



Legislative Bulletin.....February 27, 2008

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Summary of the Bills Under Consideration Today:

Total Number of New Government Programs: 0

Total Cost of Discretionary Authorizations: \$0

Effect on Revenue: Reduced by \$82 million in FY 2008 and \$119 million over the FY 2008—FY 2009 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: 1

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

H.R. 5264—Trade Preference Extension Act of 2008 (*Rangel, D-NY*)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, February 27, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 5264 would extend the Andean Trade Preference Act (ATPA) by 10 months, through December 31, 2008. The agreement provides for duty-free treatment of certain goods and services for Bolivia, Ecuador, Colombia, and Peru. Under current law, the provisions are set to expire on February 29, 2008.

The bill would also extend preferential treatment of certain apparel that is assembled in one or more of the beneficiary countries from regional fabrics or regional components. The preferences would allow such apparel items to be imported from a ATPA nation without duty and free of any quantitative restrictions, limitations, or consultation levels.

Additional Background: The ATPA was passed in 1991, and extended and expanded in 2002 under the Andean Trade Promotion and Drug Eradication Act, ([click here](#) to read the 2001 RSC Legislative Bulletin). The ATPA was extended for eight months on June 27, 2007, by a vote of [365-59](#). In a statement released shortly after the President signed the extension, the Bush Administration stated that the ATPA is “alleviating poverty by creating jobs and economic opportunities for the people of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru.” According to the White House, the four countries covered by the ATPA accounted for a market of \$11.6 billion in exports from the U.S. in 2006.

Committee Action: H.R. 5264 was introduced on February 7, 2008, and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, which held a mark up and reported the bill, as amended, by voice vote on February 14, 2008.

Cost to Taxpayers: According to CBO, H.R. 5264 would reduce revenues from customs duties by \$82 million in FY 2008 and \$119 million over the FY 2008—FY 2009 period.

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.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits? A Committee report designating compliance with clause 9 of rule XXI is unavailable.

Constitutional Authority: A Committee report citing Constitutional authority is unavailable. House Rule XIII, Section 3(d)(1), requires that all committee reports contain a statement citing the *specific* powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the law proposed by the bill or joint resolution. [*emphasis added*]

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S. 2478—A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 59 Colby Corner in East Hampstead, New Hampshire, as the “Captain Jonathan D. Grassbaugh Post Office” (Sununu, R-NH)

Order of Business: S. 2478 is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, February 27, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: S. 2478 would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 59 Colby Corner in East Hampstead, New Hampshire, as the “Captain Jonathan D. Grassbaugh Post Office.”

Additional Background: According to the *Baltimore Sun*, Captain Jonathan Grassbaugh was raised in East Hampstead, N.H., and graduated from Phillips Exeter Academy. Following graduation, Grassbaugh enrolled at Johns Hopkins University and joined the ROTC. While in the ROTC program Grassbaugh met his future wife, Jenna Parkinson. Following his graduation from Johns Hopkins, Grassbaugh joined the Army where he served with the 3rd Brigade Combat Team of the 82nd Airborne Division, based at Fort Bragg, N.C. On April 14, 2007, Captain Grassbaugh and three other soldiers were killed when an improvised explosive device (IED) detonated while the men were conducting a combat logistics patrol. Captain Greenbaugh was 25 years old at the time of his death.

Committee Action: S. 2478 passed the Senate by unanimous consent on December 19, 2007. The following day the bill was received in the House. On January 15, 2008, the bill was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which held a mark-up and reported the bill by voice vote on January 29, 2008.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO score of S. 2478 is unavailable, but the only costs associated with a U.S. post office 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.

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S. 2272—A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service known as the Southpark Station in Alexandria, Louisiana, as the John

“Marty” Thiels Southpark Station, in honor and memory of Thiels, a Louisiana postal worker who was killed in the line of duty on October 4, 2007 (Vitter, R-LA)

Order of Business: S. 2272 is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, February 27, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: S. 2272 would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service known as the Southpark Station in Alexandria, Louisiana, as the John “Marty” Thiels Southpark Station.

