H.R. 728— Designating a Post Office in Cedar Hill, MO as the Sergeant First Class William B. Woods, Jr. Post Office (Luetkemeyer, R-MO)

CONTACT: REBEKAH ARMSTRONG, REBEKAH.ARMSTRONG@MAIL.HOUSE.GOV, 202-226-0678

FLOOR SCHEDULE: JUNE 15, 2015 UNDER A SUSPENSION OF THE RULES WHICH REQUIRES TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY FOR PASSAGE.

TOPLINE SUMMARY: H.R. 728 would designate the United States Postal Service facility located at 7050 Highway Bb in Cedar Hill, MO, as the "Sergeant First Class William B. Woods, Jr. Post Office."

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS: There are no substantive conservative concerns.

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- Encroach into State or Local Authority? No.
- Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch? No.
- Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits? No.

COST: The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that enacting H.R. 2507 would not have a significant budgetary effect.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS: Army Sgt. 1st Class <u>William B. Woods Jr.</u> was killed on August 16 2009, at the age of 31 while serving in Ghazni, Afghanistan. William was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Maryland National Guard, and died of wounds sustained when he was shot on patrol in Afghanistan.

COMMITTEE ACTION: This bill was introduced on February 4, 2015, by Representative Luetkemeyer and referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. On May 19, 2015, the committee held a markup where the bill was reported out by voice vote.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION: No statement of administration policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY: According to the sponsor, Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: "Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article 1, Section 8, Clause 7, ``The Congress shall have Power to . . . establish Post Offices and post Roads . . ." In the Constitution, the power possessed by Congress embraces the regulation of the Postal System in the country. Therefore, the proposed legislation in naming a post office would fall under the powers granted to Congress in the Constitution."

H.R. 891— Designating a Post Office in Floresville, TX as the Floresville Veterans Post Office (Cuellar, D-TX)

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FLOOR SCHEDULE: JUNE 15, 2015 UNDER A SUSPENSION OF THE RULE WHICH REQUIRES TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY FOR PASSAGE.

TOPLINE SUMMARY: <u>H.R. 891</u> would designate the United States Postal Service facility located at 141 Paloma Drive in Floresville, TX, as the "Floresville Veterans Post Office Building"

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS: There are no substantive conservative concerns.

- Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.
- Encroach into State or Local Authority? No.
- Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch? No.
- Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits? No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS: The post office in Floresville, TX is to be renamed in honor of veterans from Floresville, TX.

COST: No Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate is available at this time. Typically, the only the costs associated with naming U.S. federal buildings and post offices are those for sign and map changes, none of which significantly affect the federal budget.

COMMITTEE ACTION: This bill was introduced on February 11, 2015, by Representative Cueller and referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. On May 19, 2015, the committee held a markup and the bill was reported out by unanimous consent.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION: No statement of administration policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY: According to the sponsor, Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: "Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: THE U.S. CONSTITUTION ARTICLE I, SECTION 8: POWERS OF CONGRESS CLAUSE 18

The Congress shall have power . . . To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof."

H.R. 1326— Designating a Post Office in Mulberry, FL as the Sergeant First Class Daniel M. Ferguson Post Office (Ross, R-FL)

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FLOOR SCHEDULE: JUNE 15, 2015 UNDER A SUSPENSION OF THE RULE WHICH REQUIRES TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY FOR PASSAGE.

TOPLINE SUMMARY: <u>H.R.</u> <u>1326</u> would designate the United States Postal Service facility located at 2000 Mulford Road in Mulberry, FL, as the "Sergeant First Class Daniel M. Ferguson Post Office."

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS: There are no substantive conservative concerns.

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- Encroach into State or Local Authority? No.
- Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch? No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS: Sgt. 1st Class Daniel M. Ferguson died during the April 2, 2014, shooting at Ford Hood. He served 21 years in the Army, including tours of duty in Kuwait, Afghanistan, and Iraq. He died while holding doors closed to keep the shooter on the base out of a room full of his fellow soldiers.

COST: No Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate is available at this time. Typically, the only the costs associated with naming U.S. federal buildings and post offices are those for sign and map changes, none of which significantly affect the federal budget.

COMMITTEE ACTION: This bill was introduced on March 4, 2015, by Representative Ross and referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. On May 19, 2015, the committee held a markup and the bill was reported out by unanimous consent.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION: No statement of administration policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY: According to the sponsor, Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: "Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: U.S. Const. art. I, Sec. 8, cl. 7."

H.R. 1350— Designating a Post Office in Bronx, NY as the Herman Badillo Post Office (Serrano, D-NY)

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FLOOR SCHEDULE: JUNE 15, 2015 UNDER A SUSPENSION OF THE RULE WHICH REQUIRES TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY FOR PASSAGE.

TOPLINE SUMMARY: <u>H.R. 1350</u> would designate the United States Postal Service facility located at 442 East 167th Street in Bronx, NY, as the "Herman Badillo Post Office."

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS: There are no substantive conservative concerns.

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- Encroach into State or Local Authority? No.
- Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch? No.
- Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits? No.

COST: No Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate is available at this time. Typically, the only the costs associated with naming U.S. federal buildings and post offices are those for sign and map changes, none of which significantly affect the federal budget.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS: Herman Badillo was a member

of the U.S. House of Representatives from the South Bronx from 1971-1977, and was first member of Congress to be born in Puerto Rico. After leaving Congress, he served as a deputy mayor of New York City under Mayor Ed Koch. He spent the remainder of his career in various elected and appointed positions in New York City. He died on December 3, 2014.

