



## Legislative Bulletin.....September 22, 2004

- H.R. 2449** - Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission Act  
**H.R. 2528** - Hudson-Fulton-Champlain 400th Commemoration Commission Act of 2003  
**H.Con.Res. 489** - Supporting the goals and ideals of National Preparedness Month  
**H.Res. 772** - Supporting the goals and ideals of National Long-Term Care Residents' Rights Week  
**H.Con.Res. 473** - Expressing the sense of Congress that the President should designate September 11 as a national day of voluntary service, charity, and compassion  
**H.Res. 761** - Congratulating Lance Armstrong on his record-setting victory in the 2004 Tour de France  
**H.R. 5039** - Eva Holtzman Post Office Building Designation Act  
**H.R. 480** - United States Postal Service Henry Johnson Annex Redesignation Act  
**H.Con.Res. 161** - Recognizing the outstanding efforts of the individuals and communities who volunteered or donated items to the North Platte Canteen in North Platte, Nebraska, during World War II from December 25, 1941, to April 1, 1946  
**H.Con.Res. 486** - Recognizing and honoring military unit family support volunteers for their dedicated service to the United States, the Armed Forces, and members of the Armed Forces and their families  
**H.Con.Res. 488** - Commending the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and its employees for its dedication and hard work during Hurricanes Charley and Frances  
**H.R. 3428** - Justin W. Williams United States Attorney's Building Designation Act  
**H.R. 3734** - Joe Skeen Federal Building Designation Act  
**H.R. 1057** - The Adoption Tax Relief Guarantee Act  
**S.Con.Res. 137** - Calling for the suspension of Sudan's membership on the United Nations Commission on Human Rights  
**H.Res. 767** - Condemning the terrorist attack in Jakarta, Indonesia, that occurred on 9/9/04  
**H.Con.Res. 475** - Encouraging the International Olympic Committee to select New York City as the site of the 2012 Olympic Games  
**H.Con.Res. 494** - Supporting the goals and purposes of National Farm Safety and Health Week and applauding the men and women who provide a stable supply of food and fiber for the United States and the world
- Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 1308**—All-American Tax Relief Act of 2003

### Summary of the Bills Under Consideration Today:

**Total Number of New Government Programs:** 0

**Total Cost of Discretionary Authorizations:** \$9.4 million over 11 years

**Effect on Revenue:** Saves taxpayers \$1.17 billion over the FY2010-FY2014 period

**Total Change in Mandatory Spending:** \$0

**Total New State & Local Government Mandates:** 0

**Total New Private Sector Mandates:** 0

**Number of Bills Without Committee Reports:** 3

**Number of Reported Bills that Don't Cite Specific Clauses of Constitutional Authority:** 0

## **H.R. 2449 — Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission Act**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, September 22, 2004, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** The bill authorizes \$2.4 million over 12 years to the Department of the Interior for the establishment of a 25-Member Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission and an additional \$3.5 million for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to provide grants authorized under H.R. 2449. The Commission is charged, among other things, with planning, developing, and carrying out programs and activities and appropriate to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the Civil War, facilitating Civil War-related activities, coordinating and facilitating distribution of scholarly research, publications, and interpretations of the Civil War.

The bill authorizes \$3.5 million for the NEH to award grants “for appropriate activities relating to the sesquicentennial of the Civil War” and specifies that the NEH “shall consider established university, museum, or academic programs with national scope that sponsor multidisciplinary projects, including those that concentrate on the role of African Americans in the Civil War.”

Members would serve without pay but would be reimbursed for travel expenses, and can hire staff or use personnel from other federal agencies. By December 30, 2015, the Commission must submit to Congress a final report and under the bill the Commission is terminated 90 days following submission of this report, and the Inspector General is authorized to perform an annual audit.

**Committee Action:** The bill was introduced on June 12, 2003, and referred to the House Government Reform Committee, which considered the bill and reported it to full House on July 21, 2004 by voice vote.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$200,000 annually from 2005 through 2016 (\$2.4 million total) for administrative expenses of the commission and a total of \$3.5 million over that period for the NEH to provide grants for activities related to the sesquicentennial.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** The bill creates, under the jurisdiction of the Interior Department, a new 11-year federal commission.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Constitutional Authority:** A House Government Reform Committee report citing authority is unavailable.