Additional Background: According to his obituary, John “Marty” Thiels was killed on October 4, 2007, by an armed gunman who took Thiels hostage at an Alexandria, Louisiana, law office. Thiels served as a U.S. Post Office carrier in Alexandria and had carried mail along the same route for over 30 years. Thiels was delivering mail to his route when he was taken hostage by a lone gunman who was later shot and killed by police after a ten hour standoff. Before the standoff ended, however, Thiels and another victim were murdered. Thiels was 50 years old at the time of his death and was survived by his wife, Laurie, and four children.

Committee Action: S. 2272 passed the Senate by unanimous consent on November 16, 2007. The bill was received in the House on December 4, 2007, and was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. On January 29, 2008, a mark-up was held and the bill was reported by voice vote.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO score of S. 2272 is unavailable, but the only costs associated with a U.S. post office 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.

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H.R. 3936—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 116 Helen Highway in Cleveland, Georgia, as the “Sgt. Jason Harkins Post Office Building” (Deal, R-GA)

Order of Business: H.R. 3936 is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, February 27, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 3936 would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 116 Helen Highway in Cleveland, Georgia, as the “Sgt. Jason Harkins Post Office Building.”

Additional Background: According to the Department of Defense, Sgt. Jason R. Harkins, of Clarksville, Ga., was killed on May 6, 2007, in Baqubah, Iraq. Harkins, 25, and five other soldiers were killed when an IED detonated near their vehicle while they were engaged in combat operations. In a statement released shortly after his death, Sgt. Harkin’s wife, Emily, said, “Jason felt like he was born to be a soldier, and died doing what he loved for a cause that he believed in.” Sgt. Harkins was assigned to the 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, stationed in Fort Lewis, Washington.

Committee Action: H.R. 3936 was introduced on October 23, 2007, and was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government reform. On January 29, 2008, the committee held a mark-up and reported the bill by voice vote.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO score of H.R. 3936 is unavailable, but the only costs associated with a U.S. post office 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.

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H.R. 3803—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3100 Cashwell Drive in Goldsboro, North Carolina, as the “John Henry Wooten, Sr. Post Office Building” (*Butterfield, D-NC*)

Order of Business: H.R. 3803 is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, February 27, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 3803 would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3100 Cashwell Drive in Goldsboro, North Carolina, as the “John Henry Wooten, Sr. Post Office Building.”

Additional Background: According to the Goldsboro News-Argus, John Henry Wooten Sr. was a former professor, high school principle, and county commissioner in Wayne County,

North Carolina. A Goldsboro native, Wooten served in the 2nd Infantry, 10th Army division, operating in the Pacific Theater during World War II. After he returned, Wooten married, started a family and began his career as an educator. Following his service as the Principal of Dillard High School and as a commissioner on the Wayne County Commission, Wooten served as a trustee for his alma mater, N.C. A&T State University. Wooten passed away in January, 2007, at the age of 82.

Committee Action: H.R. 3803 was introduced on October 10, 2007, and was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government reform. On December 12, 2007, the committee held a mark-up and reported the bill by voice vote.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO score of H.R. 3803 is unavailable, but the only costs associated with a U.S. post office 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.

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H.R. 4454—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3050 Hunsinger Lane in Louisville, Kentucky, as the “Iraq and Afghanistan Fallen Military Heroes of Louisville Memorial Post Office Building,” in honor of the servicemen and women from Louisville, Kentucky, who died in service during Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom (*Yarmuth, D-KY*)

Order of Business: H.R. 4454 is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, February 27, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 4454 would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3050 Hunsinger Lane in Louisville, Kentucky, as the “Iraq and Afghanistan Fallen Military Heroes of Louisville Memorial Post Office Building,” in honor of the servicemen and women from Louisville, Kentucky, who died in service during Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Additional Background: According to the Department of Defense, seven service members from Louisville, Kentucky, have been killed serving in Operation Enduring Freedom and

Operation Iraqi Freedom: Sergeant Christopher Phelps, Staff Sergeant George S. Rentschler, Sergeant Michael D. Acklin II, Sergeant Darrin K. Potter, Sergeant David Neil Wimberg, Petty Officer Jeffery L. Wiener, and Lance Corporal Robert A. Lynch. This number, however, only accounts for service members who listed Louisville as their home of record and does not include casualties who resided in different cities or townships within the greater Louisville area.

