

Blunt Facts

December 2004

7th District Congressional Voting Record

108th Congress • 2nd Session

What's Inside

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House APPROVED Legislation

- ✓ Extended Tax Relief To Families
- ✓ Added 39,000 Troops to Army & Marines
- ✓ Improved Military Survivors' Benefits
- ✓ Extended Health Coverage for National Guard & Reservists
- ✓ Established Association Health Plans
- ✓ Unborn Victims of Violence Act

Your
Vote In
Washington!



Blunt Delivers \$27.65 Million for Renovated MFA & Jordan Valley Research Facility

Southwest Missouri Congressman Roy Blunt secured \$27.65 million in defense funding for several important Southwest Missouri projects, including the creation of a new \$8 million defense research center in downtown Springfield. With the president's signature in late July, the funds will become available during the fiscal year that started October 1, 2004.

The Center for Applied Science and Engineers (CASE) at Southwest Missouri State University with 3,000-square-foot of classrooms and lab space lacks suitable expansion room for its research facilities. The appropriations championed by Blunt call for \$8 million to renovate, expand and equip the vacant mid-town MFA Mill building into a 43,500- square-foot Jordan Valley Innovation Center (JVIC) to house a new research and testing facility. Completion of the renovated MFA Mill is anticipated in 2006.

CASE offers a unique capability for scientific application of new areas of advanced manufacturing technology. Research underway at CASE supports advanced manufacturing in areas such as the development of micro-electromechanical systems (MEMS) for use in chemical and biological sensors, biomaterials research in nanotechnology, medical technology and technical support.

"Springfield and Southwest Missouri are about to take a bold step into the world of sophisticated defense research and technology," Blunt, the House Majority Whip, said. "Not long ago I thought the MFA building was headed for demolition. The vision of Southwest Missouri State University and the City of Springfield is redefining the old feed mill as an economic redevelopment center that will house advanced research companies and university researchers. The community will see the creation of new job opportunities in an entirely new field of enterprise. A new industry is being developed for our region."

"This is a significant step toward moving this project forward and we greatly appreciate Congressman Blunt's perseverance in not only moving this appropriation for the Jordan Valley Innovation Center through the process, but getting additional monies for the actual research that will take place within the facility," said Mayor Tom Carlson. "This is going to take Center City redevelopment to a new level that we hadn't even anticipated before Congressman Blunt's vision and foresight in seeing an old mill's



A Few Blunt Constituent Advocacy Success Stories

Herman Hopkins of Nixa, a Veteran of the 87th Infantry Division in World War II, sought Congressman Blunt's help in obtaining the medals he earned. Within two months the medals, including a Bronze Star, arrived. Constituent Advocate Sue Ellen Ball presented the medals (pictured left).

A similar story comes from a Reeds Spring woman who sought help from the Constituent Advocate to obtain her father's military medals. "I was very surprised to get them so quickly," she wrote after receiving the medals her father won.

A man from Nixa tried for eight months to receive a substantial tax return from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), but the check kept being returned. It took Congressman Blunt's staff just two weeks to find the glitch and fix it and have the check rightfully delivered to the Nixa man.

A Carl Junction man had problems getting his 2002 tax return from the IRS when he came to Congressman Blunt hoping to find a solution. The result: his tax return was issued in less than 30 days and came with an interest payment of more than \$190.

When a woman from Crane learned the IRS had denied her claim for an earned income tax credit for 2001 and 2002, she came to Blunt's office for help. It took eight months and a small book of paperwork to convince the IRS that her claim was justified. The woman received two years of back tax refunds and interest of nearly \$400.

Clariese Replogle of Branson sought help from Congressman Blunt's staff after her

potential for a new research industry for SMS and Springfield."

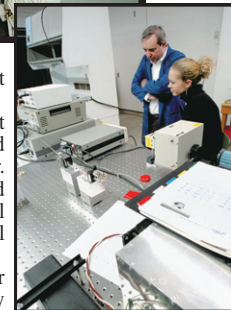
Working with private sector research companies, CASE will spearhead work on expanding the useful lifetime of jet fighter canopies, upgrading computer memory in space applications, and continuing development of chemical and biosensors.

"I believe history will show that this is one of the most significant investments ever made in Springfield and southwest Missouri," said SMSU President John H. Keiser. "The funding for the Center for Applied Science and Engineering and the Jordan Valley Innovation Center will establish a research and development foundation that will serve this region well into the 21st century."

Dr. Ryan Giedd, executive director of the Center for Applied Science and Engineering and the Jordan Valley Innovation Center, added, "CASE and the Jordan Valley Innovation Center will now be poised to complete our mission and, along with our corporate partners, create new economic growth and opportunities in the Springfield area."

Blunt's efforts also brought a new company to Springfield to develop enhancements for advanced targeting kits for air-delivered ordnance. A new "DataLink Electronics Manufacturing and Integration" (DEMI) facility, with 12 to 15 employees will be located in Springfield. Clean Earth Technologies will employ 45 to 50 defense workers within the next few years. The digital links would provide more precise targeting for weapons and greater safety for pilots by extending their range of operations.

Blunt's package of defense research programs also includes work on how well mission-based defense computers systems work. Government Enterprise Management Systems (GEMS) will establish offices at the Chamber of Commerce Innovation Center in Joplin. The project will monitor the efficiency of dozens of the military's command and control computer systems.



husband died of cancer. Her claim to the Department of Veterans Affairs for survivors' benefits was denied. Research by the congressional office found her husband was a Vietnam veteran who had been exposed to Agent Orange and that the VA covered his fatal illness. Mrs. Replogle was able to reverse the earlier denial and survivors' benefits were granted.

Rod Harmon of Aurora brought a Social Security disability case to the Springfield Constituent Service Center for assistance. He later wrote: "You have renewed my faith in our government. I am convinced that without your help my case would still be on going."

Robert Ballay and his wife Rosa (pictured right) sought help from the Constituent Advocate when they ran into problems with the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Ballay explained, "I was faced with the daunting paperwork required for first a Visa, and next citizenship, for my wife. Phone calls to the Immigration Service never connected with a 'real' person and registered-receipt letters went unanswered. Congressman Roy Blunt's Constituent Advocate repeatedly came to our aid over the past four years, and it is not an overstatement to say that my wife might not yet have her citizenship without the help."

A Springfield man had tried for a year to obtain a copy of his military discharge form DD214 when he brought the problem to Congressman Blunt. A letter to the National Personnel Records Center brought a prompt response and a copy of the man's separation documents and a Certification of Military Service. He responded: "It has been extremely helpful to me and I will never forget it."



Blunt Welcomes 39,000 New Troops In War On Terror

--House Blocks Reinstatement of the Draft 402 to 2--

The Department of Defense Authorization bill, which was signed into law, authorized increases of 30,000 active Army personnel and 9,000 active Marine Corps personnel over the next three years.

Blunt, who was the first member of the House leadership to advocate for an increase in active duty military personnel, said, "The global war on terrorism has added new

dimensions and missions. The commitment of U.S. military resources worldwide to eliminate terrorist threats and actively defend the homeland has placed an enormous strain on the manpower available to both the active and reserve forces."

Added Blunt: "This increase in troops will ensure our forces are not overextended, and provide our National Guard and Reservists with the assurance that our nation will See **Troops**, Page 4

November 2003

ROY'S RECORD

7th District Missouri
Congressman Roy Blunt's
Voting Record

108th Congress, First Session-2003

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

KEY:

Yes=Votes in Favor No=Votes Against
*= Super majority required on suspension
bills & constitutional amendments

Amendment - A proposal from a member of Congress to alter the language, provisions, or stipulations in a bill or in another amendment. It is usually printed, debated, and voted upon in the same way as a bill.

Appropriations - Legislation which provides the spending authority approved by authorization bills but not necessarily the full amount authorized. There are 13 annual appropriation bills for each fiscal year which begin on October 1.

Authorization - Basic legislation that establishes or continues (reauthorization) the legal operation of a federal program or agency, either indefinitely or for a specific time period, or which sanctions a particular type of obligation or expenditure.

Bill - A legislative proposal, designated as "HR" in the House of Representatives or "S" in the Senate, followed by a number assigned to the order in which it was introduced during the two-year session of a Congress. A bill becomes a law if it is approved by both House and Senate in identical form and language and signed by the president or a president's veto is overridden by a two-thirds vote in both the House and Senate.

Concurrent Resolution - A resolution, designated as House Concurrent Resolution ("H Con Res") or Senate Concurrent Resolution ("S Con Res") often used to express the "sense of Congress" on various domestic or foreign policy issues. Concurrent resolutions differ from bills as they neither require nor are intended for approval by the president and, therefore, do not have the full force of law.

Conference Report - The product of a meeting ("conference") between designated representatives of the House and Senate to reconcile differences between the two chambers over provisions of a bill or joint resolution passed by both chambers in different forms or language. No bill or joint resolution can be sent to the president unless both chambers of Congress have approved common language ("conference report") on the measure.

Continuing Resolution - A bill which provides appropriations for specific ongoing activities of federal agencies when a fiscal year begins and Congress has not yet enacted the regular appropriations bill for the full fiscal year.

Joint Resolution - A resolution designated House Joint Resolution ("HJRes") or Senate Joint Resolution ("SJRes") followed by a number assigned in the order in which it was introduced during the two year session in which a particular congress is convened. If approved by both chambers in identical form and signed by the president, it becomes a law (just as a bill). A joint resolution is generally limited to special circumstances and is also used to propose amendments to the Constitution. Under that purpose, it does not require a presidential signature and becomes part of the Constitution if three-fourths of the states ratify or approve it.

This is the 8th Edition of all recorded votes cast by Roy Blunt and covers the periods in late November 2003 at the end of the First Session (page 2) of the 108th Congress and January through October 2004 in the Second Session of the 108th Congress (starting on page 3).

Each recorded vote includes the roll call number, date of the vote, title of the bill, a brief explanation of the measure, Roy's vote, and whether the bill passed or failed, along with the total House vote. Votes on 404 substantive bills, amendments, and resolutions are presented here in chronological order, but procedural votes such as rules, quorum calls, journal approvals and motions to adjourn are excluded for the sake of brevity.

At the time of printing, the Second Session 108th Congress was still in session. Votes taken after November 15th will be included in the 9th edition of Blunt Facts (2005).

> **627 11/18/03 H.R. 3300** Naming the post office building in Strongsville, Ohio, after Walter F. Ehrnfelt Jr., who served as the town's mayor from 1978 - 2003 and died May 25. **YES Passed* 410-0**

> **630 11/18/03 H.R. 6** Adoption of the conference report on the bill that would implement a comprehensive national policy for energy conservation, research and development. It would authorize \$25.7 billion in tax breaks over 10 years and authorize \$18 billion in loan guarantees for a natural gas pipeline from Alaska. Ethanol producers would be required to more than double their output by 2012. Makers of the gasoline additive MTBE would be protected from liability, but would have to cease production of the additive by 2015. The bill would also impose reliability standards for electricity transmission networks and ease restrictions on utility ownership and mergers. **YES Passed 246-180**

> **631 11/18/03 H.R. 2754** Adoption of the conference report on the bill that would appropriate \$27.3 billion in FY2004 for energy and water development projects, \$382 million more than the president's request. About 60 percent of the funding in the bill would go toward nuclear weapons research, testing and development, including \$7.5 million for a study on an earth-penetrating nuclear warhead. The Yucca Mountain nuclear waste storage site would receive \$580 million. **YES Passed* 387-36**

> **632 11/18/03 H.R. 1274** Directing the administrator of general services to convey to Fresno County, California, the existing federal courthouse in that county. **YES Passed* 421-0**

> **634 11/19/03 H.R. 1006** Making it illegal to import, export, sell, buy, or possess any lion, tiger, leopard, cheetah, jaguar, cougar, or any hybrid of those animals. Federally and state-licensed entities including zoos, circuses, universities, and sanctuaries would be exempt. **YES Passed* 419-0**

> **635 11/19/03 H Con Res 320** Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the importance of motorsports. **YES Passed* 414-0**

> **636 11/19/03 H.R. 3491** Authorizing \$32 million in FY2004 and unspecified sums in later years to plan and construct a National Museum of African-American History and Culture as part of the Smithsonian Institution. **YES Passed* 409-9**

> **638 11/19/03 H.R. 2420** Curbing trading abuses involving mutual funds and increase disclosure of mutual fund fees and expenses. The bill would require the Securities and Exchange Commission to issue rules that would prevent late trades. It would prohibit mutual fund employees from engaging in any short-term trading of their personal shares, allow funds to charge higher redemption fees to discourage short-term trades by others, and prohibit anyone from managing a mutual fund and hedge fund at the same time. **YES Passed* 418-2**

> **639 11/19/03 H.R. 427** Expressing the sense of the House congratulating the new leadership of the Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam and urging the government of Vietnam to increase religious freedom. **YES Passed* 409-13**

> **640 11/19/03 H Con Res 83** Honoring the victims of the Cambodian genocide that took place from April 1975 to January 1979. **YES Passed* 420-1**

> **641 11/19/03 H Con Res 288** Honoring Seeds of Peace, an organization that brings together children from regions of conflict to study and learn about coexistence and conflict resolution. **YES Passed* 415-0**

> **642 11/19/03 H.R. 393** Commending Afghan women for their participation in Afghan government and civil society since the fall of the Taliban regime in 2001. **YES Passed* 414-1**

> **643 11/19/03 H.R. 423** Recognizing the fifth anniversary of the signing of the International Religious

Freedom Act of 1998. **YES Passed* 416-1**

> **644 11/19/03 H.R. 3140** Requiring contact lens prescribers to provide patients with a copy of contact lens prescriptions and require contact lens sellers to verify a prescription with the prescriber. **YES Passed* 406-12**

> **646 11/20/03 S. 286** Reauthorizing the programs and activities of the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention through FY2007. **YES Passed* 415-1**

> **647 11/20/03 S. 686** Authorizing \$36 million in each of FY2005 through FY2009 for poison control activities, including to regional poison control centers, a national toll-free poison control hotline, media campaigns and data analysis. **YES Passed* 420-1**

> **648 11/20/03 H.R. 78** Making continuing FY2004 appropriations through November 23 for all federal departments and agencies whose FY2004 appropriations have not been enacted. **YES Passed* 410-10**

> **649 11/20/03 H.R. 2417** Adoption of the conference report to authorize a classified amount in FY2004 for 14 U.S. intelligence agencies and intelligence-related activities of the U.S. government, including the CIA and the National Security Agency, as well as foreign intelligence activities of the Defense Department, FBI, State Department, Homeland Security Department, and other agencies. **YES Passed 264-163**

> **652 11/20/03 H J Res 63** Agreeing to the Senate amendments to amend the Compacts of Free Association between the United States and the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. The measure would extend current U.S. financial and program assistance to Micronesia and the Marshall Islands, but it would restructure the way those funds are provided to increase fiscal accountability and economic planning. **YES Passed* 417-2**

> **653 11/20/03 H Con Res 209** Agreeing to the Senate amendments to commend the signing of the United States-Adriatic Charter between the United States, Albania, Croatia and Macedonia. **YES Passed* 416-1**

> **654 11/20/03 H.R. 1828** Agreeing to the Senate amendments to require the president to impose at least two sanctions on Syria. Sections could include barring U.S. exports and investment in Syria with the exception of food and medicine, freezing Syrian government assets in the United States, banning Syrian aircraft from U.S. airspace, reducing diplomatic contracts and restricting the travel of Syrian diplomats. Any of the sanctions could be waived for national security reasons. The bill also would condemn Syrian involvement with terrorism and demand a withdrawal of Syrian forces from Lebanon. **YES Passed* 408-8**

> **655 11/20/03 H.R. 253** Reauthorizing the National Flood Insurance Program and authorizing the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which administers the program, to use \$450 million in program funding over five years to buy repetitive loss properties or take other actions to mitigate against future damages. Owners of repetitive loss properties who refuse buyout offers or refuse to take actions to mitigate against future damages would have to pay market rates for flood insurance. **NO Passed* 352-67**

> **656 11/21/03 H.R. 1904** Adoption of the conference report to reduce and expedite environmental and judicial reviews of forest-thinning projects. Forest thinning would be limited to land that is within 1.5 miles of at-risk communities and certain other high-risk land. **YES Passed 286-140**