**RSC Staff Contact:** Sheila Cole, sheila.cole@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-9719

---

## **H.R. 2528 — Hudson-Fulton-Champlain 400th Commemoration Commission Act of 2004**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, September 22, 2004, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** The bill authorizes \$3.5 million over seven years to the Department of the Interior for the establishment of the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain 400th Commemoration Commission. The commission is authorized to assist in planning the commemorations of the voyages of Henry Hudson, the first European to sail up the Hudson River, Robert Fulton, the first person to use steam navigation on a commercial basis, and Samuel de Champlain, the first European to discover and explore Lake Champlain.

The Commission is authorized to approve grants up to \$20,000 each, “to communities, nonprofit organizations, and commemorative commissions formed by the States to develop programs to assist in the commemoration” and grants up to \$20,000 each “to research and scholarly organizations to research, publish, or distribute information relating to the early history of the voyages of Hudson, Fulton, and Champlain.”

The 31-member commission must submit by September 30, 2010, a final report on the Commission’s activities, a final accounting of funds, and the findings and recommendations of the Commission. Members of the Commission will serve without pay, though travel expenses will be reimbursed, and staff of the commission may be paid.

The Inspector General is required to perform an annual audit of the Commission and the Commission itself must terminate on December 31, 2010, according to H.R. 2528.

**Committee Action:** The bill was introduced on June 19, 2003, and referred to the House Government Reform Committee, which considered the bill and reported it to full House on July 21, 2004 by voice vote.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The bill authorizes \$500,000 a year from FY2005-2011 (\$3.5 million).

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** The bill creates, under the jurisdiction of the Interior Department, a new seven-year federal commission.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Constitutional Authority:** A House Government Reform Committee report citing authority is unavailable.

**RSC Staff Contact:** Sheila Cole, sheila.cole@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-9719

---

---

## **H.Con.Res. 489 — Supporting the goals and ideals of National Preparedness Month (Cox) — *as introduced***

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, September 22, 2004, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** The resolution, as introduced, states that it is resolved that Congress:

“(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Preparedness Month;

“(2) supports the designation of National Preparedness Month; and

“(3) urges the Federal Government, States, localities, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, other entities, and the people of the United States to observe National Preparedness Month with appropriate events and activities that promote citizen and community preparedness for terrorist attacks and other emergencies.”

**Additional Information:** According to the resolution’s findings, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Education, the America Prepared Campaign, the American Red Cross, and a coalition of more than 50 national organizations will launch National Preparedness Month on September 9, 2004. National Preparedness Month “will promote public awareness about the numerous ways that Americans can better prepare themselves and our Nation for terrorist attacks and other emergencies [and] ... additional information about citizen preparedness can be obtained through the Department of Homeland Security's Ready campaign, by telephone at 1-800-BE-READY, and on the Internet at [www.Ready.gov](http://www.Ready.gov)”

**Committee Action:** The resolution was introduced on September 9, 2004, and referred to the House Government Reform Committee, which did not consider it.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** None

**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.

**RSC Staff Contact:** Sheila Cole, [sheila.cole@mail.house.gov](mailto:sheila.cole@mail.house.gov), (202) 226-9719

---

---

**H.Res. 772— Supporting the goals and ideals of National Long-Term Care Residents' Rights Week and recognizing the importance to the Nation of residents of long-term care facilities, including senior citizens and individuals living with disabilities (*Waxman*) — as introduced**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, September 22, 2004, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** The resolution states that it is resolved that the House of Representatives:

“(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Long-Term Care Residents’ Rights Week; and

“(2) encourages the President to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe that week with appropriate ceremonies and activities to demonstrate the importance of long-term care residents to our everyday lives.”

*RSC Note:* Though the resolution specifically supports the “goals and ideals” of the week, as of press time, it could not be determined if the sponsor of the week (the National Citizens’ Coalition for Nursing Home Reform (NCCNHR)), has any *officially stated* “goals and ideals” for the week or if the

phrase in the resolution is intended as a more general expression of support. See: [http://www.nccnhr.org/public/50\\_152\\_3249.cfm](http://www.nccnhr.org/public/50_152_3249.cfm)

**Additional Information:** According to the resolution's findings there are nearly 1.7 million individuals living in 17,000 nursing homes, one million individuals living in 46,000 board and care and assisted living facilities in the U.S., and almost 160,000 people younger than 65 years of age living in the Nation's nursing homes. The week beginning October 3, 2004, is National Long-Term Care Residents' Rights Week. The resolution notes that Federal Nursing Home Reform Act of 1987 guaranteed "important rights, such as the right to privacy, the right to be treated with dignity, the right to exercise self-determination, the right to participate in the review of one's care plan, the right to be fully informed in advance of any changes in treatment, and the right to voice grievances without discrimination or reprisal."

