



Legislative Bulletin.....May 13, 2003

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H.R. 517—To direct the Commandant of the Coast Guard to convey the Coast Guard Cutter BRAMBLE, upon its scheduled decommissioning, to the Port Huron Museum of Arts and History located in Port Huron, Michigan, for use for education and historical display (Miller of Michigan)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, May 13th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 517 would direct the Coast Guard to convey all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the Coast Guard Cutter BRAMBLE (upon its scheduled decommissioning) to the Port Huron Museum of Arts and History in Port Huron, Michigan.

Prior to this conveyance, the Museum would have to agree:

- to use the vessel for purposes of education and historical display;
- not to use the vessel for commercial transportation purposes;
- to make the vessel available to the U.S. government if needed for use by the Commandant in time of war or a national emergency; and
- to hold the government harmless for any claims arising from exposure to hazardous materials, including asbestos and PCBs, after conveyance of the vessel, except for claims arising from the government's use.

The Museum would also have to show that it has at least \$700,000 to operate and maintain the vessel. The actual conveyance would have to come at no cost to the federal government.

Committee Action: On January 31, 2003, the bill was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. On February 1, 2003, it was referred to the subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation. Neither entity considered the legislation.

Cost to Taxpayers: The conveyance would come at no cost to the taxpayers.

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

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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

H.Con.Res. 128—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 to be considered on Tuesday, May 13th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 128 would authorize the use of the Capitol grounds for the 18th annual Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run on June 6, 2003. The Capitol Police Board could take such actions as may be necessary to carry out the event, and the Architect of the Capitol could prescribe conditions for physical preparations for the event.

Additional Background: The Run is part of the journey of the Special Olympics torch to the District of Columbia Special Olympics summer games at Gallaudet University.

Committee Action: On April 9, 2003, the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee marked up and unanimously reported the resolution favorably without amendment.

Cost to Taxpayers: CBO confirms that this resolution would have no significant effect on the federal budget.

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

Constitutional Authority: The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, in House Report 108-88, cites constitutional authority in Article I, Section 8, but does not cite a specific clause.

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

H.R. 281—Tony Hall Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse Designation Act (Hobson)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, May 13th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 281 would designate the federal building and U.S. courthouse located at 200 West 2nd Street in Dayton, Ohio, as the “Tony Hall Federal Building and United States Courthouse.”

Additional Background: In 1969, Tony Hall was elected to serve in the Ohio General Assembly. In 1972, he was elected to serve in the Ohio Senate until 1978, at which time he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.

During his time in the House, Congressman Hall was best known as an outspoken advocate for combating world hunger. Hall served as Chairman of the House Select Committee on Hunger from 1989 until it was abolished in 1993, then fasted for 22 days to draw worldwide attention to the problem of hunger.

In 2002, Congressman Hall resigned his House seat to accept President Bush’s appointment as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations’ food and agriculture agencies.

Committee Action: On March 19, 2003, the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management marked up and forwarded by voice vote this bill to the full Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. On April 9, 2003, the full committee marked up and reported the resolution favorably without amendment.

Cost to Taxpayers: The only costs associated with a federal building designation 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.

Constitutional Authority: The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, in House Report 108-84, cites constitutional authority in Article I, Section 8, but does not cite a specific clause.

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

H.R. 985 — Delbert L. Latta Post Office Building Designation Act (Gillmor)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, May 13th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 985 designates the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 111 West Washington Street in Bowling Green, Ohio, as the “Delbert L. Latta Post Office Building.”

Additional Background: Delbert L. Latta, a Republican, represented Ohio in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1959 until 1989. He had previously served in the U.S. Army, the Marine Corps Reserve, and the Ohio State Senate.

A bill identical to H.R. 985 (H.R. 5439) passed the House by unanimous consent on October 10, 2002, in the 107th Congress. The Senate did not consider the bill.

Committee Action: H.R. 985 was referred to the House Committee on Government Reform on February 27, but was not considered.

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.