> **657 11/21/03 H.R. 453** Condemning the terrorist attacks in Istanbul, Turkey, on November 15, 2003. **YES Passed* 426-0**

> **658 11/21/03 S. 1156** Making changes to veterans' health programs, including eliminating the 90-day

requirement for former prisoners of war to qualify for VA outpatient dental care and increasing annual funding for specialized mental health care services for severely and chronically disabled veterans. The bill also would authorize \$277 million for medical construction projects. **YES Passed* 423-2**

> **663 11/21/03 H Con Res 206** Expressing support for the Bone Marrow Donor Program. **YES Passed* 423-2**

> **664 11/21/03 H J Res 79** Making continuing FY2004 appropriations through January 31, 2004, for all federal departments and agencies whose FY2004 appropriation bills have not been enacted. **YES Passed* 407-16**

> **667 11/21/03 H.R. 2622** Adoption of the conference report to establish national credit reporting standards. It would permanently extend existing law that forbids states from enacting stronger credit laws, and would implement new provisions to prevent identity theft, including allowing consumers to place "fraud alerts" in their credit files. Consumers would be able to obtain a free copy of their credit reports each year. **YES Passed* 379-49**

> **669 11/21/03 H.R. 1** Adoption of the conference report to create a prescription drug benefit for Medicare recipients beginning in 2006, and make structural changes to the program allowing beneficiaries to obtain coverage through traditional Medicare or a private health plan. The bill also calls for extra subsidies for low-income beneficiaries and would increase payments to Medicare providers. Beginning in 2007, Medicare Part B premiums would increase for some higher-income recipients. Certain individuals under 65 years of age, as well as Medicare recipients, would be able to establish health-savings accounts to pay for health care services not covered by their insurance policy. **YES Passed 220-215**

> **671 11/21/03 S. 877** Seeking to reduce unsolicited bulk e-mails. All commercial e-mail would have to be labeled as a commercial communication, have a valid and functional return e-mail address and include a physical postal address. False header information and deceptive subject lines would be prohibited; all e-mails containing sexually explicit material would have to carry a warning in the subject line. The bill would also prohibit methods of "harvesting" e-mail addresses and would authorize the Federal Trade Commission to create a "do not spam" list for people to register their e-mail addresses. **YES Passed* 392-5**

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Six Southwest Missouri Students
Received Appointments To The
Nation's Military Schools

Six Southwest Missouri students received appointments to the nation's military schools and began their education at the academies for Air Force, Army and Navy. (Pictured left to right); Justin Lee Cunningham of Spokane and Matthew Scott Hamilton of Springfield, United States Military Academy; Lauren Anne Henderson of Nixa, Air Force Academy; Sharon Nahon, Congressman Blunt's District Director who oversees the academy application process; Domanique Jung-Soon Kindle of Ozark and Samuel Kim of Springfield, Naval Academy; and Alexander Seifert of Joplin, Air Force Academy. A panel chosen by Congressman Blunt interviewed candidates regarding their scholastic, extracurricular and volunteer activities for the class of 2008.

2004

ROY'S RECORD

7th District Missouri

Congressman Roy Blunt's

Voting Record

108th Congress, Second Session-2004

> **2 1/21/04 H.R. 492** Expressing support for Catholic Schools Week and honoring Catholic schools for their contributions to American education. **YES Passed* 398-1**

> **3 1/21/04 H.R. 491** Commending people who mentor children and supporting efforts to recruit more mentors in the United States. **YES Passed* 397-0**

> **4 1/21/04 H.R. 490** Recognizing and commending the achievements of NASA, the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and Cornell University in conducting the Mars Exploration Rover mission, and recognizing the importance of space exploration. **YES Passed* 389-0**

> **5 1/21/04 H.R. 489** Honoring former Senator Paul Simon, D-Ill., and expressing sorrow and regret over the announcement of his death. **YES Passed* 394-0**

> **6 1/27/04 H.R. 1385** Extending through 2006 the authority of the Postal Service to issue a special postage stamp that benefits breast cancer research. **YES Passed* 331-1**

> **7 1/27/04 H.R. 3493** Making technical corrections and clarifications to the Medical Device User Fee and Modernization Act of 2002, including clarifying the types of fees applicable under the act. **YES Passed* 333-0**

> **8 1/28/04 S. 1920** Amendment to make permanent Chapter 12 bankruptcy protection for family farmers and would expand eligibility requirements for Chapter 12, including permitting family fisherman to file for bankruptcy. **NO Failed 158-204**

> **10 1/28/04 S. 1920** Requiring debtors who are able to repay \$10,000 or 25 percent of their debts over five years to file under Chapter 13, which requires a reorganization of debts under a repayment plan, instead of seeking to discharge their debts under Chapter 7. A debtor would be limited to a total exemption of \$125,000 in home equity for residences purchased within 40 months of a bankruptcy filing. The bill also would make permanent and retroactive Chapter 12 bankruptcy relief for farmers. **YES Passed 265-99**

> **12 2/2/04 H.R. 507** Expressing the profound sorrow of the House on the anniversary of the space shuttle Columbia accident and offering condolences to the families of the seven astronauts killed in the disaster. **YES Passed* 397-0**

> **13 2/3/04 H.R. 157** Expressing the sense of the House that the Chinese government should immediately release all prisoners of conscience, including Phuntsog Nyidron, a Tibetan Buddhist nun. **YES Passed* 398-0**

> **14 2/3/04 H J Res 84** Extending birthday greetings and best wishes to former President Ronald Reagan on his 93rd birthday. **YES Passed* 394-0**

> **15 2/4/04 H.R. 3030** Amendment to add religion as a non-discrimination criteria for hiring by organizations receiving federal Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funds. The amendment also would strike language in current law that allows organizations receiving CSBG funds to hire on a religious basis. **NO Failed 182-231**

> **16 2/4/04 H.R. 3030** Amendment to require religious groups that receive Community Services Block Grant funds to conduct religious activities separately and make them voluntary for program participants. **NO Failed 180-233**

> **17 2/4/04 H.R. 3030** Amendment to prohibit organizations that receive federal Community Services Block Grant funds from hiring on a religious basis and require them to operate in a "lawful and secular" manner when using the funds. **NO Failed 183-232**

> **18 2/4/04 H.R. 3030** Amendment to authorize such sums as necessary under the Community Services Block Grants program for a six-month federal program to

provide an additional 13 weeks of unemployment benefits for people who have exhausted their state jobless benefits. **NO Passed 227-179**

> **19 2/10/04 H Con Res 358** Authorizing the printing of "History in the United States Capitol" as a House document. **YES Passed* 402-1**

> **20 2/10/04 H Con Res 359** Authorizing the use of the Capitol Rotunda for a ceremony on April 22, 2004, as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust. **YES Passed* 402-0**

> **21 2/10/04 H Con Res 264** Authorizing and requesting that the president issue a proclamation to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Constantino Brumidi, who spent more than 25 years of his life painting and decorating the Capitol. **YES Passed* 404-0**

> **23 2/11/04 H.R. 743** Requiring the Social Security Administration to re-issue benefits when a "representative payee" misuses funds. It also would require state or local government employees to work in a job that pays into Social Security for five years before they could qualify for an exemption under the government pension offset, illegal immigrants would not be able to collect Social Security benefits for the time they worked in the country illegally unless they were later granted legal status. **YES Passed* 402-19**

> **24 2/11/04 H.R. 3783** Extending funding for highway, transit and transportation safety programs for an additional four months, through June 30, 2004. Funding was originally set to expire October 1, 2003, but Congress enacted a five-month extension through February 29. The measure includes \$25.2 billion in contract authority for federal-aid highway programs. **YES Passed* 421-0**

> **26 2/24/04 H.R. 2707** Directing the Forest Service to create a trial program to control salt cedar and Russian olive trees in the western United States. The measure would authorize \$5 million in FY2005 for assessing ways to control the trees and \$18 million annually in FY2005 through FY2009 to carry out demonstration projects. **YES Passed* 367-40**

> **27 2/24/04 S. 714** Authorizing the Bureau of Land Management to convey, without costs, approximately 68.8 acres of land to Douglas County, Oregon. The conveyance is intended to provide improved access to the Oregon Dunes National Recreational Area for off-road vehicles and other visitors. **YES Passed* 397-01**

> **28 2/25/04 H.R. 2751** Providing the General Accounting Office (GAO) with additional discretion to manage its workforce, including tying employee raises to a minimum performance standard and making permanent the agency's authority to offer early retirement. **YES Passed* 382-43**

> **29 2/25/04 H Con Res 287** Honoring the late actor Raul Julia for his contributions to the performing arts and the Latino community as well as his commitment to ending world hunger. **YES Passed* 422-0**

> **30 2/26/04 H.R. 1997** Amendment to make assault on a pregnant woman a federal crime. Under the substitute, a perpetrator could be subject to up to 20 years' imprisonment for an assault causing pre-natal injury and up to life imprisonment for an assault causing termination of the pregnancy. **NO Failed 186-229**

> **31 2/26/04 H.R. 1997** Making it a criminal offense to injure or kill a fetus during the commission of a violent crime. The measure would establish criminal penalties, equal to those that would apply if the injury or death occurred to the pregnant woman, for those who harm a fetus, regardless of the perpetrator's knowledge of the pregnancy or intent to harm the fetus. The bill states that its provisions should not be interpreted to apply to consensual abortion or to a woman's actions with respect to her pregnancy. The death penalty could not be imposed under this bill. **YES Passed 254-163**

> **32 3/2/04 H.R. 2769** Naming a post office building in Knoxville, Tenn., after Republican State Senator Ben Atchley. **YES Passed* 383-0**

> **33 3/2/04 H.R. 526** Expressing the sympathy of the House of Representatives for the victims of the December 26, 2003, earthquake in Bam, Iran. The resolution would also honor the life-saving work of U.S. and international aid personnel in Iran. **YES Passed* 381-0**

> **34 3/2/04 H.R. 530** Expressing the sense of Congress that the U.S. government should continue to insist that China adhere to fundamental human rights principles. The measure also would urge the U.S.

government to introduce a resolution at the 60th session of the U.N. Human Rights Commission in Geneva, Switzerland, calling on China to end its human rights violations and meet internationally recognized standards for human rights. **YES Passed* 402-2**

> **35 3/3/04 H.R. 912** Authorizing NASA and the Minor Planet Center of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory to establish two annual Charles "Pete" Conrad Astronomy Awards of \$3,000 each for amateur astronomers. **YES Passed* 404-1**

> **36 3/3/04 H.R. 3389** Making nonprofit entities eligible to apply for and receive Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Awards, which recognize organizations that have provided substantial economic or social benefits through improvements in their goods or services that result from effective management practices. **YES Passed* 408-0**

> **42 3/9/04 H.R. 519** Expressing sadness at the loss of life and property caused by the December 22, 2003, earthquake in San Luis Obispo County, California, and recognizing the local officials and personnel who aided the earthquake victims and their families. **YES Passed* 404-0**

> **43 3/9/04 H.R. 392** Congratulating the Detroit Shock for winning the 2003 Women's National Basketball Association Championship. **YES Passed* 401-0**

> **44 3/9/04 H.R. 475** Congratulating the San Jose Earthquakes for winning the 2003 Major League Soccer Cup. **YES Passed* 399-0**

> **46 3/10/04 S. 1881** Making technical corrections and clarifications to the Medical Device User Fee and Modernization Act of 2002, including clarifying the types of fees applicable under the act. **YES Passed* 396-0**

> **47 3/10/04 H Con Res 373** Expressing the sense of Congress that "Kids Love a Mystery" – a program that promotes children's reading and literacy – should be supported and encouraged. **YES Passed* 388-11**

> **48 3/10/04 H.R. 339** Amendment to exempt from the bill an action brought on by a state agency to enforce state consumer protection laws concerning mislabeling or other "unfair and deceptive trade practices." **NO Failed 177-241**

> **49 3/10/04 H.R. 339** Amendment to restrict the provisions of the bill to lawsuits filed in federal courts, allowing weight-related civil liability suits to be brought in state courts. **NO Failed 158-261**

> **50 3/10/04 H.R. 339** Amendment to permit civil liability suits in cases related to food that contains genetically engineered material, unless the food's labeling explicitly state that it contains genetically engineered material. **NO Failed 129-285**

> **51 3/10/04 H.R. 339** Amendment to change the bill's definition of a "manufacturer" and "seller" so that it does not apply to meat slaughtering, packing, canning or rendering establishments that provide meat for human consumption that comes from "downed animals," animals that cannot stand or walk. **NO Failed 141-276**

> **52 3/10/04 H.R. 339** Amendment to exempt from the bill civil actions that allege a weight loss product caused health problems or any other complication that might be associated with a person's weight gain. **NO Failed 166-250**

> **53 3/10/04 H.R. 339** Amendment to strike the section of the bill that dismisses all qualified weight-related civil liability actions pending at the time of the bill's enactment. **NO Failed 164-249**

> **54 3/10/04 H.R. 339** Prohibiting lawsuits in federal and state courts against restaurants, food manufacturers and distributors based on claims that the food contributed to the plaintiff's obesity or weight gain. The bill would allow suits if the defendant knowingly and willfully violated federal or state laws governing the labeling, advertising or selling of food products. **YES Passed 276-139**

> **55 3/11/04 H.R. 3717** Increasing to \$500,000 per violation the maximum fines that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) could levy on broadcasters for airing indecent, obscene or profane material. The bill would make it easier for the FCC to fine individuals for indecent actions and make them subject to the same fines as broadcasters. It would require that the FCC consider revoking a license after a broadcaster committed three or more indecency-related offenses. The bill would also establish a 180-day window for the FCC to make indecency enforcement decisions. **YES Passed* 391-22**

> **56 3/11/04 H Con Res 15** Commending India on its celebration of Republic Day, and reiterating Congress' support for continued strong relations between the United States and India. **YES Passed* 418-0**

> **57 3/11/04 H.R. 540** Expressing the condolences and deepest sympathies of the House of Representatives for the death of Macedonian President Boris Trajkovski, who was killed in a plane crash February 26. **YES Passed* 411-0**

> **58 3/16/04 H.R. 551** Recognizing the 25th anniversary of the Cable-Satellite Public Affairs Network (C-SPAN) and its coverage of the House of Representatives' proceedings. Also would commend the network and its employees for providing outstanding coverage that benefits the government and the public. **YES Passed* 392-0**

> **59 3/16/04 H.R. 3733** Naming a post office building in Altamont, Kansas, after the late, former Representative Myron V. George, R-Kan. **YES Passed* 394-0**

> **60 3/16/04 H.R. 433** Honoring the late Luis A. Ferré – former governor of Puerto Rico and recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom – for his outstanding political leadership, business savvy, advocacy for social justice, and love and support of the arts. **YES Passed* 398-0**

> **64 3/17/04 H.R. 557** Affirming the United States and the world are safer with the removal of Saddam Hussein and his regime from power in Iraq. It also would commend U.S. and coalition forces for liberating Iraq and commend the Iraqi people on the adoption of Iraq's new interim constitution. **YES Passed 327-93**

> **65 3/17/04 H J Res 87** Honoring the life and legacy of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and recognizing his contributions to the United States and the world on the anniversary of his birthday. **NA Passed* 398-5**

> **66 3/18/04 H.R. 1375** Amendment to prohibit commercial banks from charging a fee to the depositor of a check that is returned for insufficient funds. **NO Failed 167-255**

> **67 3/18/04 H.R. 1375** Amendment to express the sense of Congress that when a banking agency requests expedited action on a merger application, the merger's impact on corporate and individual customers should be considered. **NO Failed 194-255**

> **68 3/18/04 H.R. 1375** Amendment to allow banks to pay interest on business checking accounts and allow the Federal Reserve to pay interest on 'sterile' accounts that banks must maintain under federal law. **YES Passed* 418-0**

> **69 3/18/04 H.R. 1375** Easing dozens of banking regulations, including expanding the ability of banks and thrifts to open new branches or merge with other institutions. It would provide banks with greater flexibility to manage their operations, such as providing greater leeway in the calculation of dividend payments. The bill, as amended, would ban any company with less than 85 percent of its business in financial services from using an industrial loan company to branch across state lines. It also would allow credit unions to expand their investment opportunities and their service offerings, such as wire transfers, while streamlining merger procedures. **YES Passed 392-25**