**Committee Action:** The resolution was introduced on September 14, 2004, and referred to the House Government Reform Committee, which did not consider it.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** None

**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.

**RSC Staff Contact:** Sheila Cole, sheila.cole@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-9719

---

## **H.Con.Res. 473 — Expressing the sense of Congress that the President should designate September 11 as a national day of voluntary service, charity, and compassion (King of New York)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, September 22, 2004, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Note:** The House originally scheduled a similar resolution, S.Con.Res. 127, on September 13, 2004, but the resolution was pulled because it violated House rules by designating a specific commemorative day.

**Summary:** The resolution states that it is resolved:

"That Congress urges the President to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to annually observe Patriot Day, September 11, with appropriate and personal expressions of voluntary service, charity, and compassion toward others which honor the lives lost on that day, and embrace the spirit of selflessness and unity demonstrated by the efforts of those who participated in the rescue, recovery, and voluntary service activities."

**Additional Information:** According to the resolution's findings, "across the Nation and around the world, people of all ages and walks of life collectively witnessed an event of immense tragedy on September 11, 2001, [and] an unprecedented, historic bonding of Americans arose from the collective

shock, unifying the Nation in a sustained outpouring of national spirit, pride, selflessness, generosity, courage, and service.”

**Committee Action:** The resolution was introduced on July 14, 2004, and referred to the House Government Reform Committee, which did not consider it.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** None

**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.

**RSC Staff Contact:** Sheila Cole, sheila.cole@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-9719

---

## **H.Res. 761    Congratulating Lance Armstrong on his record-setting victory in the 2004 Tour de France (*Doggett*)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.Res. 761 would resolve that the House:

- “congratulates Lance Armstrong on his historic victory in the 2004 Tour de France;
- “commends the unwavering commitment to cancer awareness and survivorship demonstrated by Lance Armstrong; and
- “directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to Lance Armstrong.”

**Additional Background:** Lance Armstrong's victory on July 25, 2004 makes him the only cyclist in history to win the Tour de France six times. In 1997, Lance Armstrong defeated choriocarcinoma, an aggressive form of testicular cancer that had spread throughout his abdomen, lungs, and brain, and after treatment has remained cancer-free for the past seven years.

**Committee Action:** On September 9, 2004, the resolution was referred to the Government Reform 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.

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

---

## **H.R. 5039    Eva Holtzman Post Office Building Designation Act (*Butterfield*)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 5039 would designate the post office located at United States Route 1 in Ridgeway, North Carolina, as the “Eva Holtzman Post Office.”

**Additional Background:** Eva Holtzman was born in Ridgeway, North Carolina in 1918. She was employed by the Ridgeway Post Office for 47 years, serving 41 of those as Post Mistress. When the Ridgeway Post Office was shut down in the early 60’s, Mrs. Holtzman constructed a new facility herself.

**Committee Action:** H.R. 5039 was introduced on September 9, 2004, and referred to the Committee on Government Reform. The Committee approved the bill by unanimous consent on September 15.

**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.”

**Staff Contact:** Lisa Bos, [lisa.bos@mail.house.gov](mailto:lisa.bos@mail.house.gov), (202) 226-1630

---

---

## **H.R. 480 United States Postal Service Henry Johnson Annex Redesignation Act (McNulty)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 480 would redesignate the Postal Service annex located at 747 Broadway in Albany, New York, as the “United States Postal Service Henry Johnson Annex.” The building is currently designated as the Albany Annex.

**Additional Background:** Henry Johnson served in the US Army from 1917 to 1919 but was not allowed to fight in an American combat unit overseas. Seeking to serve his country, he joined a group of African American soldiers, which came to be known as the "Harlem Hell-Fighters" who fought under the French flag. While on sentry duty on May 14, 1918, Johnson single-handedly fought off a German raider party with rifle fire and hand-to-hand combat. Despite sustaining 21 wounds, he kept his critically injured sentry partner, Needham Roberts, from being captured by the Germans. He was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and Distinguished Service Cross.

