

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2955–S2984

Measures Introduced: Five bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2850–2854, S. Res. 513, and S. Con. Res. 76. **Page S2977**

Measures Passed:

Purple Heart Family Equity Act: Senate passed H.R. 1119, to amend title 36, United States Code, to revise the congressional charter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the United States of America, Incorporated, to authorize associate membership in the corporation for the spouse and siblings of a recipient of the Purple Heart medal, clearing the measure for the President. **Page S2981**

Celebrating Army Reserve Centennial: Senate agreed to S. Res. 513, congratulating the Army Reserve on its centennial, which will be formally celebrated on April 23, 2008, and commemorating the historic contributions of its veterans and continuing contributions of its soldiers to the vital national security interests and homeland defense missions of the United States. **Pages S2981–82**

Celebrating Army Reserve Centennial: Senate passed H.J. Res. 70, congratulating the Army Reserve on its centennial, which will be formally celebrated on April 23, 2008, and commemorating the historic contributions of its veterans and continuing contributions of its soldiers to the vital national security interests and homeland defense missions of the United States, clearing the measure for the President. **Page S2982**

Conflicts in Chad, the Central African Republic, and Darfur, Sudan: Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 470, calling on the relevant governments, multilateral bodies, and non-state actors in Chad, the Central African Republic, and Sudan to devote ample political commitment and material resources towards the achievement and implementation of a negotiated resolution to the national and regional conflicts in Chad, the Central African Republic, and Darfur, Sudan, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Pages S2982–83**

Technical Corrections: Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 76, to make technical corrections in the enrollment of the bill S. 1858. **Page S2983**

Measures Considered:

Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users: Senate resumed consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 1195, to amend the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users to make technical corrections. **Pages S2961–72**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 93 yeas to 1 nay (Vote No. 103), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. **Page S2971**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill at approximately 11 a.m., on Tuesday, April 15, 2008, and that all time during any morning business, recess, or adjournment of the Senate count against cloture. **Page S2984**

Hydrographic Services Improvement Act Amendments—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3352, to reauthorize and amend the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act, and that the bill be placed on the Senate calendar. **Page S2981**

Messages from the House: **Pages S2973–74**

Enrolled Bills Presented: **Page S2974**

Executive Communications: **Pages S2976–77**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S2974–76**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S2977–80**

Additional Statements: **Page S2973**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S2980–81**

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: **Page S2981**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—103) **Page S2971**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 2 p.m. and adjourned at 6:12 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, April 15, 2008. (For Senate's program, see the re-

marks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S2984.)

Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 7 public bills, H.R. 5781–5787; and 3 resolutions, H. Res. 1104–1106, were introduced. **Pages H2265–66**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H2266–67**

Reports Filed: A report was filed on April 10, 2008 as follows:

H.R. 3548, to enhance citizen access to Government information and services by establishing plain language as the standard style for Government documents issued to the public, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–580). Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 281, to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to allow all eligible voters to vote by mail in Federal elections, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–581);

H.R. 5036, to direct the Administrator of General Services to reimburse certain jurisdictions for the costs of obtaining paper ballot voting systems for the general elections for Federal office to be held in November 2008 and to reimburse jurisdictions for the costs incurred in conducting audits or hand counting of the results of the general elections for Federal office to be held in November 2008, with amendments (H. Rept. 110–582, Pt. 1);

H.R. 5715, to ensure continued availability of access to the Federal student loan program for students and families (H. Rept. 110–583);

H.R. 5719, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to conform return preparer penalty standards, delay implementation of withholding taxes on government contractors, enhance taxpayer protections, and assist low-income taxpayers, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–584);

Supplemental report on H.R. 5719, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to conform return preparer penalty standards, delay implementation of withholding taxes on government contractors, enhance taxpayer protections, and assist low-income taxpayers (H. Rept. 110–584, Pt. 2);

H. Res. 1102, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5719) to amend the Internal Revenue

Code of 1986 to conform return preparer penalty standards, delay implementation of withholding taxes on government contractors, enhance taxpayer protections, and assist low-income taxpayers (H. Rept. 110–585);

H. Res. 1103, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2634) to provide for greater responsibility in lending and expanded cancellation of debts owed to the United States and the international financial institutions by low-income countries (H. Rept. 110–586);

H. Res. 1068, permitting active duty members of the Armed Forces who are assigned to a Congressional liaison office of the Department of Defense at the House of Representatives to obtain membership in the exercise facility established for employees of the House of Representatives, with amendments (H. Rept. 110–587);

H.R. 5493, to provide that the usual day for paying salaries in or under the House of Representatives may be established by regulations of the Committee on House Administration (H. Rept. 110–588); and

H.R. 5570, to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate the sunset in the special immigrant nonminister religious worker visa program, with amendments (H. Rept. 110–589).