> **70 3/18/04 H.R. 3782** Raising the maximum reward available under the Department of State rewards program from \$5 million to \$25 million for information leading to the arrest or conviction of foreign terrorists or narco-terrorists. Any information that leads to the disruption of terrorist financing networks would also be eligible for a reward. The bill would authorize up to \$50 million for the capture of a leader of a foreign terrorist organization. **YES Passed* 414-0**

> **71 3/18/04 H Con Res 364** Expressing Congress' recognition of more than 50 years of strategic partnership between the United States and the people of the Marshall Islands. The resolution would also recognize the importance of the nuclear weapon test code-named Brave at Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands on March 1, 1954. **YES Passed* 408-0**

> **73 3/23/04 H.R. 958** Requiring the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to maintain four navigation response teams in priority coastal areas to conduct navigational safety activities and to verify hydrographic data, which helps chart or map bodies of water. The bill also would extend the 2000 Fisheries Survey Vessel Authorization Act, which allows NOAA to acquire or lease up to six fishery research vessels. **YES Passed* 384-23**

> **74 3/23/04 H.R. 2408** Reauthorizing funding for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's volunteer programs, which allow the agency to recruit volunteers and enter into cooperative agreements with partner organizations, such as academic institutions. **YES Passed* 401-10**

> **75 3/23/04 H.R. 2489** Setting aside 20 percent of the funds from a government settlement owed to the Cowlitz Indian Tribe of Washington for a tribal elderly assistance program, with the remainder distributed among eight other assistance programs. **YES Passed* 404-0**

> **76 3/23/04 H.R. 3926** Authorizing the Health and Human Services Department to provide reimbursement for travel and other incidental non-medical expenses incurred by individuals making living organ donations. **YES Passed* 414-2**

> **77 3/24/04 H.R. 522** Expressing the sense of the House that there is a critical need to increase awareness and education about the risk factors for heart disease among women. It would commend first lady Laura Bush and the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute for their efforts to raise public awareness about heart disease and women. **YES Passed* 420-0**

> **79 3/24/04 H.R. 1768** Allowing federal judges to retain jurisdiction over lawsuits that have been filed in multiple federal district courts by plaintiffs but consolidated in one district. **YES Passed* 418-0**

> **80 3/24/04 H Con Res 328** Expressing Congress' support for the designation of a National Military Appreciation Month, which honors members of the armed forces, including those who have died in the line of duty. **YES Passed* 424-0**

> **81 3/24/04 H.R. 3059** Naming a post office building in Stuttgart, Arkansas, after the late Col. Lloyd L. Burke, a veteran of three wars and winner of the Congressional Medal of Honor. **YES Passed* 425-0**

> **82 3/24/04 H.R. 3873** Reauthorizing such sums as necessary through FY2008 for a number of child nutrition programs, including the National School Lunch and Breakfast programs, Child and Adult Care Food Program and After-School Snack Program. It also would require schools to develop "wellness policies" setting standards for nutrition education and physical activity and to set guidelines for food sold on campus. **YES Passed* 419-5**

> **83 3/25/04 H Con Res 189** Expressing the sense of Congress that the president should endorse an International Geophysical Year 2 (IGY-2) for 2007 to 2008, which would promote global scientific cooperation. **YES Passed* 420-3**

> **85 3/25/04 H.R. 3786** Authorizing the secretary of the Treasury to produce currency, postage stamps and other security documents for foreign governments - provided that the foreign government reimburses the United States for the costs of production **YES Passed* 422-2**

> **86 3/25/04 H.R. 2993** Extending the Commemorative Coin Program - which issues a commemorative quarter for each state - for an additional year, through 2009, and would add the District of Columbia and five U.S. territories to the program. **YES Passed* 411-14**

> **87 3/25/04 H.R. 254** Concurring with Senate amendments to the bill that would revamp the North American Development Bank, including codifying a U.S.-Mexico agreement that would allow the bank to make below-market-rate loans and extend the zone in Mexico served by the bank. The bill, as amended, would limit the bank's new authority to make grants. **YES Passed* 377-48**

> **88 3/25/04 H Con Res 393** Amendment for \$43.3 billion in additional spending and \$5 billion for deficit reduction in FY2005. It would call for action to rescind tax cuts for individuals making more than \$200,000 in gross income, close several tax loopholes and reduce funding for the ballistic missile defense program. Spending increases would include \$30.5 billion more for non-defense programs and an additional \$12.8 billion for defense, homeland security and veterans' programs. **NO Failed 119-302**

> **89 3/25/04 H Con Res 393** Amendment for a balanced budget by FY2012 and reduce the deficit by half over the next two years. Action on additional tax cuts or other proposals that would create additional budgetary obligations would be deferred until Congress and the president have taken action to reduce the deficit. It would allow for a one-year extension of the \$1,000 tax credit, so-called marriage penalty relief, and the 10

percent tax bracket and allow for an extension of the tax cuts after 2010 subject to pay-as-you-go rules. **NO Failed 183-243**

> **90 3/25/04 H Con Res 393** Amendment to provide procedural protection for \$182.6 billion in tax cuts over five years, while reducing the deficit by half in three years. It would call for reducing non-defense, non-homeland security discretionary spending by 1 percent from FY2004 levels and scaling back the growth of non-Social Security mandatory spending by 1 percent in FY2005. **YES Failed 116-309**

> **91 3/25/04 H Con Res 393** Amendment for a balanced budget by FY2012 and allowing discretionary spending to keep pace with inflation. It would allow for an extension of certain tax cuts, such as the \$1,000 child tax credit, while reducing tax cuts for those who make more than \$500,000 a year. It also would establish a "pay-as-you-go" point of order that could be raised against any tax cuts or spending increases that are not offset. **NO Failed 194-232**

> **92 3/25/04 H Con Res 393** Setting broad spending and revenue targets over the next five years. The resolution would call for \$821.3 billion in discretionary spending for FY2005, and assumes \$50 billion in additional FY2005 spending to support military operations in Iraq. It would call for \$152.6 billion in tax cuts over five years and provide reconciliation protection for \$137.6 billion of that total. It also would call for the budget deficit to be reduced by approximately half by FY2009. Mandatory spending would rise by 5 percent in FY2005. It would allow for a 7 percent increase in defense spending in FY2005 and a 12 percent increase in homeland security spending. **YES Passed 215-212**

> **93 3/25/04 H.R. 3095** Explicitly authorizing top local government officials to order the lowering of the U.S. flag to half-staff to honor the deaths of current and past local government employees. **YES Passed* 374-2**

> **94 3/29/04 H.R. 2584** Concurring with the Senate amendments to the bill that would convey a decommissioned ship to the Utrok Atoll in the Marshall Islands to support radiological monitoring and resettlement of the atoll, whose residents were affected by U.W. nuclear testing. **YES Passed* 379-1**

> **95 3/29/04 H.R. 3723** Naming a post office building in Dallas after Vaughn Gross, the assistant superintendent of the Richardson Independent School District, located just outside of Dallas. **YES Passed* 379-0**

> **99 3/30/04 H.R. 558** Expressing the sense of the House in welcoming the accession of Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and reaffirming that NATO expansion enhances the security of the United States and the North Atlantic area. **YES Passed* 422-2**

> **100 3/30/04 S. 2057** Requiring the Defense Department to reimburse members of the armed services for one domestic round trip between September 25, 2003, and December 18, 2003, related to their leave from Iraq and Afghanistan. **YES Passed* 423-0**

> **101 3/30/04 H.R. 3966** Prohibiting universities that bar access to Reserve Officer Training Corps or military recruiters from receiving certain federal funding. Schools that receive federal funding would be required to provide military recruiters the same access to students as they offer other groups. **YES Passed* 343-81**

> **102 3/30/04 H.R. 3104** Requiring the president to establish a campaign medal specifically to recognize service by members of the armed forces in Afghanistan and Iraq. **YES Passed* 423-0**

> **103 3/30/04 H. Con. Res. 386** Congratulating the United States Air Force Academy on its 50th anniversary, acknowledging the academy's role in U.S. defense and recognizing the service provided by the academy's graduates. **YES Passed* 420-0**

> **104 3/31/04 H.R. 581** Expressing the sense of the House that federal civilian employees and military personnel should receive the same percentage pay increases in FY2005, and that compensation may be sufficient to retain "quality" government employees. **YES Passed 199-126**

> **106 4/1/04 H.R. 3550** Amendment to subtract the amount that states receive in high priority program earmarks from their formula totals for the Surface Transportation Program. **NO Failed 60-367**

> **107 4/1/04 H.R. 3550** Amendment to allow states to receive toll credits - government credits that match toll revenues - for any local, state or private funds

contributed to a toll project that exceed the minimum non-federal 20 percent threshold required for federal matching funds. **NO Failed 50-376**

> **108 4/1/04 H.R. 3550** Amendment for a 400-pound weight limit exclusion for any heavy-duty motor vehicle equipped with EPA-approved "idling reduction technology," which is intended to reduce emissions and fuel consumption. **NO Failed 198-228**

> **109 4/1/04 H.R. 3550** Amendment to exempt motion picture and television production truck drivers from new hours-of-service regulations, which increased required rest periods for truck drivers by two hours. **YES Passed* 365-62**

> **120 4/20/04 H.R. 1822** Naming a post office building in Los Angeles after the late Dosan Ahn Chang Ho, who founded the Young Korean Academy in Los Angeles and played a significant role in the growth of the Korean-American community in the city. **YES Passed* 399-0**

> **121 4/21/04 H.R. 3970** Directing several federal agencies to promote research and development of "green" chemistry - the use of chemistry to reduce pollution. The bill would authorize \$84 million through FY2007 for programs such as competitive grants to researchers from universities, industry, and nonprofit organizations, and research at federal laboratories. **YES Passed* 402-14**

> **122 4/21/04 H.R. 4030** Directing the National Science Foundation to award 10 annual congressional medals to private companies that have supported student achievement in science, technology, engineering and mathematics at elementary and secondary schools. **YES Passed* 411-7**

> **123 4/21/04 H.R. 3147** Naming a federal building in Ogdin, Utah, after former Rep. James V. Hansen, R-Utah, who served in the House from 1981-2003. **YES Passed* 418-0**

> **124 4/21/04 H.R. 4019** Authorizing the secretary of State to endorse and obtain observer status for Taiwan at the annual weeklong summit of the World Health Assembly in May 2004 in Geneva. **YES Passed* 416-0**

> **125 4/21/04 H.R. 1779** Allowing members of the active-duty National Guard and reserves to make penalty-free early withdrawals from retirement plans. The bill would limit the withdrawals to members of the military activated between September 11, 2001, and September 12, 2005, and who serve in excess of 179 days. **YES Passed* 415-0**

> **128 4/22/04 H.R. 2844** Amendment to extend the time frame for conducting special elections from 45 to 75 days. **NO Failed 179-229**

> **129 4/22/04 H.R. 2844** Amendment to strike the bill's 10-day deadline for political parties to select nominees and substitute language that would require a potential candidate to meet the requirements to get on the ballot as set by state law. **NO Failed 188-217**

> **130 4/22/04 H.R. 2844** Requiring special elections to fill vacant House seats within 45 days of a catastrophe that kills at least 100 House members. If a regularly scheduled election is planned to fill a vacant House seat within 75 days of the House Speaker's announcement of the vacancies, then no special election for that seat is required. It also would require parties to nominate their candidates within 10 days of the House Speaker's announcement. **YES Passed* 306-97**

> **131 4/27/04 H.R. 3942** Renaming a post office building in Middletown, Rhode Island, as the Rhode Island Veterans Post Office Building. **YES Passed* 395-0**

> **132 4/27/04 H.R. 399** Honoring the late Melvin Jones, founder of the

Association of Lions Clubs, and recognizing the contribution of Lions Clubs International to communities in need. **YES Passed* 395-0**

> **133 4/27/04 H.R. 578** Supporting the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month. **YES Passed* 391-0**

> **134 4/28/04 H.R. 4219** Extending the funding for highway, transit and transportation safety programs for an additional two months, through June 30, 2004. The bill includes \$24.3 billion in contract authority for federal highway programs. **YES Passed* 410-0**

> **136 4/28/04 H.R. 4181** Amendment to permanently end tax provisions eliminating the so-called marriage penalty. It also would prevent the alternative minimum tax from negating the benefits of the bill for married couples, and it would offset the cost of the bill by imposing a 3.6 percent surtax on taxpayers earning more than \$500,000 a year and married couples with annual incomes of more than \$1 million. **NO Failed 189-226**

> **138 4/28/04 H.R. 4181** Permanently extending tax provisions eliminating the so-called marriage penalty by making the standard deduction for married couples double that of single taxpayers and increasing the upper limit of the 15 percent tax bracket for married couples to twice that of singles. It also would make permanent higher income limits for married couples eligible to receive the refundable earned-income tax credit. **YES Passed* 323-95**

> **139 5/4/04 H.R. 600** Commending charter schools and their students, parents, teachers and administrators for their contributions to education and public school systems. It also would urge the president to call on the public to support National Charter Schools week. **YES Passed* 396-0**

> **140 5/4/04 H Con Res 380** Expressing the sense of the Congress that music education is an important component of an academic curriculum and should be available to every student. **YES Passed* 402-0**

> **141 5/4/04 H.R. 599** Congratulating the University of Connecticut men's and women's basketball teams for winning the 2004 NCAA Championships. **YES Passed* 401-0**

> **143 5/5/04 H.R. 4227** Amendment to exempt individuals with adjusted gross incomes of less than \$125,000 and married couples with incomes below

* Increase In Troops Ensures Our Forces Are Not Overextended

* **TROOPS**, from Page 1

* only call on their skills during times of crisis or particular need---not as part of our permanent forces."

* Last year, Blunt said, "I am a strong believer in our integrated force structure as a method of reaching our highest level of military capacity when we need to. But the too frequent use of Reservists and National Guardsmen for prolonged periods of active, routine duty indicates that we need to reconsider whether our force is big enough to meet America's needs."

* In October 2004, the House voted 402-2 against resuming the draft. "This overwhelming vote should put an end to the rumors, started by bloggers and perpetuated in e-mail campaigns, that there is support in Congress for reinstating the draft," Blunt said.

* In addition, Blunt voted for H.R. 1779, the Guardsmen and Reservists National Relief Act of 2003.

* H.R. 1779 will allow guardsmen or reservists who are activated for more than 179 days to make penalty-free withdrawals from their IRAs or pension fund. The bill is retroactive to cover those called to service since September 11, 2001, and extends to cover those who may be called to active duty through September 12, 2005.

* "The National Guardsmen and military Reservists who are in Iraq and Afghanistan defending our freedom may need to withdraw money from their IRAs to support their families during time away," Blunt said. "This bill ends the penalty on these servicemen and their families."

* Currently, there is a ten-percent penalty for early IRA or pension plan withdrawals.



Southwest Missouri soldiers returned from duty in Iraq.

\$250,000 from the alternative minimum tax (AMT) in 2005. It would phase in AMT liability for individuals with income of \$215,000 to \$145,000 and married taxpayers with income of \$250,000 to \$290,000.

NO Failed 197-228

> **144 5/5/04 H.R. 4337** Extending for one year the current income exemptions – up to \$40,250 for individual taxpayers and \$58,000 for married couples – from the alternative minimum tax.

YES Passed* 333-89

> **146 5/5/04 H.R. 605** Supporting the designation of a “National Autism Awareness Month.” It also would commend parents and relatives of children with autism for providing for their special needs and support increased federal funding for research to determine the causes of autism. **YES Passed* 421-0**

> **149 5/6/04 H.R. 402** Urging the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, the United Nations, the European Union and the Association of South East Asian Nations to work to provide unrestricted access to Laos for international election monitors and humanitarian aid workers. **YES Passed* 408-1**

> **153 5/11/04 H.R. 4299** Naming a post office building in Edinburg, Texas, after Dr. Miguel A. Nevarez, the first Hispanic president of the University of Texas-Pan American. **YES Passed* 405-0**

> **154 5/11/04 H.R. 622** Supporting Peace Officers Memorial Day to honor federal, state and local peace officers killed or disabled in the line of duty.

