

# Blunt Facts

December 2005

7th District Congressional Voting Record

109th Congress • 1st Session

## What's Inside

- ★ New Medicare Drug Benefit Pg. 12
- ★ Wilson's Creek Battlefield Adds Sweeney Collection Pg. 7
- ★ Dental Services Expanding Pg. 7
- ★ Highway Bill Promises Jobs & Safety Pg. 6
- ★ Constituent Success Stories Pg. 12

## House APPROVED Legislation

- ✓ Billions approved for recovery of Gulf Coast & its Citizens
- ✓ Energy Policy Bill
- ✓ Class Action Lawsuit Reform
- ✓ Bankruptcy Abuse Act

Your  
Vote In  
Washington!

## Blunt: "On track to be greatest job creating Congress of all time"



T-Mobile is bringing 700 new jobs to Springfield, Missouri. The team that made it happen includes Ryan Mooney with the area Chamber of Commerce, Greene County Presiding Commissioner David Coonrod, T-Mobile Vice President of Customer Service John Birrer, Springfield Mayor Tom Carlson and city economic development director Mary Lilly Smith.

Southwest Missouri Congressman and House Majority Whip Roy Blunt believes the legislative accomplishments for the 109th Congress make it one of the best job-creating Congresses of all time.

Policies enacted by Congress have helped fuel three and a half straight years of solid economic growth. In the 12 months before Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, employment grew by an average of 194,000 jobs a month.

Legislation passed by Congress has aided economic growth and job creation by reducing regulatory barriers, limiting abusive lawsuits, creating job training opportunities, and keeping taxes low. Money spent by business owners and entrepreneurs on regulatory compliance, defending against frivolous lawsuits and paying taxes is money that is not available to them to expand their business and create new jobs. In addition to these other job creating efforts, the Congress has enacted an energy bill that will create new technologies and open new opportunities to produce ethanol and other renewable sources of power. Finally, the highway construction measure will create thousands of new jobs as billions of dollars are spent building new and better roads. In Southwest Missouri the highway measure will mean good paying jobs and lives saved on improved roadways that provide a more efficient commerce delivery system.



The housing sector continues to be a strong part of the diverse economy in the Ozarks. Homeownership is at an all time high and construction projects are strong job creators.

These job creating initiatives that were enacted received bipartisan support:

- Energy Policy Act
- Death Tax Repeal Permanency Act
- Class Action Fairness Act
- Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act
- Highway Bill
- Job Training Improvement Act
- Lawsuit Abuse Reduction Act
- Personal Responsibility in Food Consumption Act

## Blunt Initiates Gas Price Task Force

House Majority Whip and Southwest Missouri Congressman Roy Blunt has formed the Gas Price Task Force, comprised of Members of Congress and dedicated to action to encourage production of greater supplies of gasoline and other fuels at affordable prices.

The two monster hurricanes exposed a growing problem with gasoline refining in the US. While demand for gasoline and other distilled fuels has risen steadily, the number of refineries has been cut in half since 1976 when the last refinery was built in the US. "We need to find and refine more of our own gasoline here at home to avoid greater dependence on foreign nations," Blunt said.

The GAS Act approved by the House of Representatives and co-sponsored by Blunt includes language long advocated by Blunt to reduce price spikes at the gas pump caused by unpredictable conditions like hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Blunt's plan of action includes: Cutting the number of "boutique" fuels currently required for different parts of the country from 17 to six and taking on the real price gougers by empowering the Federal Trade Commission to define, investigate and prosecute gouging.

Unleaded	1.97 <sup>9</sup>
Unleaded Plus	2.07 <sup>9</sup>
Super	2.17 <sup>9</sup>
Unleaded	

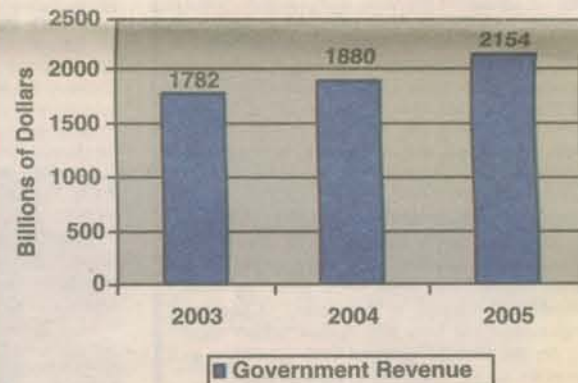
### Pay At The Pump

Since Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast in early September, gasoline prices has dropped more than \$1.20 a gallon. "\$2 gas is still too high," Congressman Blunt said, "but we continue to work to increase American production and refining capacity to keep gasoline at affordable prices."