**Committee Action:** H.R. 480 was introduced on January 29, 2003, and referred to the Committee on Government Reform. The Committee approved the bill by unanimous consent on September 15, 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 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.”

**Staff Contact:** Lisa Bos, [lisa.bos@mail.house.gov](mailto:lisa.bos@mail.house.gov), (202) 226-1630

---

**H.Con.Res. 161 Recognizing the outstanding efforts of the individuals and communities who volunteered or donated items to the North Platte Canteen in North Platte, Nebraska, during World War II from December 25, 1941, to April 1, 1946 (Osborne)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.Con.Res. 161 resolves that Congress:

“(1) recognizes the outstanding efforts of the individuals and communities involved with the North Platte Canteen that served the needs of 6,000,000 military personnel, who traveled through North Platte, Nebraska, on troop trains from December 25, 1941, to April 1, 1946, during World War II; and

“(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation recognizing the gallant efforts of those who made enormous sacrifices to make the North Platte Canteen a success during World War II.”

**Additional Background:** On December 25, 1941, the North Platte Canteen began serving food and other items to the United States military troops traveling across the United States to either the east or west coast before being shipped overseas. The canteen greeted and served food to approximately 6,000,000 men and women.

**Committee Action:** H.Con.Res. 161 was introduced on May 6, 2003, and referred to the Committee on Armed Services. The Committee did not consider the resolution.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution does not authorize any 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.

**Staff Contact:** Lisa Bos, [lisa.bos@mail.house.gov](mailto:lisa.bos@mail.house.gov), (202) 226-1630

---

**H.Con.Res. 486 Recognizing and honoring military unit family support volunteers for their dedicated service to the United States, the Armed Forces, and members of the Armed Forces and their families (*Davis of California*)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.Con.Res. 486 resolves that the Congress “recognizes and honors the military unit family support volunteers of each branch of the Armed Forces who selflessly devote their time, talent, and energy in service to the United States and commends military unit family support volunteers for their dedicated contributions to the Armed Forces and the quality of life of members of the Armed Forces and their families.”

**Additional Background:** Military unit family support volunteers consist of the Army Family Readiness Volunteers, Navy Ombudsmen, Air Force Spouses Together and Ready volunteers (STARS), and Marine Key Volunteers (KVs). They are generally spouses of members of the Armed Forces, and they provide assistance to military families while also enduring the challenges of military life.

**Committee Action:** H.Con.Res. 486 was introduced on September 7, 2004, and referred to the Committee on Armed Services. The Committee did not consider the resolution.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes 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.

**Staff Contact:** Lisa Bos, [lisa.bos@mail.house.gov](mailto:lisa.bos@mail.house.gov), (202) 226-1630

---

**H.Con.Res. 488 Commending the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and its employees for its dedication and hard work during Hurricanes Charley and Frances (Ehlers)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.Con.Res. 488 resolves that Congress:

“(1) commends the employees of the National Weather Service, especially the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Tropical Prediction Center/National Hurricane Center, Hydrometeorological Prediction Center, and National Data Buoy Center; the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron of the 403rd Wing of the Air Force Reserve Command at Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, Mississippi; the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Aircraft Operations Center at MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, Florida; the Hurricane Liaison Team; the National Ocean Service; and the National Environmental Satellite Data and Information Service, for their extraordinary dedication and hard work during Hurricanes Charley and Frances;

“(2) commends the Southern and Eastern Region Weather Forecast Offices of San Juan, Miami, Tampa Bay, Key West, Melbourne, Jacksonville, Tallahassee, Atlanta, Birmingham, Huntsville, Mobile, Morristown, Charleston, Morehead City, Wilmington, Wakefield, and Taunton for their extraordinary dedication and hard work during Hurricanes Charley and Frances;

“(3) thanks the commercial and media meteorologists for their contributions in disseminating the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration forecasts and warnings to the public; and

“(4) expresses its support for the ongoing hard work and dedication of all who provide accurate and timely hurricane forecasts.”

**Committee Action:** The resolution was introduced on September 9, 2004, and referred to the Committee on Science. The Committee did not consider the resolution.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution does not authorize any 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.