YES Passed* 404-0

> **155 5/11/04 H.R. 577** Marking the 50th anniversary of relations between the United States and the European Union (EU). It also would recognize that continued cooperation between the United States and the EU is essential to resolving international disputes and combating global threats. **YES Passed* 397-7**

> **160 5/12/04 H.R. 608** Expressing the sense of the House that the Defense secretary should ensure that the military expedites the delivery of election ballots to armed services members so they may be counted in the election. **YES Passed* 421-0**

> **161 5/12/04 H.R. 4279** Substitute amendment to allow up to \$500 of unused benefits in an employee’s health flexible spending accounts (FSA) to be carried over to the next year’s FSA. The cost would be offset by eliminating certain tax provisions. **NO Failed 197-230**

> **163 5/12/04 H.R. 4279** Permitting up to \$500 of unused funds in an employee’s health flexible spending account (FSA) to be carried over to the next year’s FSA or transferred to the employee’s health savings account. **YES Passed 273-152**

> **164 5/12/04 H Con Res 352** Honoring the contributions of Indian-Americans to the United States, and would express Congress’ commitment to working together with India to promote peace, prosperity and freedom among all countries. **YES Passed* 415-2**

> **166 5/12/04 H.R. 4280** Capping the awards that plaintiffs and their attorneys could receive in medical malpractice cases. The bill would limit non-economic damages to \$250,000 and cap punitive damages at \$250,000 or double economic damages, whichever is greater. Punitive damages would be barred against makers and distributors of medical products that were approved by the Food and Drug Administration. The bill would not pre-empt state damage caps but would impose federal caps on any states that do not have their own. Attorneys’ contingent fees would be limited.

YES Passed 229-197

> **167 5/12/04 H Con Res 378** Condemning the detention of Thaddeus Nguyen Van Ly, a Roman Catholic priest, by the government of Vietnam and call for his immediate release. **YES Passed* 424-1**

> **168 5/12/04 H Con Res 409** Recognizing the more than 16 million U.S. veterans who served during World War II, the 400,000 U.S. service members who died in the war and the Americans who supported the war effort at home. **YES Passed* 422-0**

> **170 5/13/04 H.R. 4275** Making permanent the current upper limit of the 10 percent income tax bracket. The current limits of \$7,000 for individuals and \$14,000 for couples are set to revert to \$6,000 and \$12,000 in 2005. **YES Passed* 344-76**

> **172 5/13/04 H.R. 4281** Substitute amendment to allow employers with fewer than 100 employees to participate in a Small Employer Health Benefits program that would be similar to the Federal Employees Health Benefits program. Employers would be required to pay

at least half of their employees’ premium costs and to offer coverage to all employees who have completed three months of service. **NO Failed 193-224**

> **174 5/13/04 H.R. 4281** Allowing for the creation of association health plans through which small companies could band together to buy insurance for their employees. Association health plans that cover employees in multiple states would be exempt from many individual state insurance regulations but would be regulated by the Labor Department. **YES Passed 252-162**

> **175 5/13/04 H J Res 91** Recognizing the 60th anniversary of the Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944, also known as the G.I. Bill of Rights. **YES Passed* 409-0**

> **176 5/13/04 H Con Res 414** Marking the 50th anniversary of the Supreme Court’s Brown v. Board of Education ruling that racial segregation in public schools is unconstitutional. It also would renew the commitment of Congress to continue to build on the legacy of the Brown decision. **YES Passed* 406-1**

> **177 5/17/04 H Con Res 420** Recognizing National Transportation Week and urging Americans to be more aware of the benefits that transportation provides to the U.S. economy. **YES Passed* 360-0**

> **178 5/17/04 H Con Res 423** Authorizing the use of the U.S. Capitol for an event in conjunction with the dedication of the World War II Memorial on May 29. **YES Passed* 364-0**

> **179 5/17/04 H Con Res 403** Condemning the Sudanese government for its attacks against civilians in the Darfur region of western Sudan and demanding an immediate stop to the attacks.

YES Passed* 360-1

> **182 5/18/04 H.R. 3722** Requiring hospitals to collect and report information on potential illegal aliens before hospitals can be reimbursed for treating them. It would make employers liable for the reimbursements if an undocumented employee seeks medical attention, unless the employer meets certain conditions for exemption. It also would specify that hospitals are not required to provide care to undocumented aliens if they can be transported to their home country without significant likelihood of making their condition worse. **NO Failed* 88-331**

> **183 5/18/04 H.R. 2728** Allowing the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission to make exceptions to the 15-day deadline employers must respond to in a citation from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. **YES Passed 251-177**

> **184 5/18/04 H.R. 2729** Expanding membership of the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission from three to five members. **YES Passed 228-199**

> **185 5/18/04 H.R. 2730** Requiring courts and judges to defer to Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission rulings when interpreting questions of law. The commission hears appeals of Occupational Safety and Health Administration violations. **YES Passed 224-204**

> **186 5/18/04 H.R. 3740** Naming a post office building in Roxboro, N.C., after the late Oscar Scott Woody, a post office employee who died when the R.M.S. Titanic sank in 1912. **YES Passed* 422-0**

> **187 5/18/04 H.R. 2432** Amendment to establish a commission to evaluate executive branch regulatory activities and decisions to determine whether political considerations have undermined the quality and use of science. It would authorize \$5 million for the commission to carry out its duties. **NO Failed 201-226**

> **188 5/18/04 H.R. 2432** Requiring each federal agency to provide the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) an annual cost-benefit estimate of all its required paperwork. It also would require the IRS to identify ways that it could reduce the paperwork burden on small businesses. **YES Passed* 373-54**



New Air Force 2nd Lt. Annie Kryger of Taney County, Missouri presented President Bush with a gift from the 2004 graduating class. Congressman Blunt nominated Kryger to the U.S. Air Force Academy.

> **189 5/18/04 H.R. 2731** Allowing courts to reimburse small businesses for their attorney fees if they successfully contest an Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) ruling. Current law permits such reimbursement only if the court finds that OSHA was not “substantially justified” in its ruling. **YES Passed 233-194**

> **190 5/18/04 H.R. 4176** Naming a post office building in Raeford, N.C., after the late Bobby Marshall Gentry, the former mayor of Raeford. **YES Passed* 421-0**

> **195 5/19/04 H.R. 4200** Honoring members of the U.S. armed forces by encouraging every American to wear a red poppy on Memorial Day as a sign of thanks to service members who have died. **YES Passed* 419-0**

> **196 5/19/04 H.R. 4200** Amendment to authorize the Defense secretary to assign military personnel to assist the Homeland Security Department with border security under certain circumstances such as a threat to national security. **YES Passed 231-191**

> **197 5/19/04 H.R. 4200** Amendment to allow overseas military facilities to provide privately-funded abortions for women who are in the military or are military dependents. **NO Failed 202-221**

> **198 5/19/04 H.R. 4200** Adopt the conference report on the concurrent resolution that would set broad spending and revenue targets for FY2005, including \$821.4 billion in discretionary spending and an additional \$50 billion for operations in Iraq. It would

apply pay-as-you-go rules to both spending and tax cuts until April 15, 2005, while exempting tax cuts contained in a reconciliation bill. The measure also authorizes up to \$31.2 billion in spending for homeland security programs in FY2005.

YES Passed 216-213

> **199 5/19/04 H.R. 4200** Amendment to express the sense of Congress that the abuse of Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib prison is offensive and that the majority of U.S. personnel have performed admirably. **YES Passed* 416-4**

> **200 5/20/04 H.R. 4200** Amendment to strike provisions in the bill that would delay for two years the military Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process, from 2005 to 2007. It would require the Defense Department to prepare reports on military infrastructure needs before Congress is required to vote on proposed base-closings. **YES Failed 162-259**

> **201 5/20/04 H.R. 4200** Amendment expressing the sense of Congress that the Defense secretary should assist the Iraqi government in destroying the Abu Ghraib prison and replacing it with a modern detention facility. **NO Passed* 308-114**

> **202 5/20/04 H.R. 4200** Amendment to direct the Defense Department to develop a comprehensive policy for the prevention of sexual assaults involving members of the armed forces. **YES Passed* 410-0**

> **203 5/20/04 H.R. 4200** Amendment to transfer \$36.6 million from the Energy Department’s Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator “bunker-buster” and Advanced Concepts programs to various intelligence programs focusing on improving conventional bunker-busting capabilities. **NO Failed 204-214**

> **204 5/20/04 H.R. 4200** Amendment to require the Defense secretary to initiate officer training and exchange programs with the Taiwanese military, which would focus on the defense of Taiwan against potential submarine and missile attacks. **YES Passed* 290-132**

> **206 5/20/04 H.R. 4200** Authorizing \$447.2 billion for operations in Iraq, for FY2005. It would authorize up to \$10.2 billion for missile defense, fund research for new nuclear, earth-penetrating weapons and delay the next scheduled round of base closures from 2005 to 2007. It also would require the Defense department to increase the number of active-duty Army service members by

30,000, boost Marine Corps active-duty levels by 9,000 and provide for a 3.5 percent pay hike for military personnel. **YES Passed* 391-34**

> **210 6/1/04 H Con Res 295** Recognizing Focus: HOPE, a Michigan-based civil and human rights group, for its commitment and contributions to human rights in Detroit and the United States. **YES Passed* 374-0**

> **211 6/1/04 H.R. 612** Recognizing and honoring the firefighters, public servants and others who responded to a devastating fire in Richmond, Virginia, on March 26, 2004. **YES Passed* 377-0**

> **212 6/1/04 H Con Res 417** Expressing the sense of Congress that the U.S. Air Force should continue to honor and learn from the Tuskegee Airmen, a group of African-American World War II fighter pilots. **YES Passed* 378-0**

> **219 6/2/04 H J Res 83** Proposing a constitutional amendment that would allow state governors to appoint new House members in the event many were killed or incapacitated. Each member would be allowed to choose two potential successors who could be appointed in the event of a catastrophe, until special elections could be held. **NO Failed* 63-353**

> **220 6/2/04 S J Res 28** Recognizing the 60th anniversary of D-Day, the Allied landing at Normandy during World War II, and request that the president issue a proclamation calling on the American people to commemorate the day. **YES Passed* 419-0**

> **221 6/2/04 H Con Res 413** Honoring women’s contributions to the nation during World War II. **YES Passed* 417-0**

> **222 6/2/04 H.R. 4109** Permitting taxpayers 65 years and older, who do not itemize their deductions, to file their taxes using a new, simplified “1040SR” income tax return form, based on the 1040EZ tax form. **YES Passed* 418-0**

> **225 6/3/04 H.R. 444** Authorizing personal accounts and grants of up to \$3,000 for unemployed individuals to use for job training or for services that might help in an employment search. Workers who find a job before receiving 13 weeks of unemployment compensation could receive the balance remaining in their accounts as a cash re-employment bonus. **YES Passed 213-203**

> **226 6/3/04 H.R. 3866** Broadening a ban on anabolic steroids to include approximately two-dozen new kinds of performance-enhancing supplements. **YES Passed* 408-3**

> **228 6/3/04 H.R. 655** Expressing sympathy for the families of those killed, tortured, and imprisoned for their participation in the 1989 Tiananmen Square protests, while condemning the ongoing human rights abuses by the Chinese government. **YES Passed* 400-1**

> **229 6/8/04 H.R. 663** Expressing profound regret and sorrow on the death of former President Ronald Reagan, who died June 5, 2004. **YES Passed* 355-0**

> **231 6/8/04 H.R. 664** Expressing appreciation for former President Ronald Reagan’s public service and condolences to the Reagan family. **YES Passed* 375-0**

> **232 6/14/04 H J Res 97** Approving the renewal of import restrictions that prohibit the importation of any products from Myanmar, the country formerly known as Burma. **YES Passed* 372-2**

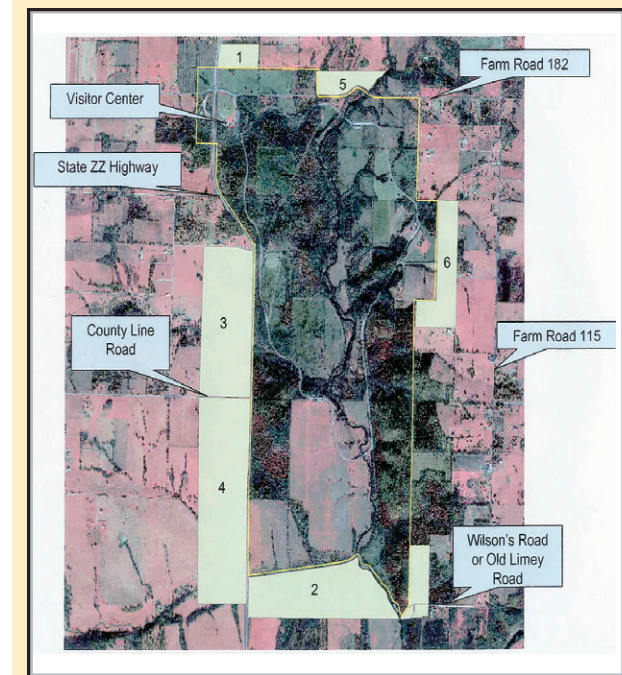
> **233 6/14/04 H.R. 669** Expressing the sense of the House in commending health organizations for their efforts in supplying information about screening and treatment options for prostate cancer. It also would recommend that the government ensure that health care providers supply prostate cancer patients with accurate information about various treatments. **YES Passed* 373-7**

> **234 6/14/04 H.R. 4323** Authorizing the Defense secretary to waive certain acquisition regulations in order to obtain equipment needed by a military commander to prevent combat fatalities. **YES Passed 285-97**

> **235 6/14/04 H.R. 653** Congratulating former President George Bush on his 80th birthday. **YES Passed 381-0**

> **241 6/15/04 H.R. 4503** Implementing a comprehensive national policy for energy conservation, research and development. It would authorize \$25.7 billion in tax breaks over 10 years, including \$11.9 billion to encourage oil and gas production, \$2.5 billion for “clean coal” programs, \$2.2 billion in incentives for alternative motor vehicles, and \$1.8 billion for the electric power industry and other businesses. It would

Votes Continued, Page 8



Blunt's Bill to Expand Wilson's Creek Boundaries Is Law

On October 30, President Bush signed legislation introduced by Southwest Missouri Congressman Roy Blunt to expand the protected boundaries of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield to the original Civil War-era acreage. The legislation authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to acquire 615 acres of land considered to be part of the initial battlefield through donation, purchase, or exchange with willing landowners.

"The Battle of Wilson's Creek was the first major Civil War engagement west of the Mississippi River," Blunt, a former American history teacher, said. "The battlefield remains in almost pristine condition, but we need to preserve the field as an historic site for future generations of Missourians to enjoy and learn from. This legislation will allow us to purchase or acquire the remaining parcels of land if the current owners are willing, and eventually to reconstitute the Battlefield in its original form."

Park Superintendent Ted Hillmer said, "The Wilson's Creek National Battlefield General Management Plan, approved in June 2003 after several public hearings, identified additional properties as important and significant to the overall story of the Battle of Wilson's Creek." House Resolution 4481 had the support of every member of Missouri's Congressional delegation.

The Battle of Wilson's Creek was fought on August 10, 1861. The first major Civil War battle west of the Mississippi River, it involved about 5,400 Union troops and 12,000 Confederate troops. A Confederate victory, the battle was also the scene of the death of Nathaniel Lyon, the first

Union general to be killed in combat. With the exception of the vegetation, the 1,750 acre battlefield has changed little from its historic setting.

Blunt Secures \$1.2 Million for George Washington Carver National Monument

The House of Representatives also approved the Interior Appropriations Bill that included \$1.2 million, sponsored by Southwest Missouri Congressman Roy Blunt, for improvements at the George Washington Carver National Monument near Diamond.

Blunt, the House Majority Whip, said, "The funds we secured will help provide the public the opportunity to learn about the contributions of Missouri's best known botanist-George Washington Carver." Annually, the Carver Monument draws more than 60,000 visitors but has had to use mobile classrooms to store artifacts and materials illustrating Carver's work.

