post Office Building Redesignation Act (*Rothman*)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, May 11th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 3939 would redesignate the Fair Lawn Main Post Office, located at 14-24 Abbott Road in Fair Lawn, New Jersey, as the “Mary Ann Collura Post Office Building.”

Additional Background: Mary Ann Collura was a police officer in Fair Lawn, NJ, killed in the line of duty while trying to arrest a suspect on April 17, 2003. Officer Collura, who was 43 when she was killed, was Fair Lawn’s first female police officer and had been on the force for 18 years. For additional information, visit this webpage:

http://www.fairlawnpd.com/special_pages/mare136/mary_ann.htm

Committee Action: On March 11, 2004, the bill was referred to the Government Reform Committee, which reported the bill to the full House by unanimous consent on April 1, 2004.

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 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 a committee report citing constitutional authority is not available, Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution grants Congress the authority to “establish Post Offices and post Roads.”

RSC Staff Contact: Paul S. Teller, paul.teller@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-9718

H.Res. 613—Recognizing and honoring the tenth anniversary of Vietnam Human Rights Day (Davis, Tom)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, May 11th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Res. 613 would resolve that the House:

- “honors and recognizes the 10th anniversary of Vietnam Human Rights Day;
- “supports the designation of a ‘Vietnam Human Rights Day;’ and
- “urges all Americans to share in this commemoration so as to have a greater appreciation of the role Vietnam Human Rights Day has played in helping to defend and further the liberties and freedom of all Vietnamese people.”

The resolution recognizes the “uncounted numbers of innocent Vietnamese, including religious leaders and ethnic minorities, who have been tortured, imprisoned, or held under house arrest by the Socialist Republic of Vietnam because of their nonviolent struggle for freedom and human rights.”

Additional Background: On May 11, 1990, Vietnamese human rights activist, Dr. Nguyen Dan Que, issued the Manifesto of the Non-Violent Movement for Human Rights in Vietnam, which calls upon Hanoi to respect basic human rights, accept a multiparty system, and restore the right of the Vietnamese people to choose their own form of government through free and fair elections. Public Law 103-258 designated May 11, 1994 as “Vietnam Human Rights Day,” in support of efforts by the Non-Violent Movement for Human Rights in Vietnam to achieve freedom and human rights for the people of Vietnam.

For more background information and to read the Manifesto, visit this webpage:

<http://www.caotraonhanban.org/Manifesto.asp>

Committee Action: On April 30, 2004, the resolution was referred to the Committee on Government Reform, which did not consider the resolution.

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.

RSC Staff Contact: Paul S. Teller, paul.teller@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-9718

H.Con.Res. 352 - Recognizing the contributions of people of Indian origin to the United States and the benefits of working together with India towards promoting peace, prosperity, and freedom among all countries of the world **as introduced (Millender-McDonald)**

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, May 11, 2004, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: The resolution has seventeen findings regarding India and resolves:

“That Congress—

“(1) honors the contributions of people of Indian origin to the United States, and

“(2) is committed to working together with India towards promoting peace, prosperity, and freedom among all countries of the world.”

Additional Information: According to the resolution’s findings, India is the largest democratic country in the world and “enjoys a close and mutual friendship with the United States based on common values and common interests.” The resolution also cites the contributions of India and her people to the U.S. economy and culture, as well as noting that India has been “a key partner in the war against terrorism.”

Committee Action: The resolution was introduced on January 28, 2004, and referred to the House Committee on International Relations, which on March 31st by voice vote, agreed to seek consideration under suspension of the rules.

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.

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

H.Res. 577 — Recognizing 50 years of relations between the United States Government and the European Union (Bereuter)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, May 11, 2004, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: The resolution has 10 findings regarding the European Union and its relationship to the U.S. and resolves:

“That the House of Representatives—

“(1) celebrates the 50th anniversary of relations between the United States and the European Union;

“(2) commends the United States mission to the European Union and the mission of the European Commission to the United States for the professional representation of the interests of the United States and European Union over the past 50 years;

“(3) recognizes that continued cooperation between the United States and the European Union is essential to resolving international disputes, promoting peace, expanding global economic opportunity, combating global threats, and being prepared to respond to unforeseen events; and

“(4) encourages enhanced United States-European Union strategic discussion and institutional cooperation, including increased discussions between representatives of the United States Congress and the European Parliament through the Transatlantic Legislators’ Dialogue.”

Additional Information: According to the resolution, this month, an event commemorating 50 years of relations between the United States and the European Union will take place in Washington, D.C. The 50-year anniversary is traced back to May 9, 1950, when a proposal was introduced among the countries of Europe committed to promoting a united Europe. This proposal led, in 1951, to the founding of the European Coal and Steel Community, which has evolved into the European Union (EU). Last November, Secretary of State Colin Powell dedicated a plaque in Brussels commemorating 50 years of cooperation between the US and the EU, and said: “the United States embraces the European Union as a global partner for peace and security . . . and that the world's best hope for meeting [global] challenges still rests, in large part, on a deep, broad, and lasting partnership between Europe and the United States.”

Committee Action: The resolution was introduced on March 25, 2004, and referred to the House Committee on International Relations. The Subcommittee on Europe considered the resolution, amended it, and forwarded it to the full committee, which did not consider the resolution.