**Staff Contact:** Lisa Bos, [lisa.bos@mail.house.gov](mailto:lisa.bos@mail.house.gov), (202) 226-1630

---

---

## **H.R. 3428 Justin W. Williams United States Attorney s Building Designation Act (Tom Davis)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 3428 would designate the A-Wing of the Albert V. Bryan United States Courthouse in Alexandria, Virginia, as the “Justin S. Williams United States Attorney’s Building.”

**Additional Background:** Justin W. Williams was born in New York City in 1942. He earned his Bachelor's Degree from Columbia University in 1963 and his law degree from the University of Virginia in 1967. After law school, Justin Williams worked for the Department of Justice, Criminal Division from 1967-1968. He then served as Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney in Arlington County from 1968-1970.

In 1970, he was appointed as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, based in Alexandria. In 1986, he was appointed Chief of the Criminal Division, a position he held until his death in 2003. He served as the Interim U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia from 1979-1981 and again in 1986.

As Chief of the Criminal Division, Justin Williams supervised over 100 prosecutors, and oversaw such high profile trials as *U.S. v. Aldrich Ames*, *U.S. v. Robert Hanssen*, and the prosecution of the Virginia Jihad Network. He received numerous awards from the Department of Justice including the Attorney General's Award for Excellence in Furthering the Interests of U.S. National Security.

He passed away on August 31, 2003, leaving his wife Suzanne and children Andrew and Caitlin.

**Committee Action:** H.R. 3428 was introduced on November 4, 2003, and referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. The Committee favorably reported the bill to the House by voice vote on May 12, 2004.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The only costs associated with a building 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:** The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, in House Report 108-595, cites Article I, Section 8, but fails to cite a specific clause.

**Staff Contact:** Lisa Bos, [lisa.bos@mail.house.gov](mailto:lisa.bos@mail.house.gov), (202) 226-1630

---

## **H.R. 3734 Joe Skeen Federal Building Designation Act (Wilson of New Mexico)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 3734 would designate the Federal building located at Fifth and Richardson Avenues in Roswell, New Mexico, as the “Joe Skeen Federal Building.”

**Additional Background:** Congressman Joe Skeen was born in Roswell, New Mexico. He served in the United States Navy for a one-year enlistment and later in the United States Air Force Reserves from 1949 until 1952. Congressman Skeen graduated from Texas A&M University with his Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture Engineering in 1950.

After graduation he worked as a soil and water engineer for the Zuni and Ramah Navajo Indians. After purchasing the family sheep ranch, Joe Skeen worked on the boards of the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association and the New Mexico Wool Growers Association; he was also President of the Lincoln County Farm Bureau.

He was first elected to public office in 1960 when he served in the New Mexico State Senate until 1970. For the last six years of his time in the State Senate he served as Minority Leader. He also served as Chairman of the New Mexico Republican Party from 1963 to 1965 and as a delegate to the 1964 Republican National Convention.

In 1980, Congressman Skeen was elected to serve New Mexico's 2nd district in the United States House of Representatives. He was first elected as a write-in candidate and served for 11 succeeding Congresses. He served as Chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, enhancing the agriculture viability in New Mexico, and as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Interior, dealing with natural resources and public land use.

While serving in the House, Congressman Skeen was known for his commitment to property rights, balancing the federal budget, and increasing tax relief. He passed away in December of 2003 from complications of Parkinson's disease.

**Committee Action:** H.R. 3734 was introduced on January 27, 2004, and referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. The Committee favorably reported the bill to the House on May 12 by voice vote.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The only costs associated with a building 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:** The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, in House Report 108-596, cites Article I, Section 8, but fails to cite a specific clause.

**Staff Contact:** Lisa Bos, [lisa.bos@mail.house.gov](mailto:lisa.bos@mail.house.gov), (202) 226-1630

---

---

## **H.Con.Res. 494 Supporting the goals and purposes of National Farm Safety and Health Week and applauding the men and women who provide a stable supply of food and fiber for the United States and the world (Reynolds)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.Con.Res. 494 resolves that Congress “supports the goals and purposes of National Farm Safety and Health Week and applauds the men and women who provide a stable supply of food and fiber for the United States and the world.”

**Additional Background:** The President has proclaimed September 19 through September 25, 2004, as National Farm Safety and Health Week. The goal of the week is to increase awareness and educational programs targeted towards the protection and productivity of farmers and ranchers.