The federal support will fund expansion of the visitors' center and other facilities to allow greater access to Carver's work in science. In last year's appropriations process, Blunt and Senator Kit Bond secured \$2 million for Carver Park.

George Washington Carver's boyhood home in Diamond sits on a 210-acre park with a mile-long nature trail, museum, and an interactive exhibit area for students. The park includes the historic Moses Carver House dating to 1881 and the Carver cemetery.

Assistance to Firefighter Grants Improve Rural Fire Protection

More than a third of the 96 fire departments serving Southwest Missouri have received grants totaling more than \$4 million over the last three years from the Assistance to Firefighters grant program. Fire Departments have improved the equipment, training and protective clothing firefighters use and wear, according to Southwest Missouri Congressman Roy Blunt.

Fire Chief Vince Helton greeted the award for purchase of a used fire truck by saying, "This is a big deal for us. The fire truck we are using is 40 years old and has trouble getting up to 45 miles per hour. The response time with the new truck should be noticeably improved and we'll have increased capacity to carry more water (1,000 gallons)," Helton said. "The grant will also fully outfit the fire truck and be used to purchase eight sets of personal protective clothing and four SCBAs (self-contained breathing apparatuses)."



Exeter's new fire truck (front) replaces the 1959 Ford (behind). The new pumper required the department to build a new fire station to house the larger fire truck.



"For most of the rural departments that rely on memberships, chili suppers and other fund raising events, buying a modern, \$170,000 fire truck would be impossible without the Assistance to Firefighters program." The grants require the local departments to cover 10 percent of the requested funding.

More than a dozen new fire trucks are either in service or have been ordered under the program run by the Department of Homeland Security. "They are faster, carry more hose and gear for fighting fires and doing rescue work and can carry more water to a rural fire scene where water resources are scarce," Gateway Fire Chiefs Association President Andy Nimmo of Redings Mill said. "These new trucks will make rural firefighters more effective in protecting property and saving lives."

The fire department in Halfway is a typical example.

Blunt Touts New Law Enforcement Legislation

Off-Duty and Retired Officers Would Be Allowed to Carry Weapons Regardless of Jurisdiction

Southwest Missouri Congressman Roy Blunt applauded House passage and the president's signature of H.R. 218. The Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act of 2004. (H.R. 218 will allow thousands of trained and certified officers, and retired officers who maintain their weapons proficiency, to carry concealed weapons in order to serve and protect our communities regardless of

jurisdiction. "Crime does not go off-duty," Congressman Blunt said. "Having armed officers ready to answer the call to protect and serve 24 hours a day, here at home, or on the road, is a commitment that will serve the public well. Allowing off-duty law enforcement officers and trained retired officers, with 15 or more years of service, to carry weapons will permit them to intervene anytime dangerous situations arise no matter where they are."

H.R. 218 was endorsed by over 80 law enforcement organizations, including the Fraternal Order of Police, the Law Enforcement Alliance of America, the National Troopers Coalition, the National Association of Police Organizations and the International Brotherhood of Police Officers.

Rocky Comfort 4th Grade Teacher Amelia Dody Honored

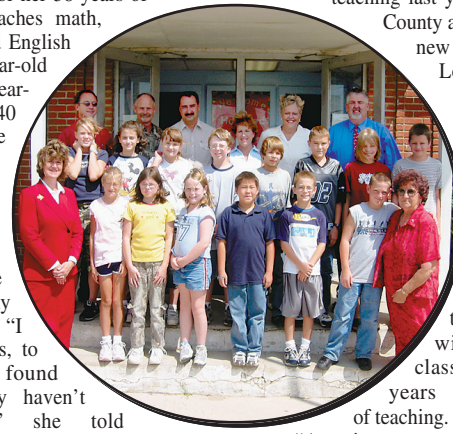
Southwest Missouri Congressman Roy Blunt paid tribute to Rocky Comfort 4th grade teacher Amelia Dody for her 58 years of teaching.

Ms. Dody teaches math, science, social studies and English to a class of 15 ten-year-old fourth graders in a 110-year-old building. The last 40 years of her career have been at Rocky Comfort in McDonald County. Originally she agreed to be a substitute teacher for two weeks and ended up staying to teach in the same classroom at Rocky Comfort, Missouri. "I only came for two weeks, to help out while they found somebody else. They haven't found anybody yet," she told Congressman Blunt during a visit to her classroom in August.

are her two grandsons, her son-in-law, and two current members of the McDonald County School Board.

There had been rumors that Ms. Dody would quit teaching last year, but voters in McDonald County approved the construction of a new elementary school in nearby Longview that will replace the Rocky Comfort Elementary School. That was too much for Ms. Dody to pass up. She returned to the classroom this year and will move into her new classroom when the new elementary school opens in January. Now, she is telling her colleagues she will try to stay in the classroom for two more years to reach her 60th year of teaching.

"America owes so much to Ms. Dody and teachers like her, who have given a lifetime to educating our elementary school students in American values," Blunt said.



Talent, Blunt Push Animal Identification Program

U.S. Senator Jim Talent and Congressman Roy Blunt are working to help implement a nationwide animal identification program, after a single case of BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy), commonly known as "mad cow" disease, was confirmed in Washington state. The U.S. Department of Agriculture held a listening session in Joplin in late August with area producers to discuss the development, structure and implementation of a national animal identification program for beef and dairy cows.

"We have the opportunity to build an animal ID network that works for producers, consumers as well as our trading partners," said Talent, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Marketing, Inspection and Product Promotion, which has jurisdiction over food safety and animal health.

Congressman Blunt said, "The USDA recognized the national prominence of Southwest Missouri's livestock industry and the impact a National Animal Identification Program would have on it. Within a 100-mile radius of Springfield there are more cow-calf herds than any comparable region in America. The Joplin Stockyards is the nation's second largest and Springfield's livestock center continues to grow in

sales." Blunt continued, "Any animal identification program should address the issues of cost, confidentiality and liability."

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has received emergency funding to build and implement a national system that will quickly and efficiently traceback diseased or potentially diseased animals. The program took on added importance when a cow in Washington was confirmed with the disease that sparked an intense effort to track down the history of the cow and the herd it came from. The animal identification program should make future efforts easier and timelier, prevent the spread of disease and reassure consumers and trading partners of the safety of America's meat industry.

Blunt convened the only town hall meeting in the nation in Springfield to gather suggestions from local beef and dairy producers about the best means of halting the spread of BSE. Their suggestions were part of a plan implemented by the USDA to take new precautions in the handling of "downer cattle" and to ban the use of certain parts of cattle in feed production that may spread BSE to other cattle.

Bill to Protect Private Property Owners in Southwest Missouri Becomes Law

Southwest Missouri's legislative team in Washington—House Majority Whip Roy Blunt and U.S. Senators Kit Bond and Jim Talent—completed their efforts to protect the private property rights of landowners in Barry and Stone Counties and resolve boundary disputes with the federal government.

Southwest Missouri Congressman and House Majority Whip Roy Blunt said, "A fight with the federal government over a boundary line can be a real uphill battle. It seems that, for many years, the Forest Service has been effectively shaving off substantial sections of private property that adjoins federal lands. The federal government already owns one-third of the nation's land, and inaccuracies in federal surveys should never force landowners to forfeit their property."

"This fight has taken us three years to win, but landowners in Southwest Missouri will be protected from the threat of federal seizure of their land," said Senator Bond. "In Barry and Stone Counties hard working folks purchased, paid property taxes on, and developed their land. The idea that the federal government could force these landowners to pay for land that is already theirs simply because the government has changed its mind about where federal property begins and ends is ridiculous."

"This is good news for private property owners in Southwest Missouri," said U.S. Senator Jim Talent.



Crowder College Skidpad - A \$1.2 million Driver Training Surface

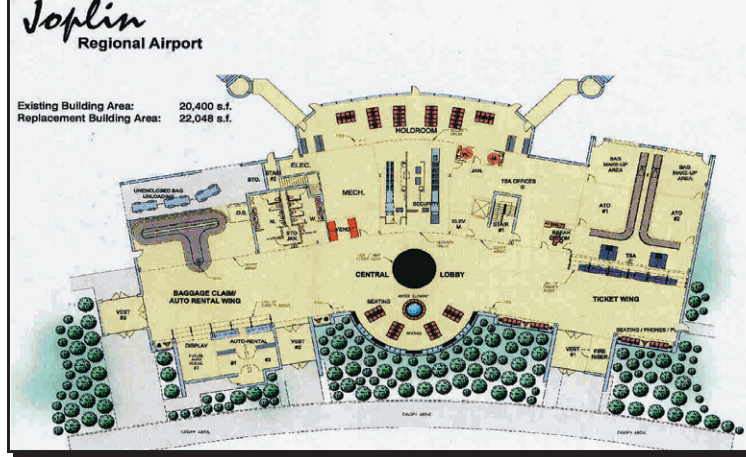
The Missouri Center for Advanced Highway Safety or "skidpad," as its more often referred, is a \$1.2-million driver training surface, located on the Crowder College campus. The 125,000-square-foot, polished concrete surface will be used by emergency and law enforcement personnel, school bus drivers and over-the-road truck drivers to learn how to

handle dangerous road conditions. "The facility is a useful addition to driver's safety in the transportation sector that has created hundreds of good paying jobs in the region," Senator Kit Bond and Congressman Blunt said in a joint statement. The two lawmakers worked to secure federal funding for the project.

The surface is equipped to be flooded with large amounts of water, creating simulated hazardous road conditions. An additional 375,000-square-foot, concrete surface, for a total of 500,000-square-foot, will be used for accident avoidance maneuver training, such as controlled braking, off-road recovery and evasive maneuvers. It is the only facility of its kind within 700 miles.

Blunt Announces First Step Toward \$4 Million for New Joplin Air Terminal

Blunt, Senators Bond & Talent Work to Secure New Springfield Air Terminal Design Funds



flights with better connections and lower fares," Blunt said. "This is a critical economic development issue for many companies who would like to bring business and commerce to Joplin. Having an attractive front door, which an airport terminal is for many travelers, is essential to attract new businesses to the region in a period of intense competition from new airport developments in the region."

Joplin Airport Manager Steve Stockam agrees with Blunt's assessment: "The replacement terminal project is

vital in order to meet the existing and future needs of air service for this community. The current building is over 50 years old and is not designed to operate under present security environments. Furthermore, the location of the existing facility limits the type of aircraft that can use the airport." He added, "We recognize that regional jets are the future for this size of airport, and this new terminal will make us eligible for regional jets to be part of our air service."

The new airport will greatly enhance passenger comfort, convenience and service and meet all Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and security regulations. The new terminal will house two covered loading bridges, a dedicated business center area, and free parking. The new building, which will be 10 percent larger than the existing terminal, is designed to accommodate future growth over the next five decades. The FAA also provided nearly a half million to help Joplin Airport authorities find a long term commercial air carrier, when the current carrier notified officials they were ending service to Joplin. The search for a new carrier is underway.

In Springfield, the first of two major appropriations for design of a \$146 million replacement air terminal for the Springfield-Branson Regional Airport, secured by Southwest Missouri Congressman Roy Blunt and Senator Kit Bond, is on the way to the bank. The \$3 million from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) will fund Phase I design services for the new commercial terminal building. Bond and Blunt have also won congressional approval of an additional \$4 million for the airport.

Blunt and Bond have been stalwart supporters of the terminal replacement project. "The best way to guarantee future economic growth is to make sure that our infrastructure is up to par. These dollars for the replacement terminal are an investment in Southwest Missouri's future," said Senator Kit Bond. "This terminal will help Springfield-Branson Regional continue to deliver first-class service to the growing number of locals and tourists who depend on air service in the region."

Blunt added, "Springfield is moving to address its long term commercial flight needs. With a \$40 million improvement to the runways and taxiways complete and its parking areas full of planes, Springfield is planning a state-of-the-art facility that will provide greater convenience and more travel options to passengers, and high-tech security to the flying public. Only a new building can meet all those needs."

Blunt Awards Eagle Scout Stuart Hurd Congressional Award Medals



are about maturing, growing into adulthood and undertaking experiences that develop leadership skills and self-confidence. The Congressional Award is the highest honor Congress can bestow upon a young person."

Hurd has fulfilled the requirements to receive Bronze and Silver Congressional Award Medals and may complete work on his Gold Medal later before the end of the year. Stuart's mother, Mary Hurd said, "Stuart is just an all-around great kid and he is very driven." Stuart has aspirations to attend the U.S. Naval Academy to pursue Oceanography and perhaps the

Navy Seals.

In pursuing both Eagle Scout and the Congressional Award, Hurd has achieved a second-degree red belt in Tae Kwon Do and is a certified Red Cross life guard. He is a certified scuba diver in open and deep water, stress and rescue, underwater photography and equipment maintenance. He is a Salvation Army bell ringer and Southwest Home Educators volunteer. He has participated in a building crew in Guadalajara, Mexico, and organized a 50-mile rafting trip in Arkansas. He has successfully participated in speech and debate at the state level, while also practicing five days a week with the Drury Swim Team. He is a sophomore who has been home schooled since the second grade. Hurd is a member of Boy Scout Troop 5.

The Congressional Award is a public-private partnership created by Congress to promote and recognize self-paced achievement, initiative, and service in America's youth. The program focuses on four areas: 1) volunteer public service 2) personal development 3) physical fitness and 4) expedition/exploration.

For more information on participating in a Congressional Awards Medal program contact Jon Bledsoe in Congressman Roy Blunt's Springfield Constituent Service Office at 417-889-1800 (jon.bledsoe@mail.house.gov).

Blunt's Waste-To-Oil Initiative Works

The concept of transforming animal waste into fuel oil is producing 500 barrels of crude oil from 200 tons of processed turkey waste at the nation's first pilot plant in Carthage. Southwest Missouri Congressman and Majority Whip Roy Blunt and Missouri Senator Kit Bond worked to put \$5 million in federal funds into the technology's first plant. Blunt pushed to add \$12.4 million for the Society for Energy and Environmental Research to develop more plants to turn agricultural waste into oil.

Blunt said, "We can solve a lot of problems

with a little ingenuity and a lot of hard work. This new technology increases our nation's energy independence while eliminating thousands of tons of waste that are bad for the environment. It's a win-win for Southwest Missouri and the whole country."

Blunt toured the Carthage plant with House Agriculture Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte and saw first-hand how the thermal depolymerization process works. The pilot project, operated by Renewable Environmental Solutions (RES), could

turn the estimated 60,000 tons of Southwest Missouri poultry waste and other agricultural waste into oil, organic fertilizer, water, and natural gas. Thermal depolymerization applies pressure and heat to agricultural waste. The byproducts of the process are water clean enough to discharge into a treatment plant and minerals that can be used to make carbon-based fertilizer.