## Cutting Taxes Increases Federal Revenues?

In the past five years, Congress has cut federal income taxes four times, yet the government is enjoying record growth in tax collections. The reason is simple: allowing individuals to keep more of the money they earn allows them greater freedom to save and invest and to help grow the economy. And since the vast majority of small business owners also file individual tax returns, not corporate returns, it means business owners have greater control to make decisions about investing in their company to buy new equipment and hire more people.

In 2004, the Internal Revenue Service processed more than 135 million tax returns worth nearly \$1 trillion dollars. Coming out of the last recession, tax reductions have served as a key incentive to keep the economy moving forward. Increased economic growth has in turn led to increased tax revenue. In fact, for the 16 months preceding Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, tax revenue for each and every month was higher than for the same month the year before. As a result, the final deficit for fiscal year 2005 was 20% lower than what was projected just last February.



How can cutting taxes increase revenues? The money not sent to Washington goes directly into the economy where consumers spend, businesses invest and modernize, and people save. This cycle of economic activity typically reduces inventories, creates a demand for more products and an incentive for businesses to improve their factories and manufacturing plants and hire more people.

People and businesses respond to reductions in taxes. When capital gains taxes were reduced, people who had been holding assets to avoid the higher taxes began selling their real estate and assets to make other investments and create new opportunities. When government unleashes the private sector, government revenues at all levels rise. This concept has a proven track record with Presidents Kennedy and Reagan. Their tax cuts, just like the ones enacted over the past five years, resulted in revenue increases.

"Finding the proper balance to fund appropriate government operations and allow taxpayers to keep more of their money is always a challenge," said Congressman Blunt. "Raising taxes does not help taxpayers or the national economy. Creating conditions that grow the economy by curbing frivolous lawsuits, reducing senseless government regulations, and rewarding savings and investment is the best medicine for keeping the national economy moving in a positive direction."

**2005**  
**ROY'S RECORD**  
 7th District Missouri  
 Congressman Roy Blunt's  
 Voting Record  
 109th Congress, First Session-2005

**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 9th Edition of all recorded votes cast by Roy Blunt and covers the periods in late November 2004 at the end of the Second Session (page 11) of the 108th Congress and January through early November 2005 in the First Session of the 109th Congress (starting on page 2).

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 441 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 First Session of the 109th Congress was still in session. Votes taken after November 2nd will be included in the 10th edition of Blunt Facts (2006).

> 2 1/4/05 **Election of the Speaker** The nomination of the Honorable J. Dennis Hastert of Illinois for the Speaker of the House of Representatives **YES Passed 226-199**

> 6 1/4/05 **H. Res. 5** Setting the rules for the 109th Congress. The rules create a permanent Homeland Security Committee and outline procedures for changing quorum of House members in the event of widespread death or incapacitation. **YES Passed 220-195**

> 7 1/6/05 **Objection** Rep. Stephanie Tubbs Jones, D-Ohio, and Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-California, objection to the certification of the Ohio electoral votes. **NO Failed 31-267**

> 8 1/25/05 **H. Con. Res. 16** Congratulating the people and government of Ukraine for ensuring a free and fair run-off presidential election on Dec. 26, 2004 and expressing continued support for the efforts of Ukraine to establish a full democracy, rule of law and respect for human rights. **YES Passed\* 392-1**

> 9 1/25/05 **H. Res. 39** Marking the 60th Anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz on Jan. 27, 1945. **YES Passed\* 393-0**

> 10 1/26/05 **H.R. 54** Increasing the limit on the number of congressional gold medals from two medals per year to six medals per Congress, with no limit on how many of the six medals could be awarded in either year of a Congress. **NO Failed 189-212**

> 11 1/26/05 **H.R. 54** An amendment stipulating that no more than half of the congressional gold medals permitted under the bill's limits would be awarded based on legislation sponsored by members of the same political party. **NO Failed 182-211**

> 13 1/26/05 **H.R. 54** Limiting the number of congressional gold medals that may be struck by the Treasury Department in any calendar year to two. The measure stipulates that the medals could be awarded only to individuals, and prohibits medals from being presented posthumously unless the recipient has been deceased for five years and then only for 20 years after that milestone. **YES Passed 231-173**