National Farm Safety and Health Week is a promotion of the National Safety Council ([www.nsc.org](http://www.nsc.org)). The Council received \$4.1 million in government grants in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002 ([www.guidestar.org](http://www.guidestar.org)).

**Committee Action:** The resolution was introduced on September 21, 2004, and referred to the Committee on Agriculture. The Committee did not consider the resolution.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution does not authorize any 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.

**Staff Contact:** Lisa Bos, [lisa.bos@mail.house.gov](mailto:lisa.bos@mail.house.gov), (202) 226-1630

---

## **H.R. 1057 The Adoption Tax Relief Guarantee Act (DeMint)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 1057 would permanently extend the adoption tax credit and adoption assistance programs provisions of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 (Public Law 107-16). Those provisions:

- Increased from \$5,000 to \$10,000 (indexed for inflation) the maximum amount of qualified adoption expenses incurred by the taxpayer that could be taken as an adoption tax credit;
- Increased from \$6,000 to \$10,000 (indexed for inflation) the flat amount a taxpayer could take as a tax credit for adopting a special needs child, regardless of actual expenses;
- Increased from \$5,000 to \$10,000 (indexed for inflation) the maximum amount of an employer's qualified expenses paid or incurred for an employee's adoption expenses (pursuant to an adoption assistance program) that could be excluded from the employee's gross income;
- Increased from \$6,000 to \$10,000 (indexed for inflation) the flat amount (regardless of actual expenses) an employee adopting a special needs child could exclude from gross income for an employer's qualified expenses paid or incurred for the employee's adoption expenses (pursuant to an adoption assistance program); and
- Increased from \$75,000 to \$150,000 (indexed for inflation) the income limitation on taxpayers who seek to take advantage of these above provisions and allowed the available credits to be applied against the alternative minimum tax (AMT).

All of these adoption provisions are set to expire after December 31, 2010.

**Additional Background:** In order to comply with reconciliation procedures under the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (i.e. section 313 of the Budget Act, under which a point of

order may be lodged in the Senate), the original Bush tax-cut bill (Public Law 107-16) included a sunset provision, under which the law and all the tax-cut provisions in it expire at the end of 2010.

**Committee Action:** H.R. 1057 was referred to the Ways & Means Committee on March 4, 2003, though the Committee took no official action on it.

**Administration Position:** The Bush Administration supports the permanent extension of all of the provisions of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The Joint Committee on Taxation reports that H.R. 1057 would save taxpayers \$1.17 billion over the FY2010-FY2014 period (no revenue effect before FY2010).

**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:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

**Outside Organizations:** The American Academy of Adoption Attorneys and the National Council for Adoption have expressed support for this legislation.

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

---

---

### **S.Con.Res. 137 A concurrent resolution calling for the suspension of Sudan's membership on the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (Senator Frist)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill. The Senate passed the resolution by unanimous consent on September 15, 2004.

**Summary:** S.Con.Res. 137 would resolve that Congress:

- “recognizes and approves of the findings of the Secretary of State that genocide has occurred and may still be occurring in Darfur, Sudan, and that the Government of Sudan bears responsibility for such acts;
- “supports the Secretary of State's call for a full and unfettered investigation by the United Nations into all violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law that have occurred in Darfur, with a view to ensuring accountability;
- “supports the resolution introduced by the United States Government in the United Nations Security Council on September 9, 2004, with regard to the situation in Darfur;
- “calls upon the Secretary of State and the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations to take immediate steps to pursue the establishment of a formal United Nations investigation, under Article VIII of the Genocide Convention, to determine whether the actions of the Government of Sudan in Darfur constitute acts of genocide;
- “calls upon the Secretary of State and the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations to take immediate steps to pursue the immediate suspension of Sudan from the United Nations Commission on Human Rights;

- “calls upon the Secretary of State and the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations to take further steps to ensure that the suspension of Sudan from the United Nations Commission on Human Rights remains in effect unless and until the Government of Sudan meets all of its obligations, as determined by the United Nations Security Council, under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1556 of July 30, 2004, and any subsequent United Nations Security Council resolutions regarding this matter;
- “calls upon the Secretary of State and the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations to take steps to ensure that, in the event that the formal investigation of acts of genocide in Sudan results in a determination by the United Nations that genocide has occurred or is occurring in Darfur, the United States Government takes appropriate actions to ensure that Sudan is removed from the United Nations Human Rights Commission;
- “calls upon the member states of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights to convene an immediate special session to consider the urgent and acute human rights situation in Sudan for the purpose of considering whether Sudan should be suspended from membership in such Commission; and
- “expects the Secretary of State to report to Congress on progress made toward taking the actions and accomplishing the objectives outlined in this resolution not later than 60 days after the date on which Congress agrees to the resolution.”