RES Plant in Carthage, MO

> **314 6/24/04 H.R. 4663** Substitute amendment extending pay-as-you-go (PAYGO) rules through Sept. 30, 2009, requiring any mandatory spending increases or new tax cuts to be offset. It also would impose discretionary spending caps of \$832.5 billion in FY2005 and \$856.9 billion in FY2006. **NO Failed 179-233**

> **315 6/24/04 H.R. 4663** Substitute amendment to make several major changes to the current budget process including altering the existing non-binding concurrent budget resolution into a joint budget resolution that could have the force of law and requiring a two-thirds supermajority vote in both houses for over-budget spending. **YES Failed* 88-326**

> **316 6/24/04 H.R. 4663** Substitute amendment making several changes to the current budget process including imposing PAYGO offset requirements on mandatory spending increases for the next three years. It also would place a cap on entitlement spending, with the exception of Social Security and Medicare, and require automatic cuts in entitlement spending in any year in which spending exceeds the cap. **YES Failed* 120-296**

> **318 6/25/04 H.R. 4663** Setting statutory caps on discretionary spending for the next two years, and instituting PAYGO rules that require any mandatory spending increases to be offset. The bill, as amended, would require the Congressional Budget Office to prepare an annual analysis comparing budgeted entitlement spending to actual entitlement spending, with an account-by-account breakdown to show spending trends. **YES Failed 146-268**

> **319 6/25/04 H.R. 691** Congratulating the interim government of Iraq on its pending assumption of sovereign authority and reaffirming that U.S. armed forces operating in Iraq after June 30, 2004, will remain under the full authority of U.S. commanders. **YES Passed* 352-57**

> **321 6/25/04 H.R. 4614** Amendment increasing funding for renewable energy sources by \$30 million, to be offset by a decrease in the Advanced Simulation and Computing program in the weapons activities budget. **NO Failed 150-241**

> **322 6/25/04 H.R. 4614** Amendment increasing funding for defense-related nuclear non-proliferation programs by \$5 million. **NO Failed 163-224**

> **323 6/25/04 H.R. 4614** Amendment increasing funding for the Global Threat Reduction initiative by \$30 million, while decreasing funding for nuclear weapons programs by the same amount. **NO Failed 151-235**

> **324 6/25/04 H.R. 4614** Amendment to reduce total discretionary funding in the bill by 1 percent. **NO Failed* 68-319**

> **325 6/25/04 H.R. 4614** Appropriating \$28.5 billion in FY2005 spending for energy and water development projects, \$50 million more than the president's request. It would provide \$4.8 billion for the Army Corps of Engineers and \$9 billion for the National Nuclear Security Administration. It also would provide \$131 million for the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository. The bill, as amended, would prohibit funds from being used to deny the public release of documents relating to the investigation of alleged manipulations of Western energy markets. **YES Passed* 370-16**

> **326 7/6/04 H Con Res 410** Recognizing the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the constitution of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and recognizing the nation as an important ally of the United States. **YES Passed* 379-0**

> **327 7/6/04 H Con Res 257** Expressing the sense of the Congress that the late Harry W. Colmery, a previous national commander of the American Legion, should be posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his legal and military contributions to the nation. **YES Passed* 381-1**

> **328 7/7/04 H.R. 4754** Amendment increasing funding for the Small Business Administration's 7(a) loan program by \$79.1 million. **NO Passed 281-137**

> **329 7/7/04 H.R. 4754** Amendment prohibiting the use of funds in the bill to implement the Commerce Department's new restrictions on gift parcels shipped to Cuba and the amount of personal baggage allowed for travelers to Cuba. **NO Passed 221-194**

> **330 7/7/04 H.R. 4754** Amendment increasing funding by \$106.9 million for law enforcement grants under the Community Oriented Policing Services program. **NO Failed 206-212**

> **331 7/7/04 H.R. 4754** Amendment eliminating

funding for the early design and planning process for the 2010 Short-Form Only Census. **NO Failed 71-342**

> **332 7/7/04 H.R. 4754** Amendment reducing funding by \$50,000 for Commerce Department management expenses and increase it by the same amount, resulting in no change in funding levels. **NO Passed 232-186**

> **333 7/7/04 H.R. 4754** Amendment prohibiting the use of funds in the bill to pay for any U.S. contribution to the United National Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). **NO Failed 135-283**

> **334 7/7/04 H.R. 4754** Amendment prohibiting the use of funds to prevent the implementation of state laws authorizing the use of marijuana for medical reasons in Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Nevada, Oregon, Vermont or Washington. **NO Failed 148-268**

> **335 7/7/04 H.R. 4754** Amendment prohibiting the use of funds in the bill to pay any United States contribution to the United Nations or any affiliated agency of the United Nations. **NO Failed* 83-335**

> **338 7/8/04 H.R. 3980** Establishing the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program, which would coordinate federal efforts and consult with academic and private-sector entities to reduce the loss of life and property from windstorms. **YES Passed* 387-26**

> **339 7/8/04 H.R. 4754** Amendment prohibiting funds from being used under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act to acquire library circulation records, library patron lists, library Internet records, bookseller sales records or bookseller customer lists. **NO Failed 210-210**

> **340 7/8/04 H.R. 4754** Amendment prohibiting funds from being used for HIV/AIDS programs that do not explicitly oppose legalizing sex trafficking and prostitution. **YES Passed* 306-113**

> **341 7/8/04 H.R. 4754** Amendment providing \$1 million for enforcement of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act regarding providing information to the federal government on the citizenship or immigration status of an individual. The measure would offset the spending by reducing Justice Department salaries and expenses by \$1 million. **YES Failed 139-278**

> **342 7/8/04 H.R. 4754** Amendment reducing funding for U.S. contributions to international organizations, such as the United Nations, by \$20 million. **NO Failed* 129-291**

> **343 7/8/04 H.R. 4754** Amendment reducing funding for the U.S. Court of Federal Claims by 50 percent. **NO Failed* 67-347**

> **344 7/8/04 H.R. 4754** Amendment reducing overall spending in the bill by 1 percent. **NO Failed* 81-327**

> **346 7/8/04 H.R. 4754** Appropriating \$43.5 billion for the departments of Commerce, Justice and State and the federal judiciary and related agencies in FY2005. It would provide \$20.8 billion for the Justice Department, 4.5 percent more than President Bush's request. It would provide \$5.7 billion for the Commerce Department, including \$3.2 billion for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. It also would provide \$9 billion for the State Department and international broadcasting agencies. **YES Passed* 397-18**

> **355 7/9/04 H.R. 3598** Amendment increasing authorization for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program to \$120.6 million in FY2005, \$132.4 million in FY2006, \$145.3 million in FY2007 and \$159.5 million in FY2008. **NO Failed 170-192**

> **356 7/9/04 H.R. 3598** Amendment prohibiting funds from being used to require centers participating in the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program to re-compete for funds that already have been approved. **NO Failed 166-197**

> **357 7/9/04 H.R. 3598** Amendment establishing a Manufacturing and Technology Administration within the Commerce Department. It would direct the president to appoint an undersecretary of Commerce for manufacturing and technology to supervise the new office. **NO Failed 170-189**

> **359 7/12/04 H.R. 4755** Amendment increasing funding for the Government Accountability Office by \$30 million. **NO Failed 115-252**

> **360 7/12/04 H.R. 4755** Amendment reducing all discretionary spending in the bill by 1 percent. **NO Failed 87-278**

> **362 7/12/04 H.R. 4755** Appropriating \$2.75 billion in FY2005 for legislative branch operations. It would include \$1 billion for operations of the House of

Representatives, \$19 million for joint items of the House and Senate, and \$1.7 billion for other offices and legislative-branch agencies that provide direct and indirect support for congressional operations -- including the Capitol Police, Architect of the Capitol, Congressional Budget Office, Library of Congress, Government Accountability Office and the Government Printing Office. **YES Passed* 327-43**

> **363 7/13/04 H.R. 4766** Amendment increasing funding by \$5 million for the prevention of sudden oak death, a disease that is killing oaks and other plant species in the western U.S. **NO Passed 260-160**

> **364 7/13/04 H.R. 4766** Amendment increasing funding by \$18 million for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service accounts. **NO Passed 223-197**

> **366 7/13/04 H.R. 4766** Amendment increasing funding by \$250,000 for the Office of the Secretary for Civil Rights and \$1.5 million for research and education activities. **NO Failed 205-209**

> **367 7/13/04 H.R. 4766** Amendment prohibiting funds under the food stamp program from being used to contravene existing immigration law requiring food stamp applicants to be sponsored by a family member. **NO Failed 152-262**

> **368 7/13/04 H.R. 4766** Amendment prohibiting funds from being used to carry out activities in the Market Access Program, which funds the advertising and marketing of agricultural projects overseas. **NO Failed* 72-347**

> **369 7/13/04 H.R. 4766** Amendment increasing funding by \$6 million for the farmers market promotion program. **NO Failed 206-213**

> **370 7/13/04 H.R. 4766** Appropriating \$83.7 billion for agriculture, rural development and nutrition programs in FY2005, including \$33.6 billion for food stamp programs, \$16.5 billion for the Commodity Credit Corporation, \$11.4 billion for child nutrition programs, \$2.4 billion for rural development programs and \$1.5 billion for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). **YES Passed* 389-31**

> **372 7/14/04 H.R. 705** Urging the president, within four months of the convening of the 109th Congress, to report to Congress on efforts to resolve the World Trade Organization's disparate treatment of direct and indirect taxes, which allows indirect taxes on exports to be rebated. **YES Passed* 423-1**

> **373 7/14/04 H.R. 4418** Authorizing \$21 billion in FY2005 and 2006 for the U.S. Customs and Border Protection bureau and the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement bureau. It also would authorize \$83 million for the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative and \$127 million for the U.S. International Trade Commission in FY2005 and 2006. **YES Passed* 341-85**

> **374 7/14/04 H.R. 576** Urging the Chinese government to coordinate a nationwide intellectual property rights enforcement campaign and to vigorously pursue counterfeiting and piracy cases. **YES Passed* 416-3**

> **375 7/14/04 H.R. 4759** Implementing a trade agreement that would reduce tariffs and trade barriers between the United States and Australia. It would give all U.S. agricultural exports to Australia immediate duty-free access, phase out U.S. duties on Australian beef and lamb exports, and slightly increase the current U.S. quota for Australian dairy exports. **YES Passed* 314-109**

> **376 7/14/04 S. 15** Authorizing \$5.6 billion over 10 years for the Health and Human Services Department (HHS) to carry out Project Bioshield, an administration initiative to develop and stockpile vaccines, medications and other countermeasures to combat a bioterrorism attack. **YES Passed* 414-2**

> **377 7/15/04 H.R. 615** Expressing the sense of the House in support of giving Israel full membership in the

Western European and Others Group of the United Nations. **YES Passed* 418-0**

> **378 7/15/04 H.R. 713** Deploring the misuse of the International Court of Justice by a majority of members of the U.N. General Assembly for narrow political purposes including interference in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. **YES Passed* 361-45**

> **379 7/15/04 H Con Res 462** Reaffirming Congress' commitment to the Taiwan Relations Act and calling on the president and Congress to determine whether China's military modernization and weapons procurement program requires that the U.S. make additional weapons available to Taiwan. **YES Passed* 400-18**

> **380 7/15/04 H.R. 4818** Amendment cutting \$359 million in funding for the World Bank while increasing funding for the child survival account by \$290 million. **NO Failed* 111-312**

> **381 7/15/04 H.R. 4818** Amendment increasing funding for economic aid to Egypt by \$570 million, to be offset by a reduction in military aid to Egypt. **NO Failed* 131-287**

> **382 7/15/04 H.R. 4818** Amendment adding \$250 million for the Millennium Challenge Corporation and \$90 million for the president's Global HIV/AIDS initiative. It would cut \$425 million from the World Bank's International Development Association. **NO Failed* 133-288**

> **383 7/15/04 H.R. 4818** Amendment eliminating funding for the Millennium Challenge Account. **NO Failed* 41-379**

> **385 7/15/04 H.R. 4818** Amendment adding language that would prohibit funds from being used to request the United Nations to assess the validity of elections in the United States. **YES Passed 243-161**

> **386 7/15/04 H.R. 4818** Amendment prohibiting the Export-Import Bank from approving direct loans or loan guarantees to corporate expatriates. **NO Passed 270-132**

> **387 7/15/04 H.R. 4818** Amendment prohibiting Economic Support Fund assistance to the government of any country that is a party to the International Criminal Court (ICC) and has yet to pledge it would not surrender U.S. nationals to the ICC. **YES Passed 241-166**

> **388 7/15/04 H.R. 4818** Amendment requiring at least \$5 million in agricultural development funds for sub-Saharan Africa. **NO Failed 164-243**

> **389 7/15/04 H.R. 4818** Amendment prohibiting any funds in the bill from being used for assistance to Saudi Arabia. **NO Passed 217-191**

> **390 7/15/04 H.R. 4818** Appropriating \$19.4 billion in FY2005 for foreign operations. It would provide \$3.5 billion for development aid, including \$1.6 billion for the Child Survival and Disease Fund, and \$1.3 billion for international financial institutions such as the World Bank. It also would provide \$2.6 billion in aid for Israel and \$1.8 billion for Egypt. It would appropriate \$2.2 billion for programs to combat HIV/AIDS and \$1.25 billion for the Millennium Challenge Account. **YES Passed* 365-41**

> **391 7/19/04 H.R. 1587** Freezing annual nonhumanitarian assistance to Vietnam at FY2004 levels unless the president submits a report showing that Vietnam has made progress in respecting religious freedom, property rights and human rights. **YES Passed* 323-45**

> **392 7/19/04 S Con Res 114** Expressing Congress' grave concern about the continuing problem of hunger and the need to feed hungry and malnourished children around the world. **YES Passed* 367-4**

> **393 7/19/04 S. 2264** Expressing the sense of Congress that the U.S. government should work to support a peaceful resolution of the conflict in northern and eastern Uganda. It also would require the State



Thompson Represents Missouri In Washington As Cherry Blossom Princess



In April 2004, Drury University's Nichole 'Nicki' Thompson represented Missouri as its Cherry Blossom Princess in Washington, DC. Thompson was asked by Missouri's State Society to be the state's representative during the 92nd anniversary of Tokyo's 1912 gift of more than 3,000 cherry trees to Washington that inspired creation of the week-long festival.

Congressman Blunt welcomed Miss Thompson to Washington and congratulated her for representing the state of Missouri.

Princess Nicki is a junior at Drury University in Springfield, Missouri where she is majoring in Secondary Education, English, and Psychology, with a minor in Global Studies.

Department to submit a report to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and House International Relations Committee on the Ugandan conflict.

YES Passed* 371-1
 > **394 7/20/04 H.R. 3574** Amendment striking language in the bill that would require companies to use a pricing model which assumes that there will be no change in the value of an underlying stock, also known as "zero volatility," when calculating the value of the stock options provided to a company's top five executives. **NO Failed* 126-296**
 > **395 7/20/04 H.R. 3574** Amendment adding language stating that nothing in the bill can be construed to impair or limit the authority of the Securities and Exchange Commission to establish accounting standards or principles. **NO Failed* 114-308**
 > **396 7/20/04 H.R. 3574** Substitute amendment striking all after the enacting clause and inserting provisions that would require the Securities and Exchange Commission to oversee an inclusive process in setting accounting standards for equity-based compensation. It also would express the sense of Congress that preserving the integrity of the accounting standard-setting process and the independence of the Financial Accounting Standards Board is crucial to financial accounting and markets. **NO Failed* 127-293**
 > **397 7/20/04 H.R. 3574** Blocking a Financial Accounting Standards Board rule set to take effect in December that would require stock options to be accounted for as an expense. It would require the deduction of only stock options provided to the five highest paid executives, and would mandate a study of the economic impact of expensing all stock options. **YES Passed* 312-111**
 > **398 7/20/04 H.R. 4850** Amendment reducing all discretionary appropriations in the bill by 1 percent. **NO Failed* 113-309**
 > **399 7/20/04 H.R. 4850** Appropriating \$560 million in FY2005 spending and allowing the use of \$8.2 billion in local funds for government operations and services in the District of Columbia. It also would provide \$14 million for a school voucher program for students living in the District. **YES Passed* 371-54**
 > **402 7/21/04 H.R. 723** Recognizing the 35th anniversary of the Apollo 11 lunar landing, commending the astronauts and other NASA employees who worked on the mission and supporting continued U.S. leadership in space exploration. **YES Passed* 416-0**
 > **403 7/21/04 H.R. 4608** Naming a veterans outpatient clinic in Peoria, Ill., as the "Bob Michel Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic," after former Rep. Robert H. Michel, R-Ill., who served as minority leader from 1980 to 1995. **YES Passed* 407-0**
 > **404 7/21/04 H.R. 2443** Authorizing \$8.2 billion in FY2005 for Coast Guard programs and activities, including \$5.4 billion for operating expenses. It would authorize \$1.5 billion for acquisitions, construction and improvements and \$1.1 billion in mandatory funding for retired pay. It also would eliminate a requirement that the Coast Guard fire a warning shot at fleeing vessels and authorize Coast Guard members to carry firearms and make arrests. **YES Passed* 425-1**
 > **405 7/21/04 H.R. 4840** Extending through 2007 provisions included in current tax law increasing expensing and cost limits on qualifying business property. **YES Passed* 424-0**
 > **406 7/21/04 H.R. 4879** Increasing the spending cap on military housing private investment from \$850 million to \$1.35 billion. **YES Passed* 423-0**
 > **408 7/22/04 H.R. 4175** Increasing the amounts paid to veterans for disability compensation and to their survivors for dependency and indemnity compensation by the same cost-of-living adjustment payable to Social Security recipients. **YES Passed* 421-0**
 > **409 7/22/04 H.R. 728** Expressing the sense of the House that terrorists "will never cause the date of any presidential election to be postponed" and that no single individual or agency should be given the authority to postpone the date of a presidential election. **YES Passed* 419-2**
 > **410 7/22/04 H.R. 3313** Removing a provision in the 1996 "Defense of Marriage Act" from the jurisdiction of federal courts. That provision would allow states to refuse to recognize same-sex marriage licenses issued in other states or jurisdictions. **YES Passed 233-194**
 > **411 7/22/04 H.R. 4056** Requiring the Federal Aviation Administration to establish a process for

certifying missile defense systems to protect airports and airplanes from shoulder-fired weapons.