> 14 2/1/05 **H. Res. 23** Expressing support for Catholic Schools Week and congratulating Catholic schools, students, parents and teachers for the role they play in promoting a brighter and stronger future for the United States. **YES Passed\* 408-0**

> 15 2/1/05 **H.R. 120** Designating a post office in Temecula, Calif., after Rep. Dalip Singh Saund, D-Calif., (1957-63), the first Asian American elected to Congress. **YES Passed\* 410-0**

> 16 2/2/05 **H. Con. Res. 36** Expressing the sense of the Congress that the executive branch should aggressively challenge any decision impeding the implementation of a current federal funding ban for universities that do not grant equal access to military recruiters. **YES Passed 327-84**

> 17 2/2/05 **H. Res. 56** Commending the Palestinian people for conducting a free and fair presidential election on January 9, 2005. It also strongly condemns terrorism and urges the new president to take immediate steps to dismantle the Palestinian terrorist infrastructure. **YES Passed\* 415-1**

> 18 2/2/05 **H. Res. 57** Deploing the recent increase in arms sales by European Union member states to China, as well as the European Council's decision to lift its arms embargo on China. **YES Passed\* 411-3**

> 19 2/2/05 **H. Res. 60** Congratulating the Iraqi people for participating in the elections on January 30, 2005. **YES Passed 404-9**

> 20 2/8/05 **H. Res. 46** Supporting the goals and ideals of National Mentoring Month and praising the millions of adults who mentor children. **YES Passed\* 414-0**

> 21 2/8/05 **H.R. 315** Naming a federal courthouse in Jacksonville, Fla., after the late John Milton Bryan Simpson, a former judge who ordered the desegregation of public schools in Florida. **YES Passed\* 412-0**

> 22 2/8/05 **H.R. 548** Naming a federal building and courthouse in Dayton, Ohio, after former Rep. Tony P. Hall, D-Ohio. **YES Passed\* 404-0**

> 24 2/9/05 **H. Con. Res. 6** Expressing the sense of

Congress that the Defense Department should continue to support the activities of the Boy Scouts of America. **YES Passed\* 418-7**

> 25 2/9/05 **H. Con. Res. 26** Honoring the Tuskegee Airmen, a group of African-American fighter pilots who fought in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. **YES Passed\* 423-0**

> 26 2/9/05 **H. Con. Res. 30** Expressing congressional support for the goals and ideals of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day and recognizing its fifth anniversary. **YES Passed\* 422-0**

> 28 2/10/05 **H.R. 418** An amendment striking the section of the bill modifying conditions for granting asylum to foreign nationals. **NO Failed 185-236**

> 29 2/10/05 **H.R. 418** An amendment striking language authorizing the Homeland Security secretary to waive laws impeding construction of physical barriers and roads designed to curb illegal border crossings, including the completion of a fortified fence along the U.S.-Mexico border close to San Diego, Calif. **NO Failed 179-243**

> 31 2/10/05 **H.R. 418** Tightening national standards for state driver's licenses and identity cards, making it more difficult for foreign nationals to claim asylum, and authorizing the completion of a security fence along the U.S.-Mexico border. It allows immigration judges to weigh the credibility of asylum applicants in a variety of proceedings and removes the annual cap of 10,000 refugees who may become permanent residents. It also requires the Homeland Security Department to include information on anyone convicted of using a false driver's license to board an airplane in aviation security screening databases. **YES Passed 261-161**

> 32 2/15/05 **H. Con. Res. 25** Applauding the valor and courage of four African-American college freshmen, known as the "Greensboro Four" who challenged segregation in Greensboro, N.C., on Feb. 1, 1960. **YES Passed\* 424-0**

> 33 2/15/05 **H.R. 324** Designating a post office in Altamonte Springs, Fla., after Arthur Stacey Mastrapa, a former postal worker and Army Reservist who was killed in Iraq on June 16, 2004. **YES Passed\* 420-0**

> 35 2/16/05 **H.R. 310** Increasing to \$500,000 per violation the maximum fines that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) can levy on broadcasters for airing indecent, obscene or profane material. The bill makes it easier for the FCC to fine individuals for indecent actions and makes them subject to the same fines as broadcasters. It requires that the FCC consider revoking a license after a broadcaster commits three or more indecency-related offenses. The bill also establishes a 180-day window for the FCC to make indecency enforcement decisions. **YES Passed 389-38**