**Additional Background:** The resolution reports that in Darfur, Sudan, more than 30,000 innocent civilians have been murdered, more than 400 villages have been destroyed, more than 130,000 men, women, and children have been forced from their villages into neighboring countries, and more than 1,000,000 people have been internally displaced.

**Committee Action:** On September 17, 2004, the resolution was received from the Senate and referred to the House 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.

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

## **H.Res. 767    Condemning the terrorist attack in Jakarta, Indonesia, that occurred on September 9, 2004 (Burton)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.Res. 767 would resolve that the House:

- “condemns in the strongest possible terms the terrorist attack in Jakarta, Indonesia, that occurred on September 9, 2004;

- “expresses its deepest condolences to the families of the individuals murdered in the terrorist attack, expresses its sympathies to the individuals injured in the attack, and conveys its hope for the rapid and complete recovery of all such injured individuals; and
- “urges the United States, Indonesia, Australia, and all other countries to stand united against terrorism that targets the civilized world and to work together to bring to justice the perpetrators of the terrorist attack in Jakarta, Indonesia.”

**Additional Background:** On September 9, 2004, terrorists attacked hundreds of innocent civilians, killing at least nine bystanders, in front of the Australian Embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia.

**Committee Action:** On September 13, 2004, the resolution was referred to the House International Relations Committee, which took no official action on it.

**Administration Position:** The President condemned the “outrageous” attack in Jakarta: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2004/09/20040909-5.html>

**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.

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

---

## **H.Con.Res. 475 Encouraging the International Olympic Committee to select New York City as the site of the 2012 Olympic Games (*Rangel*)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.Con.Res. 475 would resolve that Congress:

- “encourages the International Olympic Committee to choose New York City as the site of the 2012 Olympic Games; and
- “hopes that the United States will be selected as the host country of the 2012 Olympic Games, and pledges its cooperation and support for their successful fulfillment in the highest Olympic tradition.”

**Additional Background:** New York City has never hosted the Olympic Games.

**Committee Action:** On July 20, 2004, the resolution was referred to the House 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.

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

---

---

**Moore Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 1308 the All-American Tax Relief Act**

**Order of Business:** On Tuesday, September 21, 2004, Rep. Dennis Moore (D-KS) notified the House of his intention to offer a motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 1308—the All-American Tax Relief Act.

**Text of Motion:** The text of the Moore motion is as follows:

Mr. Moore moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 1308 be instructed to agree, to the maximum extent possible within the scope of conference, to a conference report that--

- (1) extends the tax relief provisions which expire at the end of 2004, and
- (2) does not increase the Federal budget deficit.

**Additional Background:** NOTE: This motion is not the same as the motion Democrats offered 16 times last year on this bill. Information on that motion can be found at this RSC webpage: <http://johnshadegg.house.gov/rsc/LB110503a.pdf>

Today's motion is identical to a motion offered by Rep. Charlie Stenholm (D-TX) on July 20, 2004, which failed by a vote of 198-222: <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2004/roll421.xml> and by Rep. Baron Hill (D-IN) on September 9, 2004, which failed 203-216: <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2004/roll432.xml>

H.R. 1308, as it most recently passed the House, would primarily:

- Accelerate the increase in refundability of the child tax credit;
- Eliminate the marriage penalty in the child tax credit by raising the phase-out for married couples from \$110,000 to \$150,000 (twice the level of the single filer phase-out); and
- Repeal the sunset included in the Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act (Public Law 108-27) ensuring that the Child Tax Credit stays at \$1,000 through 2010 (in 2011 it sunsets back to pre-2001 levels of \$500)

To view the RSC Legislative Bulletin on H.R. 1308, which includes a legislative history of the bill, visit this webpage: <http://johnshadegg.house.gov/rsc/LB61203A.pdf>

**Cost to Taxpayers:** Any motion to instruct conferees is non-binding and thus would have no effect on the cost or revenue effects of the underlying legislation.

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

---

---

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.daneprairie.com>.  
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.