YES Passed* 423-0
 > **412 7/22/04 H.R. 652** Expressing support for the establishment of a full democracy in Belarus and urging Belarusian authorities to ensure full transparency, access and representation for the 2004 parliamentary elections. **YES Passed* 421-0**
 > **413 7/22/04 H.R. 4842** Implementing a trade agreement that would reduce tariffs and trade barriers between the United States and Morocco. It would result in more than 95 percent of bilateral trade in consumer and industrial products becoming duty-free immediately, with all remaining tariffs eliminated within nine years. It also would provide for new tariff-rate quotas for U.S. farmers and ranchers of poultry and beef and would cut tariffs on agricultural products such as sorghum, corn, soybeans and corn and soybean products. **YES Passed* 323-99**
 > **414 7/22/04 H Con Res 436** Applauding South Africa for its transition to a democracy and the progress achieved during 10 years of majority rule. **YES Passed* 422-0**
 > **415 7/22/04 H Con Res 418** Recognizing the historical importance of the 150th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the United States and Japan. It also would call for expanded political, economic, strategic and cultural ties between Japanese and American people and the two governments. **YES Passed* 416-0**
 > **417 7/22/04 H.R. 4837** Appropriating \$10 billion in FY2005 for military construction projects, including family housing and barrack construction and modernization, \$162 million more than the current level. It would include \$5.3 billion for military construction, \$4.2 billion for family housing, and \$246 million for base realignment and closure projects. **YES Passed* 420-1**
 > **418 7/22/04 H.R. 4613** Adoption of the conference report to appropriate \$417.5 billion for the Defense Department and related agencies, including \$391 billion for the Pentagon. It would provide \$25 billion in emergency spending for military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. It also would provide \$121 billion for operations and maintenance, \$77.7 billion for weapons procurement, \$10 billion for ballistic missile defense programs and a 3.5 percent pay raise for military personnel. **YES Passed* 410-12**
 > **419 7/22/04 H Con Res 469** Reiterating Congress' condemnation of the 1994 attack on the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and honoring the victims of the attack. **YES Passed* 422-0**
 > **420 7/22/04 H Con Res 467** Declaring that the violence in the Darfur region of Sudan constitutes genocide and urging the president to make the same declaration and lead an effort to prevent genocide in the region. **YES Passed* 422-0**
 > **422 9/7/04 H.R. 4381** Naming a post office in Dunn, N.C., after General William Carey Lee, the first commanding general of the 101st Airborne parachute troops during World Wars I and II. **YES Passed* 382-0**
 > **423 9/7/04 H.R. 4556** Naming a post office in Springdale, Arkansas, after entrepreneurs Harvey and Bernice Jones, founders of the Springdale Transportation Company. **YES Passed* 380-0**
 > **425 9/8/04 H.R. 5006** An amendment increasing funding for National Center for Health Statistics surveys by \$2.5 million and the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities by \$1.5 million. It would be offset by a \$4 million decrease in funding for competitive abstinence education grants. **NO Failed* 112-305**
 > **426 9/8/04 H.R. 5006** An amendment providing \$1 million to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for Hepatitis C research. The spending would be offset by decreasing funding for abstinence education by \$1 million. **NO Failed 156-261**
 > **427 9/8/04 H.R. 5006** An amendment increasing funding by \$22 million for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and the weatherization assistance program. The spending would be offset by a \$26 million cut in funding for Health and Human Services departmental management. **NO Passed* 305-114**
 > **428 9/8/04 H.R. 5006** Amendment reducing the discretionary spending in the bill by \$1.4 billion. **NO Failed* 79-333**

> **429 9/8/04 H.R. 5006** Amendment requiring the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation to make available the financial status of company pension plans. This amendment would have resulted in the release of proprietary information unrelated to pension plans. Information regarding the financial status of pension plans is already available. **NO Passed 268-148**
 > **431 9/9/04 H.R. 757** Expressing the sense of the House on the anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The resolution would extend the deepest sympathies of the House to the victims of the attacks and thank foreign leaders and citizens of all nations who have assisted the United States in its fight against terrorism. **YES Passed* 406-16**
 > **433 9/9/04 S. 2634** Authorizing \$82 million over three years for grants to universities and states for youth suicide intervention and prevention programs and creation of a technical assistance center. The bill would require parental consent for certain school-sponsored programs. **YES Passed* 352-64**
 > **434 9/9/04 H.R. 5006** Amendment prohibiting funds in the bill from being used to promulgate or implement any regulation that would take away eligibility for overtime for workers. It would allow the enforcement of regulations that extend overtime protection to certain low-income workers. **NO Passed 223-193**
 > **435 9/9/04 H.R. 5006** Amendment prohibiting the use of funds by the National Labor Relations Board to exercise its jurisdiction over American Indian tribes. **YES Failed 185-227**
 > **436 9/9/04 H.R. 5006** Amendment prohibiting funding for companies that receive a special 9.5 percent interest return on federally-subsidized student loans. **NO Passed* 413-3**
 > **437 9/9/04 H.R. 5006** Amendment cutting funding for general departmental management in the Department of Health and Human Services by \$84,500. **NO Failed 195-216**
 > **438 9/9/04 H.R. 5006** Amendment banning the use of funds in the bill to create or implement any new or universal mental health screening program. **NO Failed* 95-315**
 > **439 9/9/04 H.R. 5006** Amendment prohibiting the use of funds to pay salaries of Social Security Administration employees to administer Social Security benefit payments under a totalization agreement with Mexico. **NO Failed 178-225**
 > **440 9/9/04 H.R. 5006** Appropriating \$496.6 billion, including \$142.5 billion in discretionary spending, for the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education departments and related agencies in FY2005. It would provide \$57.7 billion for the Education Department, including \$12.2 billion for special education, \$14.9 billion for the Labor Department, \$374.3 billion for Health and Human Services, including \$28.4 billion for the National Institutes of Health. The bill includes a total of \$4 billion for countering bioterrorism. **YES Passed* 388-13**
 > **457 9/21/04 H.R. 5025** Amendment prohibiting any funds in the bill from being used to implement revisions made in May 2003 to an Office of Management and Budget rule that would govern the privatization of work by federal agencies. **NO Passed 210-187**
 > **458 9/21/04 H.R. 5025** Amendment prohibiting any funds in the bill from being used to help overturn a July 31, 2003, district court ruling which determined that IBM's conversion of its pension plan to a cash-balance plan violated the pension age-discrimination provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. **NO Passed 237-162**
 > **459 9/21/04 H.R. 5025** Amendment prohibiting any funds in the bill from being used to enter into or renew any contract for a high-deductible health plan under the federal employees health benefit plan that does not require enrollees to remain enrolled for at least three consecutive years from the date of initial enrollment. **NO Failed 175-224**
 > **460 9/21/04 H.R. 5025** Amendment prohibiting the use of funds in the bill to implement, administer or enforce the section of new restrictions on travel to Cuba which allow individuals to visit immediate relatives in Cuba only once every three years for a maximum of two consecutive weeks. **NO Passed 225-174**
 > **461 9/22/04 H.R. 5025** Amendment adding a section prohibiting the use of funds to implement, administer or enforce the economic embargo on Cuba.

NO Failed 188-225

> **462 9/22/04 H.R. 5025** Amendment prohibiting the Transportation Department from using funds in the bill to implement or enforce a proposed regulation that would provide foreign-operated and foreign-built trucks operating in the United States with a 24-month exemption to comply with federal safety standards. **NO Passed* 339-70**
 > **463 9/22/04 H.R. 5025** Amendment prohibiting the use of funds in the bill to pay the salaries of Treasury Department employees who take any actions that would take money from or suspend investment into various federal trust funds, including the Social Security trust fund, the Military Retirement trust fund and the Unemployment trust fund, in order to circumvent the federal debt limit. **YES Passed* 404-8**
 > **465 9/22/04 H.R. 5025** Appropriating \$10.8 billion in FY2005 spending for the Department of Transportation, including \$10.3 billion for the Federal Aviation Administration. It would eliminate funding for the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Amtrak, the Federal Transit Administration and the Surface Transportation Board. **YES Passed* 397-12**
 > **466 9/23/04 H.R. 2028** Amendment striking language in the bill prohibiting the Supreme Court from hearing any cases relating to the constitutionality of the Pledge of Allegiance. **NO Failed 202-217**
 > **467 9/23/04 H.R. 2028** Prohibiting federal, district, and appellate courts and the Supreme Court from hearing cases challenging the constitutionality of the Pledge of Allegiance. It would allow the Superior Court of the District of Columbia and the District of Columbia Court of Appeals to continue considering such cases. **YES Passed 247-173**
 > **468 9/23/04 H.R. 1057** Permanently extending a provision enacted in the 2001 tax law that increased the adoption tax credit from \$5,000 (\$6,000 for children with special needs) to \$10,000. **YES Passed* 414-0**
 > **472 9/23/04 H.R. 1308** Adoption of the conference report on the bill to extend the \$1,000 per child tax credit through 2009, the upper limit for the current 10 percent bracket through 2010 and tax breaks for married couples through 2008. It also would provide a one-year extension of current income exemptions from the alternative minimum tax and extend the expiring research and development tax credit through 2005. **YES Passed* 339-65**
 > **475 9/28/04 S. 2363** Authorizing \$450 million in grants for the Boys and Girls Clubs of America over five years and increase the number of chapters nationwide to 5,000 by Dec. 31, 2010. **YES Passed* 374-19**
 > **477 9/29/04 H.R. 3193** Repealing the District of Columbia's laws that prohibit the sale and possession of handguns, handgun ammunition and semiautomatic weapons not banned by federal law. It would eliminate the District's firearm registration program and supersede the portion of city code that requires weapons to be kept unloaded and disassembled, or with the trigger locked. It would limit the possession of weapons to residents' homes and property, and prohibit any firearm from being carried on District streets. It also would remove the District's authority to enact laws or regulations that discourage or eliminate the private ownership or use of firearms. **YES Passed 250-171**
 > **479 9/29/04 H. J. Res. 107** Providing continuing appropriations through Nov. 20 for all federal departments and agencies whose FY2005 appropriations bills have not been enacted. It also includes language that would extend authorizations for several defense-related programs. **YES Passed* 389-32**
 > **481 9/30/04 H.R. 5183** Extending funding for highway, transit and transportation safety programs for an additional eight months, through May 31, 2005. **YES Passed* 409-8**
 > **482 9/30/04 H.R. 5149** Extending through March 31, 2005, the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant program. **YES Passed* 416-0**
 > **483 9/30/04 H.R. 4231** Authorizing the Department of Veterans Affairs to establish a pilot program to study the use of outside recruitment, advertising and communications agencies, and the use of interactive and online technologies to improve its nurse recruitment program. It also would authorize the department to offer three new options for alternative tours of duty for nurses working in its health-care facilities. **YES Passed* 411-1**

> **484 9/30/04 H J Res. 106** Proposing a constitutional amendment that would define marriage as consisting only of the union of a man and a woman. It would provide that the U.S. Constitution or any state's constitution could not be construed to require that marriage or any other constructs of marriage be conferred to any other union. **YES Failed* 227-186**

> **485 9/30/04 H Con Res. 501** Honoring the life and work of Duke Ellington, recognizing the 30th anniversary of the Duke Ellington School of the Arts and supporting the annual Duke Ellington Jazz Festival to be held in Washington, D.C., beginning in 2005. **YES Passed* 391-0**

> **486 9/30/04 H.R. 792** Honoring the United Negro College Fund on its 60th anniversary. **YES Passed* 386-0**

> **487 10/4/04 S Con Res. 76** Recognizing Nov. 2, 2003, as "A Tribute to Survivors" at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. **YES Passed* 331-0**

> **488 10/4/04 S. 1814** Transferring ownership of the Mingo Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center in Puxico, Mo., from the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to the Agriculture Department's Forest Service. It also would transfer the personnel, area management and land-title records from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to the Forest Service. **YES Passed* 333-0**

> **489 10/4/04 H.R. 567** Congratulating the American Dental Association for establishing and continuing its sponsorship of the "Give Kids a Smile" program. It also would emphasize the need to improve access to dental care for children. **YES Passed* 338-0**

> **492 10/5/04 S. 878** An amendment splitting the current U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit into three circuits. It would reorganize the 9th Circuit to include California, Hawaii, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands. It also would create a new 12th Circuit comprising Arizona, Idaho, Montana and Nevada and a new 13th Circuit comprising Alaska, Oregon and Washington. **YES Passed 205-194**

> **494 10/5/04 H.R. 163** Requiring every citizen between the ages of 18 and 26 to perform two years of service in the military, the commissioned corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or the Public Health Service. It would allow individuals with disabilities or those with conscientious objections to meet the requirement by participating in civilian activities promoting national security or homeland defense as designated by the president. **NO Failed 2-402***

> **495 10/5/04 H.R. 2929** Requiring software companies to obtain permission from computer users before installing programs that can collect personal information and distribute it to third parties. It also would allow the Federal Trade Commission to levy a fine of up to \$3 million against companies that download such software onto users' computers without permission. **YES Passed* 399-1**

> **496 10/5/04 H.R. 5011** Banning the sale of contractual plan mutual funds on military bases and grant state insurance commissioners the authority to regulate most insurance sales to military personnel. It also would require the Defense Department to create a registry of agents who are prohibited from selling financial policies on military bases. **YES Passed* 396-2**

> **497 10/6/04 H.R. 5107** Authorizing grants designed to help states eliminate the backlog in the testing of DNA samples, promote use of forensic technology to identify missing persons and train first responders in the handling of biological crime evidence. It would impose a five-year time limit on post-conviction DNA testing, tighten the standard for retrials based on the outcomes of those tests and authorize \$755 million over five years to speed the processing of unanalyzed biological crime evidence. The bill also would establish new procedures to allow inmates to obtain post-conviction DNA testing to determine their guilt or innocence. **YES Passed* 393-14**

> **498 10/6/04 H.R. 4850** Adoption of the conference report to appropriate \$560 million in FY2005 for the District of Columbia, including \$190.8 million for the district's courts, \$40 million split evenly between public schools, charter schools and a voucher program, and \$15 million for emergency planning and security costs for city events. It also would prohibit the use of federal funds for drug-addict needle exchange programs, most

abortion services and for providing health benefits to same-sex couples. **YES Passed* 377-36**

> **500 10/6/04 H.R. 5212** An amendment to offset the \$11 billion cost of the emergency supplemental with a proportional reduction of FY2005 discretionary funding. It would exempt the Departments of Defense, Homeland Security and Veterans Affairs from the funding cut. **YES Failed 89-321***

> **501 10/6/04 H.R. 5212** Providing \$11 billion in emergency supplemental appropriations for FY2005 for hurricane victims in Florida and other states. It also would provide \$2.9 billion in emergency assistance for agricultural producers affected by drought conditions. **YES Passed* 412-0**

> **503 10/7/04 H.R. 4661** Establishing criminal penalties, including imprisonment for up to two years, for anyone who intentionally gains unauthorized access to a computer in order to steal information or damage the machine. The measure would allow up to five years in prison for anyone who intentionally gains access in furtherance of a federal crime. The bill would authorize a total of \$40 million over four years to fund federal prosecutions in order to discourage spyware use. **YES Passed* 415-0**