> 36 2/17/05 **S. 5** Giving federal courts jurisdiction over certain class action cases. It would allow for several exemptions and prohibit federal district courts from denying certification of a class action suit if the laws of more than one state apply. **NO Failed 178-247**

> 38 2/17/05 **S. 5** Giving federal courts jurisdiction over class action cases involving at least 100 plaintiffs if at least \$5 million is at stake and two-thirds of the plaintiffs live in different states. It would require judges to review all non-cash settlements, such as coupons for goods and services, and limit attorney's fees in such settlements. **YES Passed 279-149**

> 39 2/17/05 **H. Res. 91** Condemning the killing of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri in a car bombing in Beirut on Feb. 14, 2005. It states that Hariri's assassination should not discourage participation and open debate in Lebanon's upcoming parliamentary elections. **YES Passed\* 409-0**

> 40 3/1/05 **H. Con. Res. 5** Accepting a statue of Indian rights advocate, Sarah Winnemucca, into the National Statuary Hall in the Capitol. It also authorizes the state of Nevada to use the Capitol Rotunda for a presentation ceremony at a future date. **YES Passed\* 418-0**

> 41 3/1/05 **H. Con. Res. 63** Authorizing the use of the Capitol Rotunda for a ceremony on May 5, 2005, to commemorate victims of the Holocaust. **YES Passed\* 416-0**

> 43 3/2/05 **H.R. 912** Requiring humanitarian aid organizations to adopt safeguards to protect women and children from sexual exploitation and abuse before receiving U.S. disaster assistance. The bill also requires the president to provide Congress with two reports on the implementation of the bill. **YES Passed\* 416-0**

> 44 3/2/05 **H.R. 27** An amendment striking the provision limiting the portion of a state's funds used for youth employment programs to 30 percent of its allotment. **NO Failed 200-222**

> 45 3/2/05 **H.R. 27** An amendment allowing unemployed workers to use their personal reemployment account funds to cover the borrower guarantee costs of 7(a) loans used to start a small business. **NO Failed 202-221**

> 46 3/2/05 **H.R. 27** An amendment removing the provision permitting faith-based organizations to use religion as a factor in hiring decisions. **NO Failed 186-239**

> 48 3/2/05 **H.R. 27** Reauthorizing the Workforce Investment Act, consolidating several programs into block grants for states, and allowing faith-based providers of job training activities to use religion as a factor in hiring decisions. It combines the funding for adults, dislocated workers and employment services into a single block grant program. The measure authorizes a demonstration program to create personal unemployment accounts under which an unemployed individual would receive a voucher worth up to \$3,000 for job-training and other services. **YES Passed 224-200**

> 49 3/3/05 **H.R. 841** An amendment extending the deadline for conducting special elections under the bill from 45 days to 60 days after the Speaker's announcement. **YES Failed 192-229**

> 50 3/3/05 **H.R. 841** An amendment requiring that any lawsuit challenging the Speaker's announcement that more than 100 vacancies in the House exist must be filed within seven days, rather than two days, of the announcement. It would have allowed any citizen of the district, or any group of citizens, to intervene in support or opposition to the challenge. **NO Failed 183-239**

> 52 3/3/05 **H.R. 841** Requiring special elections to fill vacant House seats within 49 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 requires parties to nominate their candidates within 10 days of the House Speaker's announcement. **YES Passed 329-68**

> 54 3/8/05 **H. Res. 133** Extending funding authority for House committees at current levels from April 1 through April 30. **YES Passed\* 406-0**

> 55 3/8/05 **H. Res. 122** Expressing the sense of the House that language study contributes to the intellectual and social development of a student, as well as the economy and security of the nation. **YES Passed\* 396-0**

> 56 3/9/05 **H.R. 3** An amendment exempting commercial drivers working in field operations for the natural gas and oil industry from hours-of-service rules issued by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration in September 2003. **YES Failed 198-226**

> 57 3/9/05 **H.R. 3** An amendment expanding exemptions from hours-of-service rules for agricultural commodities to include livestock, food, feed, fiber and other farm products. **YES Passed 257-167**

> 58 3/9/05 **H.R. 3** An amendment exempting Nebraska from vehicle length restrictions of 65 feet and increasing the limit to 81.5 feet for custom harvesters operating in the state during the harvesting of certain crops. **YES Passed 236-184**