Page H2265

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Hirono to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H2227**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:32 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H2227**

Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the guest Chaplain, Rev. Joseph T. Holcomb, Director of Pilgrimages, Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, DC. **Page H2227**

Committee Resignation: Read a letter from Representative Wynn, wherein he resigned from the Committee on Energy and Commerce, effective 5 p.m. on April 9, 2008. **Page H2228**

Official Objectors for the 110th Congress: On behalf of the Majority and Minority leadership, the

Chair announced the following Official Objectors for the Private Calendar for the 110th Congress: Representatives Boucher, Schiff and Grijalva for the Majority and Representatives King (IA), Forbes and Smith (TX) for the Minority. **Page H2228**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Expressing sympathy to the victims and families of the tragic acts of violence in Colorado Springs, Colorado and Arvada, Colorado: H. Res. 886, amended, to express sympathy to the victims and families of the tragic acts of violence in Colorado Springs, Colorado and Arvada, Colorado, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ ye-and-nay vote of 380 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 183; **Pages H2228–30, H2224**

Expressing support for designation of a National Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia Awareness Day: H. Res. 994, amended, to express support for designation of a National Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia Awareness Day, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ ye-and-nay vote of 377 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 184; **Pages H2230–31, H2244–45**

Contracting and Tax Accountability Act of 2007: H.R. 4881, amended, to prohibit the awarding of a contract or grant in excess of the simplified acquisition threshold unless the prospective contractor or grantee certifies in writing to the agency awarding the contract or grant that the contractor or grantee has no seriously delinquent tax debts; **Pages H2234–37**

Plain Language in Government Communications Act of 2007: H.R. 3548, amended, to enhance citizen access to Government information and services by establishing plain language as the standard style for Government documents issued to the public, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ ye-and-nay vote of 376 yeas to 1 nay, Roll No. 185; and **Pages H2237–39, H2245**

Honoring and recognizing the work of the Meals On Wheels Association of America, its member senior nutrition programs throughout the country, and their annual March For Meals campaigns: H. Res. 259, to honor and recognize the work of the Meals On Wheels Association of America, its member senior nutrition programs throughout the country, and their annual March For Meals campaigns. **Pages H2239–41**

Recess: The House recessed at 3:46 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H2243**

Suspensions—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measures under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed until Tuesday, April 15th:

Texas Military Veterans Post Office Designation Act: H.R. 5517, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7231 FM 1960 in Humble, Texas, as the "Texas Military Veterans Post Office" and **Pages H2231–34**

Expressing support for the designation of the month of April 2008, as National Child Abuse Prevention Month: H. Res. 1097, amended, to express support for the designation of the month of April 2008, as National Child Abuse Prevention Month to provide attention to the tragic circumstances that face some of our Nation's children on a daily basis and to underscore our commitment to preventing child abuse and neglect so that all children can live in safety and security. **Pages H2241–43**

Senate Messages: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today and a message received from the Senate today appear on pages H2228 and H2246.

Senate Referrals: S. Con. Res. 76 was held at the desk.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three ye-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H2244, H2244–45, and H2245. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 12:30 p.m. and adjourned at 9:48 p.m.

Committee Meetings

NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE AND NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Committee on Appropriations: Select Intelligence Oversight Panel met in executive session to hold a hearing on the National Reconnaissance Office and the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency. Testimony was heard from Scott Large, Director, National Reconnaissance Office; and VADM Robert Merrett, USN, Director, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency.