> **504 10/7/04 H.R. 5213** Requiring reports to Congress from the National Institutes of Health, on spinal cord injury and paralysis research, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, on inflammatory bowel disease epidemiological studies. The bill also would require the Government Accountability Office to conduct studies on Medicare and Medicaid coverage standards for patients with inflammatory bowel disease and on the problems patients encounter when applying for disability insurance benefits. **YES Passed* 418-0**

> **505 10/7/04 H.R. 5186** Ensuring that the savings from repealing the lender bonus would fund teacher loan forgiveness. **YES Passed* 414-0**

> **507 10/7/04 S. 1134** Reauthorizing the Commerce Department's Economic Development Administration through 2008. It would allow the agency to spend \$2.3 billion on grants for projects in economically distressed areas for FY2004 through 2008, and an additional \$33 million for FY2004 administrative expenses. **YES Passed* 388-31**

> **508 10/7/04 H.R. 5061** Extending the Sudan Peace Act and authorizing \$450 million over three years for humanitarian assistance in Sudan's Darfur region and eastern Chad and for reconstruction efforts in areas of southern Sudan. It also would place a visa ban on senior Sudanese government officials and prohibit Sudan from trading in U.S. capital markets. **YES Passed* 412-3**

> **509 10/7/04 H.R. 4520** Adoption of the conference report on the bill to repeal an export provision in the U.S. tax code that has triggered European sanctions on American manufacturers, businesses, and farmers. It would also provide tax relief for small businesses, small manufacturers, farmers, and others. It would also repeal the government run tobacco quota program and allow taxpayers to deduct state and local sales tax instead of state income tax. **YES Passed* 280-141**

> **510 10/8/04 H.R. 10** An amendment to reorganize the 15 U.S. intelligence agencies and create a national intelligence director with authority over all intelligence agency budgets and personnel. It also would modify laws relating to intelligence community management, authorize new diplomatic and foreign aid programs to combat terrorism, provide an integrated screening system, improve counterterrorist travel intelligence and establish a Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board. **NO Failed 203-213**

> **511 10/8/04 H.R. 10** An amendment that directs the Homeland Security secretary to ensure that all security screening personnel have access to law enforcement and intelligence information maintained by the Department of Homeland Security. It also would require the secretary to provide Congress with an overview of all department agencies, databases, and other capabilities relating to terrorism, drug trafficking, illegal immigration, screening, investigations, and inspection of goods or individuals entering the United States. The secretary would be required to submit a plan to Congress within 180 days on actions taken and plans to improve access and the flow of information. **YES Passed* 410-0**

> **512 10/8/04 H.R. 10** An amendment to require the president to submit a report to the House and Senate Intelligence committees within 180 days of enactment of the bill detailing the practicality of incorporating the

Drug Enforcement Administration into the intelligence community. **YES Passed* 414-0**

> **513 10/8/04 H.R. 10** An amendment that makes the unauthorized possession of shoulder-fired guided missiles (MANPADS), atomic weapons, dirty bombs and smallpox virus a federal crime punishable by mandatory penalties of fines up to \$2 million and 30 years in prison, life imprisonment, or death if the violation results in a person's death. **YES Passed* 385-30**

> **514 10/8/04 H.R. 10** An amendment that changes the federal criminal code to apply the death penalty or life imprisonment for a terrorist offense that results in an individual's death. **YES Passed* 344-72**

> **515 10/8/04 H.R. 10** An amendment that creates a rebuttable presumption of pretrial detention of a defendant charged with a terrorist offense if there is probable cause that he or she committed a terrorist attack. It also would give judges the discretion to impose lifetime supervision of defendants who have been convicted of terrorist offenses. **YES Passed* 333-84**

> **516 10/8/04 H.R. 10** An amendment that provides all terrorist-related grounds of inadmissibility would also be grounds for deportation. It also would make it an inadmissible and deportable offense to attend a terrorist training camp and would strengthen the grounds of inadmissibility and deportability regarding monetary or material support to terrorist organizations. **YES Passed* 283-132**

> **517 10/8/04 H.R. 10** An amendment removing the section of the bill that requires expedited removal of an immigrant that has been in the country illegally for less than five years without a hearing or future review. **NO Passed 212-203**

> **518 10/8/04 H.R. 10** An amendment removing the section of the bill that restricts asylum rights and refugee protections. **NO Failed 197-219**

> **519 10/8/04 H.R. 10** An amendment expediting construction to fill two gaps in the 14-mile barrier along the U.S.-Mexico border in San Diego, California. **YES Passed 256-160**

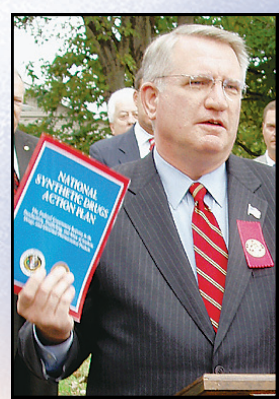
> **520 10/8/04 H.R. 10** An amendment requiring the Department of Homeland Security to establish a program to identify and catalog existing mutual aid agreements between local jurisdictions to provide emergency assistance, disseminate examples of the best practices used in developing such agreements, and inventory terrorist attack or emergency federal response capabilities. **YES Passed* 415-0**

> **523 10/9/04 H.R. 10** Reorganizing the 15 U.S. intelligence agencies and create a national intelligence director who would give guidance on budgets. It also would create a national intelligence center and allow an immigrant illegally in the United States to be deported without judicial review. It would allow the United States to deport immigrants convicted of a felony or suspected of terrorist links to their country of origin. The number of border patrol agents would increase from 10,000 to 20,000 over the next five years. The bill, as amended, would make attending a terrorist training camp a deportable offense and toughen penalties for those charged with financially aiding terrorist groups. **YES Passed* 282-134**

> **528 10/9/04 H.R. 4200** Adoption of the conference report to authorize \$445.6 billion for security programs at the Pentagon and Energy Department. It would authorize \$25 billion in additional funds for operations in Iraq, and provide more than \$2 billion for increased protection of U.S. troops there. It also would require the Army to increase its numbers by 20,000 and the Marine Corps by 3,000 in FY2005. It also would direct the Air Force to purchase up to 100 refueling tanker planes under competitive bidding and would provide for a 3.5 percent pay increase for military personnel. **YES Passed* 359-14**

> **529 10/9/04 H.R. 4837** Adoption of the conference report to provide \$10 billion for military construction and family and troop housing. It would provide \$5.5 billion for military construction projects, \$4 billion for military and family housing, and \$246 million for base realignment and closure activities. It also would provide \$14.5 billion in supplemental appropriations -- \$11.6 billion for aid to hurricane victims and \$2.9 billion to assist farmers hurt by droughts and hurricanes. **YES Passed* 374-0**

> **530 10/9/04 H.R. 4561** Adoption of the conference report to appropriate \$32 billion in FY2005 for the Department of Homeland Security and related agencies, \$496 million above the president's request. The bill would provide \$6.3 billion for customs and border protection, \$3.3 billion for the Transportation Security Administration, \$7.4 billion for the Coast Guard, \$1.2 billion for the Secret Service, \$3.1 billion for state and local programs and \$5.5 billion for emergency preparedness and response. **YES Passed* 368-0**



Drug Czar Joins Blunt, Senator Talent to Combat Meth Epidemic

Southwest Missouri Congressman Roy Blunt and U.S. Senator Jim Talent filed legislation and the Office on National Drug Control Policy joined the fight to stop the production of methamphetamine. Talent and Blunt's comprehensive Combat Meth Act provides critical funding for law enforcement and prosecutors in Missouri which has led the nation in meth labs raided (more than 2800 in 2003) in each of the last two years. Key elements of the proposed legislation are at the heart of the federal government's action plan on synthetic drugs announced on October 25 in Joplin, Missouri.

Blunt, the House Majority Whip, said, "Sheriffs and prosecutors in Southwest Missouri have told me that at least a third to more than half of all their reported crimes are meth related. Meth is responsible for murders and assaults and thefts and burglaries used to support an addiction." He added, "The Combat Meth Act is based on their suggestions to provide law enforcement with more tools in this battle. There are additional dollars to aid in jailing the cooks and tracking the pseudoephedrine used in making meth. There is also new money included for helping children living in homes with meth labs that expose them to harmful chemicals."

Senator Talent said, "Our bill says if you're addicted to meth and want help, we will help you. But if you

cook or sell meth, you're going to jail."

A key feature of the Combat Meth Act is the creation of a two-state pilot program that will provide \$5 million to help prosecute meth offenders. It requires participating states to enhance their laws to require mandatory minimum sentences for meth cooks and dealers to ensure that they are removed from the streets. Talent and Blunt said it is likely Missouri could be selected to participate in the pilot program due to the state's escalating meth problem.

John Walters (pictured left), the U.S. Drug Czar, and Karen Tandy, Director of the Drug Enforcement Administration, announced in Joplin, Missouri, the new national plan to combat the illegal manufacturer of synthetic drugs, including meth, in late October.

The heart of the federal plan is to use the successes of local law enforcement to implement policies and practices that have been effective in stemming the epidemic that is sweeping across the Midwest.



Typical meth lab found operating in a Joplin home



New Name for Downtown Arts Complex: Ronald and Nancy Reagan Center

Blunt Delivers \$500,000 for Gillioz Theater Restoration in HUD Appropriations

The Springfield Landmarks Preservation Trust honored 40th President Ronald Reagan by naming the complex that includes the Gillioz Theater and the Jim D. Morris Art Center the Ronald and Nancy Reagan Center. "This is a proper tribute to a great President who gave so much to America and had special ties to Springfield and the Gillioz Theater," Congressman Roy Blunt, a strong supporter of the arts, said. "Having President

"We deeply appreciate the efforts of Congressman Blunt in securing both these monies and the Save America's Treasures grant," said Nancy Brown Dorman, President of the Springfield Landmarks Preservation Trust. "This magnificent mid-sized theater will be used for all genres of music, festivals, local and regional events, film festivals and professional entertainment. Congressman Blunt's efforts are helping to move the reopening of the Gillioz even closer."

Ronald and Nancy Reagan attended the world premiere of the movie "The Winning Team" in Springfield, Missouri at the Gillioz on June 7, 1952. Ronald Reagan starred as legendary baseball player Grover Cleveland Alexander in the movie. During the 50th anniversary of the movie's release, Nancy Reagan accepted an honorary position as a member of the Gillioz Theater Honorary Board.

Built in 1926 along Route 66, the Gillioz was the community's premier live stage theater and movie house with its ornate plaster cornice, frieze detailing and fixtures. The Gillioz was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1991. Today, a major renovation project is underway to restore the Gillioz Theater as the centerpiece of Springfield's arts community with live theater, music, movies, dance, entertainment and events. The project includes expansion into the neighboring Morris Art Center to accommodate the theater's offices, modern restroom facilities, a restaurant, art exhibits and a grand ballroom.

Reagan's name on this complex reflects a unique moment in Springfield's history and is a fitting tribute to President Reagan's service to the nation, his contribution to the arts, and the movie industry."

The U.S. House of Representatives, at Blunt's urging, approved \$500,000 in the 2005 appropriations measure covering the Department of Housing and Urban Development for continued restoration work on the historic Gillioz Theater. Blunt also secured \$250,000 for Gillioz improvements in the 2003 appropriations process.



Blunt Votes to Stop Tax Hike on America's Families

House Majority Whip Roy Blunt hailed House passage of the conference report on H.R. 1308, the Working Families Tax Relief Act of 2004. "This Congress has passed four meaningful tax relief packages that President Bush has signed into law."

Blunt added, "The House believes in letting working Americans keep more of what they earn. Tax relief is the most effective way to grow the economy and create jobs - a belief that is affirmed by our country's economic resurgence."

The Working Families Tax Relief Act, which passed with a bipartisan vote of 339 to 65, reduced taxes an average of \$530 for 94 million taxpayers, according to the Joint Committee on Taxation.

The bill extends the following tax provisions through December 31, 2010:

- ✓ \$1,000 child tax credit
- ✓ Marriage penalty relief
- ✓ 10% income tax bracket

Additionally, the bill:

- ✓ Extends individual AMT relief through the end of 2005
- ✓ Accelerates to 2004 the refundability of the child tax credit
- ✓ Includes combat pay in earned income for the purpose of the child tax credit and earned income credit
- ✓ Creates a uniform definition of a "qualifying child" for tax purposes



Had provisions of the bill been allowed to expire it would have constituted a major tax increase on American's hard working families and small business owners.



Blunt Cheers Passage Of Military Survivors' Benefits for Veterans' Families

House Majority Whip Roy Blunt welcomed passage of the Department of Defense Authorization Bill for fiscal year 2005, containing an historic provision designed to give survivors of servicemen and women larger annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan.

"For years, the Survivors Benefits Plan did not provide military survivors the level of benefits they were promised or that they deserve," said Blunt. "Military survivors lose as much as one-third of their Survivors Benefit Plan annuities at age 62. When soldiers serve in the U.S. military, their families serve too. They deserve the support they were promised."

The provision included in the Department of Defense Authorization Bill which was signed into law will eliminate the Social Security offset under the Survivors Benefit Plan and increase the annuities paid to survivors of military retirees who are 62 or older from 35 percent of retired pay to the percentages indicated for the

following periods:

- (1) For months after September 2005 and before April 2006: 40 percent
- (2) For months after March 2006 and before April 2007: 45 percent
- (3) For months after March 2007 and before April 2008: 50 percent
- (4) For months after March 2008: 55 percent

Blunt led the fight last fall to restore concurrent receipt for military retirees. That problem for our nation's veterans had existed since the Civil War and was finally rectified as part of the Department of Defense Authorization Bill for fiscal year 2004. Nearly one-quarter million veterans began receiving a retirement check this year in addition to their military disability.



Nearly 5 Million Seniors Sign Up for New Prescription Drug Benefits

More Medicare Benefits to Arrive in 2005 and 2006



Southwest Missouri Congressman Roy Blunt fielded questions from more than 200 seniors who attended eight workshops in March and April regarding the new drug discount cards that went into circulation in June. "Nearly 5 million seniors are seeing savings of 5 to 15 percent on brand name drugs and double that on generic medicines," Blunt said.

The cards assist seniors who have no other help in obtaining or paying for their prescription medicines.

"Seniors will find new benefits in Medicare in 2005 and 2006," Blunt said about the most comprehensive overhaul of Medicare since it was created in 1965. Specifically, the reforms will benefit the 41 million Medicare recipients by:

- ✓ Improving and strengthening Medicare
- ✓ Covering "Welcome to Medicare" physicals, including services such as vaccinations, cancer screening, diabetes self-management, and cardiovascular and glaucoma screening
- ✓ Expanding preventive care to pay for seniors to stay healthy
- ✓ Providing more choices for seniors, including a new prescription drug benefit

According to the president of the Advanced Medical Technology Association, which presented Blunt with its "Patient Champion Award" for his work on winning passage of the new Medicare law, "Blunt's leadership led to important reform to Medicare that will

significantly reduce the delays of 15 months to five years Medicare can impose on seniors needing access to new, FDA-approved medical technologies."

"Advanced medical technology is key to helping detect diseases earlier and treat them more effectively and efficiently," Blunt said. "Ultimately that will reduce the nation's health care costs and improve the quality of life of our seniors. The new Medicare law blends a new emphasis on disease prevention, screenings and tests for diabetes and cholesterol, and a common sense approach to such things as free physical examinations for new enrollees in 2005. As a result, Medicare is finally catching up with medicine in the 21st century."

Southwest Missourians are seeing real savings with the new discount cards and will receive more help in paying for their prescriptions when the new Medicare drug insurance program begins in 2006. Lois Stubbs of Springfield pays more than \$250 a month for three prescriptions, but her income of less than \$700 a month makes those drugs impossible to afford. The new Medicare discount card provides a \$600 a year credit to make those prescriptions easier to afford. In 2006, Stubbs, and millions of low income seniors like her, will be able to buy all of her medicines for a small fraction of what they are costing her today.

There are more than 40 different cards available in Missouri. Now is the time to select a card or change cards for 2005. Find out which card is best for you.

1-800-MEDICARE
Southwest Missouri Office on Aging in Springfield (417-862-0762)
Southwest Missouri Office on Aging in Joplin (417-627-0600)
Southwest Missouri Congressman Roy Blunt's Office (417-889-1800)
On the internet: www.MEDICARE.gov