> 59 3/9/05 **H.R. 3** An amendment authorizing new tolls on any existing toll road or newly constructed lane on the interstate system to manage congestion or address air pollution problems. It also would have allowed an unlimited number of new, toll-eligible express traffic lanes. **YES Failed 155-265**

> 60 3/9/05 **H.R. 3** An amendment barring vicarious liability under state law for car and truck rental companies for injuries and damage caused by vehicles they rent, provided there is no negligence or criminal wrongdoing by the company. **YES Passed 218-201**

> 62 3/10/05 **H.R. 3** An amendment eliminating provisions that require states to allow low-income individuals to pay reduced tolls if the states charge tolls on high-occupancy vehicle lanes or participate in the congestion-pricing or construction toll programs. **YES Passed 224-201**

> 63 3/10/05 **H.R. 3** An amendment authorizing urban areas with populations that recently exceeded 200,000 people to use grants under the Urban Area Formula Grants mass transit program to cover 50 percent of equipment and facilities operating costs in FY2005

through FY2007, and 25 percent for such costs in FY2008 and FY2009. **YES Passed 228-197**  
 > **65 3/10/05 H.R. 3** Authorizing \$283.9 billion for highways, mass transit, safety and research programs from FY2004 to 2009. The funding total includes \$225.5 billion in guaranteed spending for highways, \$52.4 billion for mass transit and other public transportation programs, and \$11.1 billion for other transportation projects. **YES Passed 417-9**  
 > **66 3/14/05 H. Res. 135** Establishing the House Democracy Assistance Commission, which provides advice to members and staff of newly-formed parliaments in emerging democracies. **YES Passed\* 386-2**  
 > **67 3/14/05 H. Res. 101** Urging the European Union (EU) to classify Hezbollah as a terrorist organization and prohibit funding to the group. It also condemns Hezbollah's terrorist attacks and the group's continued support of Palestinian terrorist organizations. **YES Passed\* 380-3**  
 > **68 3/14/05 S. 384** Extending through December 2006, the term of the Nazi War Crimes and Japanese Imperial Government Records Interagency Working Group, which works to locate and declassify Nazi war criminal records. **YES Passed\* 391-0**  
 > **72 3/15/05 H.R. 1268** An amendment providing \$5 million to establish a select committee to investigate reconstruction efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan, including contracting procedures, protection against money laundering, and the allocation of contracts to foreign companies and small businesses. **NO Failed 191-236**  
 > **73 3/15/05 H.R. 1268** An amendment prohibiting funds from being used for the security, construction and maintenance of U.S. embassies. The underlying bill provides \$592 million to construct a new embassy compound in Baghdad. **NO Passed 258-170**  
 > **74 3/15/05 H.R. 1268** An amendment prohibiting funds from being used for Saudi Arabia. **NO Failed 196-231**  
 > **75 3/16/05 H.R. 1268** An amendment prohibiting the use of funds to contravene U.S. laws implementing the U.N. Convention Against Torture. **YES Passed 420-2**  
 > **77 3/16/05 H.R. 1268** Appropriating \$81.4 billion in FY2005 supplemental spending for military operations and reconstruction in Iraq and Afghanistan and for disaster assistance to victims of the December 2004 tsunami. The bill provides \$15.5 billion for military personnel, \$37.5 billion for operations and maintenance, \$18.2 billion for procurement, \$1.3 billion for reconstruction in Afghanistan and \$4.6 billion for new combat brigades under the Army's force-restructuring plan. The bill prohibits funds from being used for security, construction and maintenance of U.S. embassies. It also provides \$656 million for tsunami relief and recovery, and \$222 million to reimburse the U.S. military for its tsunami relief operations. **YES Passed 388-43**  
 > **80 3/16/05 H.R. 1270** Extending the 0.1-cent tax rate on motor vehicle fuels sold in the United States to fund the Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund through Oct. 1, 2005. **YES Passed\* 431-1**  
 > **81 3/16/05 H. Con. Res. 98** Expressing the sense of Congress that the March 14, 2005, passage of an anti-secession law by China is of grave concern to the United States because it provides a legal justification for the use of force against Taiwan. **YES Passed\* 424-4**  
 > **82 3/17/05 H. Con. Res. 95** An amendment increasing FY2006 spending levels by \$15.8 billion, including \$8 billion for education, training and social services programs, \$2 billion for health care, \$1 billion for low-income programs, \$2.9 billion for veterans' health care and \$1.7 billion for homeland security. It also instructs the Ways and Means Committee to increase FY2006 revenue by \$25.8 billion by reducing tax cuts for those earning more than \$1 million. **NO Failed 180-242**  
 > **83 3/17/05 H. Con. Res. 95** An amendment adding \$58 billion reduction in mandatory spending, for a total reduction of \$125 billion over five years. It reduces non-defense and non-homeland discretionary spending by 2 percent, instead of the 1 percent called for in the resolution. It provides reconciliation protection for all \$106 billion in tax cuts called for in the resolution. The substitute establishes new budgetary points of order on certain emergency spending and certain waivers to the Budget Act, and requires roll call votes on legislation authorizing or appropriating more than \$50 million. **YES Failed 102-320**  
 > **84 3/17/05 H. Con. Res. 32** Expressing the sense of Congress that Lebanon is a captive country and that its occupation by Syria represents a long-term threat to the security of the Middle East and U.S. efforts to promote political and economic liberalization in the region. **YES Passed\* 419-1**  
 > **85 3/17/05 H. Con. Res. 95** An amendment increasing FY2006 spending levels by \$36.3 billion, including \$23.9 billion for education and job training and