TAXPAYER ASSISTANCE AND SIMPLIFICATION ACT OF 2008

Committee on Rules: Granted, by a vote of 7 to 3, a rule providing for consideration of H.R. 5719, the "Taxpayer Assistance and Simplification Act of 2008." The rule provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. The rule provides that

the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions of the bill, as amended. This waiver does not affect the point of order available under clause 9 of rule XXI (regarding earmark disclosure). The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Finally, notwithstanding the operation of the previous question, the Chair may postpone further consideration until a time designated by the Speaker. Testimony was heard from Representatives Lewis of Georgia, Brady of Texas and Sessions.

JUBILEE ACT FOR RESPONSIBLE LENDING AND EXPANDED DEBT CANCELLATION OF 2007

Committee on Rules: Granted, by voice vote, a structured rule providing for consideration of H.R. 2634, the “Jubilee Act for Responsible Lending and Expanded Debt Cancellation of 2007.” The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill except clauses 9 and 10 of rule XXI. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Financial Services now printed in the bill shall be considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment and shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against the amendment in the nature of a substitute except for clause 10 of rule XXI. The rule makes in order only those amendments printed in the Rules Committee report accompanying the resolution. The amendments made in order may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for a division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against the amendments except for clauses 9 and 10 of rule XXI are waived. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. The rule provides that, notwithstanding the operation of the previous question, the Chair may postpone further consideration of the bill to a time designated by the Speaker. Testimony was heard from Chairman Frank and Representative Bachus.

Joint Meetings

FARM BILL EXTENSION ACT

Conferees met to resolve the differences between the Senate and House passed versions of H.R. 2419, to provide for the continuation of agricultural programs through fiscal year 2012, but did not complete action thereon, and recessed subject to the call and will meet again on Tuesday, April 15, 2008.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 2008

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2009 for the Department of the Interior, 10 a.m., SD-124.

Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2009 for the Food and Drug Administration, 10 a.m., SD-192.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine U.S. credit markets, focusing on the impact on the cost and availability of student loans, 10 a.m., SD-538.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests, to hold hearings to examine S. 570 and H.R. 1011, bills to designate additional National Forest System lands in the State of Virginia as wilderness or a wilderness study area, to designate the Kimberling Creek Potential Wilderness Area for eventual incorporation in the Kimberling Creek Wilderness, to establish the Seng Mountain and Bear Creek Scenic Areas, to provide for the development of trail plans for the wilderness areas and scenic areas, S. 758 and H.R. 1311, bills to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey the Alta-Hualapai Site to the city of Las Vegas, Nevada, for the development of a cancer treatment facility, S. 1680, to provide for the inclusion of certain non-Federal land in the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge and the Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge in the State of Alaska, S. 2109, to designate certain Federal lands in Riverside County, California, as wilderness, to designate certain river segments in Riverside County as a wild, scenic, or recreational river, to adjust the boundary of the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument, S. 2124, to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain land in the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, Montana, to Jefferson County, Montana, for use as a cemetery, and S. 2581, to designate as wilderness additional National Forest System lands in the Monongahela National Forest in the State of West Virginia, 2:30 p.m., SD-366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Subcommittee on Transportation Safety, Infrastructure Security, and Water Quality, to hold hearings to examine pharmaceuticals in the nation's water, focusing on assessing potential risks and actions to address this issue, 3 p.m., SD-406.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine tax reform, focusing on fundamentals for advancement, 10 a.m., SD-215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (the "Geneva Protocol III"), adopted at Geneva on December 8, 2005, and signed by the United States on that date; the Amendment to Article 1 of the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed To Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (the "CCW Amendment"); and the CCW Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (the "CCW Protocol V") (Treaty Doc. 109-10), the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (the Convention) and, for accession, The Hague Protocol, concluded on May 14, 1954, and entered into force on August 7, 1956 with accompanying report from the Department of State (Treaty Doc. 106-01), and protocols to the 1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed To Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects: the amended Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II or the Amended Mines Protocol); the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Incendiary Weapons (Protocol III or the Incendiary Weapons Protocol); and the Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons (Protocol IV) (Treaty Doc. 105-01), 2:30 p.m., SD-419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: to hold hearings to examine ending abuses and improving working conditions for tomato workers, 10 a.m., SD-430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine nuclear terrorism, focusing on confronting the challenges of the day after, 10 a.m., SD-342.