Constitutional Authority: Though 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, (202) 226-1630

**H.Res. 178—Honoring the life and work of former Speaker of the
Pennsylvania House of Representatives Matthew J. Ryan and offering the
deepest condolences of the United States House of Representatives to his
wife and family on his death (Weldon of Pennsylvania)**

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, May 13th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Res. 178 would resolve that “the United States House of Representatives honors the outstanding life and work of former Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives Matthew J. Ryan and offers its deepest condolences to his wife and family on his death.”

Additional Background: Matthew J. Ryan, a Republican, was first elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1962 and was elected its Speaker in 1981, 1995, 1997, 1999, 2001, and 2003. Ryan was the second-longest-serving Member and the third-longest-serving Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in its 321-year history. He died on March 29, 2003, of stomach cancer.

For more information on Speaker Ryan, visit these websites:
http://www.legis.state.pa.us/WU01/VC/visitor_info/gallery/ryan.htm
<http://www.politicspa.com/quotesmatthewryan.htm>

Committee Action: On April 3, 2003, the resolution was referred to the Committee on Government Reform but was never considered by the Committee.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution would authorize no expenditure.

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

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

H.Con.Res. 160 — Expressing the sense of Congress that the United Nations should remove the economic sanctions against Iraq completely and without condition (Smith of MI)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, May 13th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 160 expresses the sense of Congress that the United Nations should “immediately act to lift the economic sanctions imposed by United Nations Security Council Resolutions 661 and 687” and members of the United Nations should “allow and encourage their nationals to trade with Iraq.”

The resolution also includes findings that “the sanctions established by United Nations Security Council Resolutions 661 and 687 prohibit the importation of goods necessary for the Iraqi people to rebuild their country” and “continuing the sanctions imposed on the government of Saddam Hussein punishes the people of Iraq for the actions of a brutal tyrant who no longer rules them.”

Additional Background: U.N. Security Council Resolution 661 (August 9, 1990) imposed a comprehensive international trade embargo on Iraq as a consequence of its invasion of Kuwait. U.N. Security Council Resolution 687 (April 3, 1991) provided for the international embargo on Iraq’s exportation of oil to end once Iraq had fully complied with U.N. efforts to end its weapons of mass destruction (WMD) programs.

While the resolution does not address the U.N. Oil for Food Program, eliminating the economic sanctions would appear to eliminate the need for the program (since the program was set up to allow limited exports under the embargo created by Resolution 661). The Oil for Food Program has come under scrutiny recently since it was reported that the U.N. collects a 2.2% commission on every barrel sold – more than \$1 billion to date. In addition, some of the U.N.-approved expenditures have come into question. For a discussion on this issue see the attached Weekly Standard article:

<http://www.weeklystandard.com/Content/Public/Articles/000/000/002/459pqvob.asp>

For additional information about the Oil for Food Program visit this site:
<http://www.un.org/Depts/oip/index.html>

Committee Action: The resolution was considered by the House International Relations Committee on May 7 and reported by voice vote.

Administration Position: The Administration supports lifting the U.N. sanctions and is expected to offer a resolution at the U.N. Security Council, along with Great Britain and Spain, to do so. President Bush removed U.S. sanctions against Iraq on May 7.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

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

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

H.Res. 222 - Commending those individuals who contributed to the debris collection effort following the Space Shuttle Columbia accident (*Hall*)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, May 13, 2003, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Res. 222 has nine findings regarding the Space Shuttle Columbia accident on February 1, 2003, which resulted in the loss of its crew of seven astronauts, and the debris collection efforts that resulted in over 70,000 pieces of debris. FEMA, NASA, Forest Service, EPA and other agency personnel, as well as volunteers, are all recognized for assisting in recovering Columbia debris that was scattered over at least four states. Also recognized are two searchers who died and three who were injured in a helicopter crash while searching for debris. The bill states that it is resolved that the House of Representatives “does offer its gratitude on behalf of the American people to the thousands of individuals who worked tirelessly to recover the Space Shuttle Columbia debris.”

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution has no cost.

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

Committee Action: H.Res. 222 was introduced on May 7, 2003. The House Science Committee did not consider the resolution.

Staff Contact: Sheila Moloney; 202-226-9719; Sheila.Moloney@mail.house.gov