\$7.8 billion for homeland security and veterans' programs. It also calls for action to rescind tax cuts for individuals making more than \$200,000 in gross income and reduce funding for the ballistic missile defense program. **NO Failed 134-292**  
 > **87 3/17/05 H. Con. Res. 95** An amendment instituting pay-as-you-go rules requiring tax cuts and mandatory spending increases be offset, while eliminating \$68.6 billion in cuts to mandatory spending. It calls for \$4.5 billion more for education and training, \$1.6 billion for veterans and \$2.9 billion for environmental protection and conservation programs. **NO Failed 165-264**  
 > **88 3/17/05 H. Con. Res. 95** Setting broad spending and revenue targets over the next five years. The resolution allows up to \$843 billion in discretionary spending for FY2006, plus \$50 billion for operations in Iraq. It calls for \$68.6 billion in cuts in mandatory spending over five years and tax cuts totaling \$106 billion over five years, \$45 billion of which would be protected under reconciliation rules. Defense spending increases by 4 percent over the FY2005 level, to \$439 billion, and non-defense spending is cut by 1 percent, to \$404 billion. **YES Passed 218-214**  
 > **89 3/17/05 H. Con. Res. 18** Condemning the Syrian government's gross violations of internationally recognized human rights, while calling on the international community to adopt a resolution at the upcoming session of the U.N. Commission on Human Rights detailing the human rights record of Syria. **YES Passed\* 402-3**  
 > **90 3/21/05 S. 686** Giving the parents of Theresa Marie Schiavo the right to file a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida alleging that Schiavo's rights related to life-sustaining medical treatment have been violated under the Constitution or federal law. **YES Passed\* 203-58**  
 > **91 4/5/05 H. Res. 108** Expressing the sympathy of the House of Representatives to the family of Zurab Zhvania and the people of the Republic of Georgia for the death of their Prime Minister. **YES Passed\* 402-0**  
 > **92 4/5/05 H. Res. 120** Commending the efforts of the armed forces, State Department civilian employees, and the U.S. Agency for International Development in response to the earthquake and tsunami of December 26, 2004. **YES Passed\* 401-0**  
 > **93 4/5/05 H. Con. Res. 34** Honoring the life and contributions of Yogi Bhanjan, a leader of Sikhs, and expressing condolences to the Sikh community on his death. **YES Passed\* 405-0**  
 > **94 4/6/05 H. Res. 190** Honoring the life and achievements of Pope John Paul II and expressing profound sorrow on his death. **YES Passed 415-0**  
 > **95 4/6/05 H. Res. 148** Expressing support for the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month. **YES Passed\* 409-2**  
 > **96 4/12/05 H.R. 135** Authorizing \$9 million to establish the 21st Century Water Commission, responsible for projecting future water supply and demand as well as studying current federal, regional, state, local and private water management programs and developing recommendations for a comprehensive water strategy. **YES Passed\* 402-22**  
 > **97 4/12/05 H.R. 541** Conveying 8.75 acres from Kingston Cemetery to Lander County, Nevada, and 10 acres from Maiden's Grave Cemetery to Eureka County, Nevada. Additionally, the measure requires the land be used as a cemetery. **YES Passed\* 423-0**  
 > **98 4/13/05 H.R. 1463** Designating a portion of a federal building in Alexandria, Virginia, after the late Justin W. Williams, an attorney who worked in the Justice Department for many years. **YES Passed\* 427-0**  
 > **99 4/13/05 H.R. 787** Naming a federal courthouse in Sacramento, California, after former Rep. Robert T. Matsui, D-Calif. (1979-2005), who died Jan. 1 after 26 years in office. **YES Passed\* 426-0**  
 > **101 4/13/05 H.R. 8** An amendment increasing the estate tax exemption to \$3 million for individuals and \$6 million for married couples in 2006. In 2009, the exemption would increase to \$3.5 million for individuals and \$7 million for married couples. The amendment would have frozen the maximum estate tax at the current rate of 47 percent and reinstated the 5 percent surtax on estates valued at more than \$10 million that was repealed under the 2001 tax law. **NO Failed 194-238**  
 > **102 4/13/05 H.R. 8** Making permanent the repeal of the estate tax contained in the 2001 tax cut law (PL 107-16), which is set to expire after 2010. **YES Passed 272-162**  
 > **108 4/14/05 S. 256** Creating a means test tied to the median incomes of individual states to determine whether personal bankruptcy filers were able to repay some or all of their debts. Those deemed able to pay are placed into Chapter 13 bankruptcy, which results in a court-ordered repayment plan. Individuals with insufficient assets are allowed to file under Chapter 7, which erases debts after the forfeiture of certain assets.