Full Committee, to continue hearings to examine the 2010 Decennial Census, focusing on automation and information technology in order to improve census coverage, accuracy, and efficiency, 3:15 p.m., SD-342.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Select Intelligence Oversight Panel, executive, on CIA, 10 a.m., H-140 Capitol.

Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, on IRS, 10 a.m., 2220 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, on Capitol Visitor Center, 1:30 p.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans' Affairs, and Related Agencies, on SOUTHCOM, 1:30 p.m., H-143 Capitol.

Committee on Armed Services, on Building Partnership Capacity and Development of the Interagency, 9:30 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing on oversight of the Defense Travel System, 3 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet, hearing entitled "Oversight of the Federal Communications Commission—the 7-MHz Auction, 9:30 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, hearing entitled "Financial Literacy and Education: The Effectiveness of Governmental and Private Sector Initiatives," 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Capital Markets, Insurance, and Government Sponsored Enterprises, hearing on H.R. 5579, Emergency Mortgage Loan Modification Act of 2008, 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Transportation Security and Infrastructure Protection, hearing entitled "Moving Beyond the First Five Years: How the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Will Continue to Enhance Security for All Modes of Transportation," 2 p.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on House Administration, hearing on Military and Overseas Voting: Problems and Progress in Ensuring the Vote, 11 a.m., 1310 Longworth.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Constitution, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, hearing on H.R. 3189, National Security Letters Reform Act of 2007, 1 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands and the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources joint oversight hearing on the West-wide Energy Corridor Process: State and Community Impacts, 10 a.m., 1334 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, Postal Service and the District of Columbia, to mark up the following: the Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act of 2008; and H.R. 3774, Senior Executive Service Diversity Assurance Act; followed by a oversight hearing on D.C. Water and Sewer Authority (DCWASA), 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Government Management, Organization and Procurement, hearing on New Contracting and Property Bills, 2 p.m., 2247 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, to consider H.R. 5719, Taxpayer Assistance and Simplification Act of 2008, 1:30 p.m., H-313 Rayburn.

Committee on Science and Technology, Subcommittee on Energy and Environment, hearing on the Department of Energy's FutureGen Program, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, hearing on Fiscal Year Budget: Federal Maritime Commission, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, hearing on the following bills: H.R. 5730, To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to display in each prosthetic clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs an Injured and Amputee Veterans Bill of Rights; H.R. 2818, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the establishment of Epilepsy Centers of Excellence in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs; H.R. 5554, Veterans' Substance Use Disorders Prevention and Treatment Act of 2008; H.R. 5622, Veterans' Timely Access to Health Care Act; H.R. 5595, Make Our Veterans Smile Act of 2008; and H.R. 5729, To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide comprehensive health care to chil-

dren of Vietnam veterans born with Spina Bifida, and for other purposes, 10 a.m., 334 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Health, hearing on the Instability of Health Coverage in America, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, executive, hearing on Fiscal Year 2009 Budget-MIP, 1 p.m., H-140 Capitol.

Joint Meetings

Conference: meeting of conferees on H.R. 2419, to provide for the continuation of agricultural programs through fiscal year 2012, Time to be announced, SR-325.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Tuesday, April 15

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10:30 a.m., Tuesday, April 15

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 60 minutes), Senate will continue consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 1195, Highway Technical Corrections.

(Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Consideration of the following suspensions: (1) H.R. 4056—The Federal Law Enforcement Officers Congressional Badge of Bravery Act of 2008; (2) H. Res. 1053—National Crime Victims' Rights Week Act of 2007; (3) H. Res. 1095—Commemorating the anniversary of the Fair Housing Act; (4) H.R. 5570—Religious Worker Visa Extension Act of 2008; (5) H.R. 5036—Emergency Assistance for Secure Elections Act of 2008; (6) H.R. 5493—To provide that the usual day for paying salaries in or under the House of Representatives may be established by regulations of the Committee on House Administration; and (7) H. Res. 1068—To permit membership in the exercise facility established for employees of the House of Representatives and in the House Staff Fitness Program to be made available to other Federal employees who are assigned to official duty at the House of Representatives. Consideration of H.R. 2634—Jubilee Act for Responsible Lending and Expanded Debt Cancellation of 2007 (Subject to a Rule).

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