



Legislative Bulletin.....February 6, 2002

Contents:

- **H.Res. 340 -- Recognizing and honoring Jack Shea, Olympic gold medalist in speed skating, for his many contributions to the Nation and to his community throughout his life. (Sweeney)**
- **H.J.Res. 82 – Recognizing the 91st Birthday of Ronald Reagan (Cox)**
- **H.Con.Res. 312 — Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the tax relief provided for by the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 passed by a bipartisan majority in Congress should continue as scheduled. (Bachus)**

H.Res. 340 — Recognizing and honoring Jack Shea, Olympic gold medalist in speed skating, for his many contributions to the Nation and to his community throughout his life. (Sweeney)

Order of Business: The resolution will be considered on February 6 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: The resolution includes 11 findings about Jack Shea, including recognizing his contributions to the Olympics as a winner of two gold medals in 1932, a member of the Executive Committee of the 1980 Lake Placid Olympic Organizing Committee and vice chairman of the Olympic Regional Development Authority since 1982.

Additional Background: Shea was the North American speed skating champion in 1929 and 1930. At age 21, he entered the 1932 Winter Olympics in Lake Placid, New York, during which he won the gold medal in speed skating for both the 500-meter and the 1,500-meter events. In 1936, Shea refused to participate in the Olympic games in Nazi Germany. He was voted into the Speed Skating Hall of Fame in 1962.

Shea served as the town justice of North Elba, New York from 1958 to 1974, after which he became the town supervisor until his retirement in 1983.

Shea, 91, passed away on January 22, 2002, after he was hit by a drunk driver in Lake Placid, NY. He was the oldest living U.S. winter Olympic gold medalist and the first of three generations of family Olympians. His son, Jim, participated in the 1964 Olympics and his grandson, Jim Jr., will be participating in the 2002 Olympics in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Cost to Taxpayers: None.

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

Constitutional Authority: No committee report citing Constitutional authority is available.

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H.J.Res. 82 — Recognizing the 91st Birthday of Ronald Reagan. (Cox)

Order of Business: The resolution will be considered on February 6 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Resolution Text:

Whereas February 6, 2002, is the 91st birthday of Ronald Wilson Reagan;
Whereas both Ronald Reagan and his wife Nancy Reagan have distinguished records of public service to the United States, the American people, and the international community;
Whereas Ronald Reagan was twice elected by overwhelming margins as President of the United States;
Whereas Ronald Reagan fulfilled his pledge to help restore “the great, confident roar of American progress, growth, and optimism” and ensure renewed economic prosperity;
Whereas Ronald Reagan’s leadership was instrumental in extending freedom and democracy around the globe and uniting a world divided by the Cold War;
Whereas Ronald Reagan is loved and admired by millions of Americans, and by countless others around the world;
Whereas Ronald Reagan’s eloquence united Americans in times of triumph and tragedy;
Whereas Nancy Reagan not only served as a gracious First Lady but also led a national crusade against illegal drug use;
Whereas, together Ronald and Nancy Reagan dedicated their lives to promoting national pride and to bettering the quality of life in the United States and throughout the world; and
Whereas the thoughts and prayers of the Congress and the country are with Ronald Reagan in his courageous battle with Alzheimer’s disease: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Congress, on behalf of the American people, extends its birthday greetings and best wishes to Ronald Reagan on his 91st birthday.

Additional Background: See RSC Talking Points.

Cost to Taxpayers: None.

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

Constitutional Authority: No committee report citing Constitutional authority is available.

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H.Con.Res. 312 — Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the tax relief provided for by the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 passed by a bipartisan majority in Congress should continue as scheduled. (Bachus)

Order of Business: The resolution will be considered on February 6 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Resolution Text:

Whereas on June 7, 2001 President Bush signed into law the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001, which provides millions of taxpayers with the first meaningful tax relief since 1981;

Whereas all Americans who pay federal income taxes will benefit from the Act, which includes across-the-board income tax reductions, reduction of the marriage penalty, elimination of the death tax, tax rebate checks, doubling of the per-child tax credit, increasing tax-free contributions to Individual Retirement Accounts and a broad range of other beneficial provisions;

Whereas the Act was passed by a bipartisan majority in Congress of 211 House Republicans, 28 House Democrats, 1 House Independent, 46 Senate Republicans and 12 Senate Democrats, making the Act an important bipartisan achievement;

Whereas several Members of Congress have recently called for repealing or delaying tax relief provisions of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001; Now therefore be it

Resolved, That is the sense of the House of Representatives that -

(1) the tax relief provided for by the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001, passed by a bipartisan majority in Congress, should continue as scheduled;

(2) repealing or delaying provisions of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 is a tax increase;

(3) increasing taxes in the midst of a recession would not be helpful to the nation's economy or American workers; and

(4) instead of increasing taxes, Congress should be working with the President to promote long-term economic growth through a fair tax code that puts the least possible burden on taxpayers.

Additional Background: See RSC Talking Points.

Cost to Taxpayers: None.

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

Constitutional Authority: No committee report citing Constitutional authority is available.

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