The bill exempts disabled veterans from the means test if their debts were incurred primarily when they were on active duty or performing homeland defense duties. It also makes a number of debts non-dischargeable, including student loans, child support, alimony, and luxury payments over \$500 made within three months of a bankruptcy filing. **YES Passed 302-126**  
 > **109 4/19/05 H.R. 683** Allowing trademark owners to seek an injunction against the use of similar trademarks that might harm a company's reputation or confuse consumers. It exempts commentary, criticism, parodies, news reporting, comparative advertising and the non-commercial use of trademarks from liability. **YES Passed\* 411-8**  
 > **110 4/19/05 H. J. Res. 19** Appointing Shirley Ann Jackson of New York as a citizen regent of the Smithsonian Institution. **YES Passed\* 417-0**  
 > **111 4/19/05 H.J. Res. 20** Appointing Robert P. Kogod of the District of Columbia as a citizen regent of the Smithsonian Institution. **YES Passed\* 412-0**  
 > **113 4/20/05 H. Con. Res. 126** Expressing Congress' condolences to all the families, friends and loved ones of the victims of the shootings in Red Lake, Minn. **YES Passed\* 424-0**  
 > **114 4/20/05 H. Res. 208** Recognizing the University of Pittsburgh and Dr. Jonas Salk on the 50th anniversary of the discovery of the polio vaccine. **YES Passed\* 422-0**  
 > **115 4/20/05 H.R. 6** An amendment striking a provision allowing an expedited review and approval process to open refineries in areas that have experienced manufacturing-sector layoffs and have unemployment rates that exceed the national average by at least 10 percent. **NO Failed 182-248**  
 > **116 4/20/05 H.R. 6** An amendment renaming the Strategic Petroleum Reserve the Strategic Fuels Reserve, and giving the Energy Department authority to include alternate fuels such as ethanol and biodiesel fuels in the reserve. **NO Failed 186-239**  
 > **117 4/20/05 H.R. 6** An amendment requiring federal agencies to develop steps to reduce demand for oil by one million barrels per day by 2013. **NO Failed 166-262**  
 > **118 4/20/05 H.R. 6** An amendment requiring electric utility companies to reduce dependence on nonrenewable energy sources and authorizing \$50 million over 10 years for the development of new electricity reliability standards for bulk-power. It would have provided tax credits for energy-efficient homes, tax deductions for other energy-efficient buildings and prohibited oil and gas drilling in the Great Lakes. It also would have created a grant program for states that have at least a 90 percent compliance rate with the most recent energy-efficiency building codes and authorized \$25 million in each of fiscal years 2006 through 2010 for the grants. **NO Failed 170-259**  
 > **119 4/20/05 H.R. 6** An amendment directing the EPA to revise certain federal vehicle fuel-economy measurement standards to take into consideration higher speed limits, variations in temperature and other fuel-depleting features to provide consumers with accurate fuel economy information on new vehicle labels. **YES Passed 259-172**  
 > **120 4/20/05 H.R. 6** An amendment requiring the EPA's fuel economy test procedures to reflect current driving patterns and conditions, and provide consumers with information about fuel economy. **YES Passed 346-85**  
 > **121 4/20/05 H.R. 6** An amendment requiring the Transportation Department to issue regulations by model year 2007 increasing fuel efficiency standards to at least 33 miles per gallon in automobiles manufactured by model year 2015. **NO Failed 177-254**  
 > **122 4/20/05 H.R. 6** An amendment striking the provision that allows oil and gas drilling in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. **NO Failed 200-231**  
 > **123 4/20/05 H.R. 6** An amendment authorizing the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to refund electricity overcharges and increasing the penalties for violations of the Federal Power Act, including raising the criminal penalties for individuals from \$5,000 to \$5 million. It would have stricken a provision in the bill repealing the Public Utility Holding Company Act (PUHCA), and directed the Securities and Exchange Commission to review utility companies' compliance with PUHCA. **NO Failed 188-243**  
 > **124 4/21/05 H.R. 6** An amendment striking the provision in the bill that would have authorized \$10 million annually from fiscal 2006-2008 for a program to identify, test and develop improved techniques for mining uranium and for environmental restoration of uranium-mine sites. **NO Failed 204-225**  
 > **125 4/21/05 H.R. 6** An amendment making producers of all approved renewable fuels eligible for grants to build production facilities for renewable fuels. **NO Passed 239-190**