COMMITTEE ACTION: This bill was introduced on March 10, 2015, by Representative Ross and referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. On May 19, 2015, the committee held a markup and the bill was reported out by unanimous consent.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION: No statement of administration policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY: According to the sponsor, Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: "Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution, which states that `The Congress shall have Power. . . . To establish Post Offices and post roads."

H.R. 2131—To designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 83 Meeting Street in Charleston, South Carolina, as the "J. Waties Waring Judicial Center" (Clyburn, D-DC)

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FLOOR SCHEDULE: H.R. 2131 IS EXPECTED TO BE CONSIDERED ON JULY 15, 2015, UNDER A MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES AND PASS THE BILL, WHICH REQUIRES A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY FOR PASSAGE.

TOPLINE SUMMARY: The bill would designate the Federal building and U.S. courthouse at 83 Meeting Street Charleston, South Carolina, as the "J. Waties Waring Judicial Center".

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS: There are no substantive concerns.

- **Expand** the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? : No
- Encroach into State or Local Authority?: No
- Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?: No
- Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: No

COST: The Congressional Budget Office (CBO)
estimates that H.R. 2131
would have no significant impact on the federal budget.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS: Julius Waties Waring was appointed to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of South Carolina by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1942. He served as chief judge from 1948 to 1952. In 1951, his dissent in the school segregation case *Briggs v. Elliot "helped pave the way* for the U.S. Supreme Court's *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling in 1954".

COMMITTEE ACTION: H.R. 2131 was introduced on April 30, 2015 and referred to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. The Committee marked up and reported the bill by a voice vote on May 20, 2015.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION: A statement of administration policy is not available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY: "Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article IV, Section 3 of the United States Constitution."

H.R. 2559—To designate the "PFC Milton A. Lee Medal of Honor Memorial Highway" in the State of Texas (Smith, R-TXL)

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FLOOR SCHEDULE: H.R. 2559 IS EXPECTED TO BE CONSIDERED ON JULY 15, 2015, UNDER A MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES AND PASS THE BILL, WHICH REQUIRES A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY FOR PASSAGE.

TOPLINE SUMMARY: The bill would designate Interstate 10 as the "PFC Milton A. Lee Medal of Honor Memorial Highway between mile posts 535 and 545 in Kendall County, Texas.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS: There are no substantive concerns.

- **Expand** the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? : No
- Encroach into State or Local Authority?: No
- **Delegate** Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?: No
- Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: No

COST: A Congressional
Budget Office (CBO)
estimate is not available at
this time.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS: Private First Class (PFC) Milton A. Lee was awarded the <u>Medal of</u> Honor for his service in Vietnam, where he was killed in action.

COMMITTEE ACTION: H.R. 2559 was introduced on May 21, 2015 and referred to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. The Committee took no further action on the bill.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION: A statement of administration policy is not available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY: "Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, section 8, clause 3 of the Constitution; and Article I, section 8, clause 1 of the Constitution."

H. Res. 233—Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Iran should immediately release the three United States citizens that it holds, as well as provide all known information on any United States citizens that have disappeared within its borders (Rep. Kildee, D-MI)

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FLOOR SCHEDULE: SCHEDULED FOR CONSIDERATION ON JUNE 15, 2015, UNDER A SUSPENSION OF THE RULES WHICH REQUIRES TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY FOR PASSAGE.

TOPLINE SUMMARY: H. Res. 233 would express a sense of the House of Representatives that Iran should release three American citizens that the country has detained and fully cooperate on assisting the United States in freeing a citizen who has disappeared within the country's borders.

COST: No Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate is available.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS: There are no major substantive concerns.

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- Encroach into State or Local Authority? No.
- Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch? No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS: The resolution calls on Iran to release three detained American citizens and provide all known information on any United States citizens that have disappeared within Iran's borders. On June 2, 2015, the House Committee on Foreign Affairs held a hearing on issues related to the detainment of Americans in Iran. More information from the hearing can be found here. Currently, three American citizens remain in custody in Iran under dubious charges.

<u>Jason Rezaian</u>, a dual U.S. – Iranian citizen, serving as the Washington Post bureau chief in Tehran, was arrested along with his wife on July 22, 2014. On April 20, 2015 Iranian authorities indicted Rezaian on four charges, including espionage and "propaganda against the establishment." His wife, Yeganeh Salehi, who is also a journalist, was released in October of 2014. More information on Jason Rezaian can be found here.

<u>Saeed Abedini</u>, a dual U.S. – Iranian citizen and Christian pastor, was detained in July 2012 in Iran while visiting family. On January 2013, an Iranian court <u>sentenced</u> Abedini to eight years in prison for "undermining the Iranian government and creating a network of Christian house churches [...]"

<u>Amir Hekmati</u>, a former United States Marine, was arrested and detained in Iran in 2011 while visiting family. He has since been accused of espionage and was sentenced to death in an Iranian court. His sentence was later annulled and has been awaiting a retrial since 2012.

<u>Robert Levinson</u> was an American private investigator and retired DEA and FBI agent who disappeared while visiting Iran's Kish Islands in 2007 while investigating a cigarette smuggling case. A <u>November 2010 video</u> appeared of him being held hostage by unknown assailants. However, it is believed that <u>Robert Levinson</u> had been detained by Iranian intelligence agents.

A corresponding resolution (<u>S.Con.Res.16</u>) was introduced in the Senate on May 7, 2015 and <u>passed overwhelmingly</u> on May 11, 2015.

COMMITTEE ACTION: This bill was introduced on April 29, 2015, and was referred to the House Committee Foreign Affairs. The resolution was then reported out by unanimous consent on June 2, 2015.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION: No statement of administration policy is available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY: No constitutional authority statement is available.

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