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**Legislative Bulletin.....June 16, 2003**

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**H.R. 2254—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1101 Colorado Street in Boulder City, Nevada, as the “Bruce Woodbury Post Office Building” (Porter)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Monday, June 16, 2003, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** The bill names the post office located at 1101 Colorado Street in Boulder City, Nevada, the “Bruce Woodbury Post Office Building,” after a sitting county commissioner in Nevada.

**Additional Background:** Bruce L. Woodbury was appointed in 1981 (and elected in 1982), to serve as a County Commissioner for Clark County, Nevada. His current term of office expires in January 2005. He serves as a member of the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada for 17 years, the last 11 as that body’s chairman. He also served as a member of the Judicial Discipline Commission of Nevada from 1978-1982. Mr. Woodbury is a lawyer who practices in the areas of personal injury and wrongful death, estate planning and probate, and business law. In addition to the American Bar Association and State Bar of Nevada, Mr. Woodbury is a member of the Nevada Trial Lawyers Association and the Association of Trial Lawyers of America.

**Committee Action:** The bill was introduced on May 22, 2003 and was referred to the Committee on Government Reform. The committee did not consider the legislation.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The bill would have minimal costs to rename the building including sign changes, etc.

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

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable, though Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution gives Congress the authority to establish post offices.

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## **S. 858—Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission Extension Act (*Senator Durbin*)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Monday, June 16<sup>th</sup>, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill. S. 858 passed the Senate by unanimous consent on May 23, 2003.

**Summary:** S. 858 would extend the \$500,000-per-year Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission (established by Public Law 106-173 in February 2000) through 2010. The Commission is currently set to expire in 2005. Under S. 858, the Commission would have to submit to Congress an *interim* report by June 24, 2004 (current law does not mandate any interim report), and a *final* report by April 30, 2010 (instead of the current deadline of four years after the original formation of the Commission).

Public Law 106-173 set the duties of the Commission as:

- “study[ing] activities that may be carried out by the Federal Government to determine whether the activities are fitting and proper to honor Abraham Lincoln on the occasion of the bicentennial anniversary of Lincoln's birth, including--
  - (A) the minting of an Abraham Lincoln bicentennial penny;
  - (B) the issuance of an Abraham Lincoln bicentennial postage stamp;
  - (C) the convening of a joint meeting or joint session of Congress for ceremonies and activities relating to Abraham Lincoln;
  - (D) a redesignation of the Lincoln Memorial, or other activity with respect to the Memorial; and
  - (E) the acquisition and preservation of artifacts associated with Abraham Lincoln.”
- and “recommend[ing] to Congress the activities that the Commission considers most fitting and proper to honor Abraham Lincoln on such occasion, and the entity or entities in the Federal Government that the Commission considers most appropriate to carry out such activities.”

S. 858 would change “redesignation” in point (D) above to “rededication” and add the following two duties to the Commission’s charter:

- “To recommend to Congress a plan to carry out the activities recommended [above;]” and
- “To carry out other related activities in support of the [above] duties carried out.”

**Additional Background:** President Abraham Lincoln was born on February 12, 1809, in Hodgenville, (Hardin County) Kentucky. For more biographical information on President Lincoln, visit this website: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/history/presidents/all16.html>

For more information on the Commission itself, visit its homepage:  
<http://www.lincolnbicentennial.gov/>

To see the roll call vote (411-2) for the original legislation (H.R. 1451—106<sup>th</sup> Congress) establishing the Commission, visit this website: <http://clerkweb.house.gov/cgi-bin/vote.exe?year=1999&rollnumber=471>

**Committee Action:** S. 858 was marked up and favorably reported by voice vote by the Senate Judiciary Committee on May 22, 2003. On June 5, 2003, the House Committee on Government Reform marked up and favorably reported the bill by voice vote without amendment.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The Commission has been appropriated \$500,000 annually since its establishment. CBO confirms that extending the Commission for five years through 2010 would therefore authorize about \$2.5 million in new appropriations (though the law authorizes the Commission at “such sums”).

**Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?:** No, it extends an existing Commission for five years.

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

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## **H.Con.Res. 220—Commending Medgar Wiley Evers and his widow, Myrlie Evers-Williams, for their lives and accomplishments (*Thompson of Mississippi*)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Monday, June 16<sup>th</sup>, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.Con.Res. 220 would resolve that:

- “Congress commends Medgar Wiley Evers and his widow, Myrlie Evers-Williams, and expresses the greatest respect and gratitude of Congress, for their lives and accomplishments;
- “Congress supports the establishment of a ‘Medgar Evers National Week of Remembrance;’ and
- “copies of this resolution shall be furnished to the family of Medgar Wiley Evers and Myrlie Evers-Williams.”

The resolution also states that “it is the policy of Congress to recognize and pay tribute to the lives and accomplishments of extraordinary Mississippians such as Medgar Evers and Myrlie Evers-Williams, whose life sacrifices have contributed to the betterment of the lives of the citizens of Mississippi as well as the United States.”

**Additional Background:** Medgar Evers and his wife were activists for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in the 1950s, registering black voters in Mississippi and becoming the target of numerous death threats. Medgar Evers went on to organize rallies, build the NAACP’s membership, and travel around the country with Myrlie Evers to educate the public. Evers gained national media attention when he filed suit against the Jackson, Mississippi public schools, charging unequal education for its black students.

Evers later organized students from Tougaloo and Campbell Colleges, coordinated and led protest marches, organized boycotts of Jackson businesses and sit-ins, and challenged segregated bus seating. On numerous occasions, he was arrested, beaten, and jailed.

On June 12, 1963, Evers was shot and killed in front of his home. After her husband’s death, Myrlie Evers became active in politics, becoming a founder of the National Women's Political Caucus, running unsuccessfully for Congress in California's 24th congressional district, serving as Commissioner of Public Works for Los Angeles, serving as a correspondent for *Ladies Home Journal*, and becoming Director of Consumer Affairs for the Atlantic Richfield Company.

Myrlie re-married in 1976 and in the 1990s convinced Mississippi prosecutors to reopen Medgar’s murder case (which had earlier resulted in two hung juries). As a result, Medgar Evers’ killer was convicted and is now serving a life sentence.

Myrlie has since become the first female to chair the 64-member Board of Directors of the NAACP.

**Committee Action:** The resolution was referred to the Committee on Government Reform on June 12, 2003, but was not considered by the Committee.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution would authorize no additional expenditure.

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

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**S. 703—To designate the regional headquarters building for the National Park Service under construction in Omaha, Nebraska, as the “Carl T. Curtis National Park Service Midwest Regional Headquarters Building” (Sen. Hagel)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Monday, June 16, 2003, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** S. 703 designates a building under construction in Omaha, Nebraska as the “Carl T. Curtis National Park Service Midwest Regional Headquarters Building,” in honor of the late Senator and Representative from Nebraska. Though the building will be occupied under a 20-year lease, the owner has given permission for the naming.

**Additional Background** Carl T. Curtis served Nebraska in Congress for 40 years, 16 in the House of Representatives and 24 on the Senate side. He was born on March 15, 1905 and died on January 24, 2000. In 1931, Curtis married Lois Wylie-Atwater, with whom he adopted two children. In 1970, Lois died and Curtis then married Mildred Genier Baker. He is survived by his wife, son Carl Thomas Curtis, Jr., four grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. Among other positions, he held the chairmanship of the Senate Republican Conference and was selected to be floor manager for Senator Barry Goldwater at the 1964 Republican National Convention.

**Committee Action:** The bill was introduced in the Senate on March 25, 2003, and the Senate passed it by unanimous consent on April 11. The House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure considered the bill on May 21 and reported it out by voice vote.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** CBO estimates that implementing S. 703 would have no significant impact on the federal budget.

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

**Constitutional Authority:** The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, in House Report 108-135, finds constitutional authority in Article I, Section 8 (Powers of Congress), but fails to cite a specific clause.

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