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.

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

H.Con.Res. 378 — Calling on the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to immediately and unconditionally release Father Thaddeus Nguyen Van Ly, and for other purposes (Smith of New Jersey)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, May 11, 2004, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: The resolution has eleven findings regarding Father Thaddeus Nguyen Van Ly, a Roman Catholic priest being held captive by the Vietnamese Government, and resolves that:

“(1) Congress--

“(A) condemns and deplores the arbitrary detention of Father Thaddeus Nguyen Van Ly by the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and calls for his immediate and unconditional release;

“(B) condemns and deplores the violations of freedom of speech, religion, movement, association, and the lack of due process afforded to individuals in Vietnam; and

“(C) strongly urges the Government of Vietnam to consider the implications of its actions for the broader relationship between the United States and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam; including the impact on trade relations; and

“(2) it is the sense of Congress that the United States--

“(A) should make the immediate release of Father Ly a top concern;

“(B) should continue to urge the Government of Vietnam to comply with internationally recognized standards for basic freedoms and human rights;

“(C) should make it clear to the Government of Vietnam that the detention of Father Ly and other persons and the infliction of human rights violations on these individuals are not in the interest of Vietnam because they create obstacles to improved bilateral relations and cooperation with the United States; and

“(D) should reiterate the deep concern of the United States regarding the continued imprisonment of Father Ly, and other persons whose human rights are being violated, and discuss their legal status and immediate humanitarian needs with the Government of Vietnam.”

Additional Information: In February 2001, Father Thaddeus Nguyen Van Ly, a Catholic priest, was formally invited to testify before the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom but was denied permission to leave the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and thus, instead, submitted written testimony critical of Vietnam that was read into the Commission record on February 13, 2001. He was subsequently detained under administrative detention by the Government of Vietnam and branded as traitor for “slandering” the Communist party and “distorting” the religious policy of the Government of Vietnam. The Government of Vietnam suspending Father Ly's religious duties and removed him from his church.

He was convicted in a one-day, lawyer-less trial, and sentenced to two years in prison for violating the terms of his administrative detention, 13 years in prison for “damaging the Government's unity policy,” and 5 years of administrative probation upon release from prison. Efforts by U.S. Government officials and the world community helped reduce Father Ly's sentence by 5 years, according to the resolution.

Committee Action: The resolution was introduced on March 4, 2004, and referred to the House Committee on International Relations, which on March 31, agreed, by voice vote, to seek full House consideration under suspension of the rules.

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.

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

H.J.Res. 91—Recognizing the 60th anniversary of the Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944 (*Michaud*)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, May 11th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.J.Res. 91 resolves that Congress:

- 1) supports the recognition of the 60th anniversary of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, and
- (2) requests the President to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe the 60th anniversary of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Additional Background: On June 22, 1944, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed into law the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, commonly known as the GI Bill of Rights.

According to the resolution, the GI Bill of Rights provided education and training benefits to more than 7,800,000 United States veterans, and subsequent Acts have provided those benefits to more than 21,500,000 United States veterans. The bill also provided unemployment benefits, small business loans, and job counseling services to assist veterans with the transition from military service to civilian employment and established home loan programs for United States veterans that, since 1944, have guaranteed more than 17,500,000 loans, totaling aggregate loan amounts of more than \$800,000,000,000.

Committee Action: The resolution was not considered by committee.

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.Con.Res. 409—Recognizing with humble gratitude the more than 16,000,000 veterans who served in the United States Armed Forces during World War II and the Americans who supported the war effort on the home front and celebrating the completion of the National World War II Memorial on the National Mall in the District of Columbia (Moran of Kansas)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, May 11th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 409 resolves that Congress “recognizes with humble gratitude the more than 16,000,000 veterans who served in the United States Armed Forces during World War II and the Americans who supported the war effort on the home front and celebrates the completion of the National World War II Memorial on the National Mall in the District of Columbia.”

The findings of the resolution mention several individuals involved in the World War II Memorial, including:

- World War II veteran Roger Durbin of Berkey, Ohio, who first proposed the construction of a National World War II memorial;
- Marcy Kaptur of Ohio, who introduced legislation to establish the memorial;

- Friedrich St. Florian, the design architect for the memorial;
- The late Representative Bob Stump of Arizona, who sponsored several measures to expedite the funding and construction of the memorial;
- National Chairman Senator Robert J. Dole and National Co-Chairman Frederick W. Smith, who were instrumental in raising over \$194,000,000 for the construction of the memorial; and
- Actor Tom Hanks, the Advertising Council, and the History Channel, who played a key role in increasing public awareness of the heroic achievements of American World War II veterans and the war effort and in raising support for the memorial.

Additional Background: In Public Law 103-32, approved May 25, 1993, Congress authorized the American Battle Monuments Commission to design and construct a World War II memorial in Washington, D.C. Construction began on the memorial in September 2001 at the Rainbow Pool site on the National Mall at the east end of the Reflecting Pool between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument. President George W. Bush will formally dedicate the memorial on May 29, 2004.

More than 400,000 American servicemen and servicewomen died in World War II.

For more information on the memorial and events scheduled in honor of the dedication, click here: <http://www.wwiimemorial.com>.

Committee Action: The resolution was introduced on April 28, 2004. It was not considered by a committee.

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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