Committee Action: H.R. 4454 was introduced on December 11, 2007, and was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government reform. On January 29, 2008, the committee held a mark-up and reported the bill by voice vote.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO score of H.R. 4454 is unavailable, but the only costs associated with a U.S. post office 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.

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H.R. 3721—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1190 Lorena Road in Lorena, Texas, as the “Marine Gunnery Sgt. John D. Fry Post Office Building” (*Edwards, D-TX*)

Order of Business: H.R. 3721 is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, February 27, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 3721 would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1190 Lorena Road in Lorena, Texas, as the “Marine Gunnery Sgt. John D. Fry Post Office Building.”

Additional Background: According to the Associated Press, Gunnery Sgt. John D. Fry of Lorena, Texas, was an explosive ordinance disposal technician assigned to the II Marine Expeditionary Force at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. On March 8, 2008, Sgt. Fry was disarming a bomb while in combat when the device detonated and killed him. According to family members, Sgt. Fry was given the option to return home after injuring his hand months before his death, but stayed in Iraq because his skills were desperately needed. Sgt. Fry was 28 years old and was survived by his wife and three children.

Committee Action: H.R. 3721 was introduced on December 11, 2007, and was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government reform. On January 29, 2008, the committee held a mark-up and reported the bill by voice vote.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO score of H.R. 3721 is unavailable, but the only costs associated with a U.S. post office 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.

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S.Con.Res. 67—A concurrent resolution establishing the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies (*Feinstein, D-CA*)

Order of Business: S.Con.Res. 67 is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, February 27, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: S.Con.Res. 67 would establish a Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies to make the necessary arrangements for the inauguration of the President-elect and the Vice President-elect of the U.S. The committee would consist of three Members of the Senate and three Members of the House, chosen by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House respectively.

The committee would be authorized to utilize equipment as well as the services of the “appropriate personnel of department and agencies.” S.Con.Res. 67 would also authorize the committee to accept gifts and donations of goods and services to carry out the preparations.

Additional Information: According to the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies formed for the [2005 inaugural](#), “the Framers of the Constitution provided that Congress would determine when and where the Inauguration would take place... The Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies was formed in 1901 to oversee Inaugural ceremonies at the United States Capitol... Since 1901, Congress has created a new Inaugural committee every four years to plan and conduct the Inaugural activities at the Capitol, including the swearing-in ceremony and the luncheon honoring the President and Vice President. As tradition dictates, the Committee includes the Senate Majority Leader (at the time of appointment), the chair and ranking member of the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Majority and Minority

Leaders of the House of Representatives.” The next President will be inaugurated on January 20, 2009.

Committee Action: S.Con.Res. 67 passed in the Senate of February 8, 2008, by unanimous consent. On February 12, 2008, the resolution was received in the House and referred to the Committee on House Administration, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution does not authorize expenditures.

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.

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**S.Con.Res. 68—A concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol by the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies
(*Feinstein, D-CA*)**

Order of Business: S.Con.Res. 68 is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, February 27, 2008, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: S.Con.Res. 68 would authorize the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies to use the Capital Rotunda to host proceedings and ceremonies for the Presidential inauguration on January 20, 2008.

Committee Action: S.Con.Res. 68 passed in the Senate of February 8, 2008, by unanimous consent. On February 12, 2008, the resolution was received in the House and referred to the Committee on House Administration, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution does not authorize expenditures.

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.

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