> **126 4/21/05 H.R. 6** An amendment directing the comptroller general to study and report to Congress within one year the impact of the consolidation of gasoline refiners, importers, producers, and wholesalers on the retail gasoline market. **NO Passed 302-128**  
 > **127 4/21/05 H.R. 6** An amendment authorizing a study by the National Academy of Sciences on the feasibility of mustard seed as a feedstock for biodiesel. **NO Passed 259-171**  
 > **128 4/21/05 H.R. 6** An amendment striking a provision authorizing the Interior Department to reduce royalty payments for deep gas wells leased in the shallow waters of the western and central areas of the Gulf of Mexico. **NO Failed 203-227**  
 > **130 4/21/05 H.R. 6** An amendment expanding the definition of environmental justice, directing each federal agency to establish an office of environmental justice, and re-establishing the interagency federal working group on environmental justice. **NO Failed 185-243**  
 > **131 4/21/05 H.R. 6** An amendment striking a provision specifying that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, instead of state agencies, would have the authority to approve the construction, expansion or operation of any facility that imports or processes natural gas, including liquefied natural gas. **NO Failed 194-237**  
 > **132 4/21/05 H.R. 6** Overhauling the nation's energy policy and providing for approximately \$8 billion in energy-related tax incentives. It also authorizes the Interior Department to hold a lease sale for oil and gas exploration, development, and production in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska, on a total of about 1.6 million acres. Makers of the gasoline additive methyl tertiary butyl ether are protected from liability but must cease production of the additive by 2015. The bill grants the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission jurisdiction over reliability standards for electricity transmission networks and extends daylight-saving time by two months. **YES Passed 249-183**  
 > **136 4/27/05 H.R. 902** Authorizing the U.S. Mint to issue a new \$1 coin to commemorate U.S. presidents and a series of \$10 gold bullion coins to honor first ladies. It also authorizes the Mint to redesign the back of the penny that will be issued in 2009 to commemorate the 200th anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln's birth. **YES Passed\* 422-6**  
 > **137 4/27/05 H. Con. Res. 81** Condemning the arrest of more than 75 journalists, labor union organizers, civic leaders, librarians, and human rights activists as Cuban political prisoners in March 2003. **YES Passed\* 398-27**  
 > **141 4/27/05 H.R. 748** An amendment exempting taxicab drivers, bus drivers and others in the professional transportation business, as well as doctors, nurses and other medical providers or their staff, from criminal liability under the transportation provisions in the bill. **NO Failed 179-245**  
 > **142 4/27/05 H.R. 748** An amendment exempting from prosecution the grandparents of the minor or a member of the clergy who transports a minor across state lines for the purposes of obtaining an abortion. **NO Failed 177-252**  
 > **144 4/27/05 H.R. 748** Barring the transportation of minor girls across state lines to obtain abortions without the consent of a parent, guardian or judge. The bill authorizes fines or up to a year in prison for individuals who transport a minor to a state without parental consent law in an attempt to circumvent parents' involvement. Doctors who perform the abortions are also subject to the penalties. The bill requires abortion providers in states without parental consent laws to try to notify a parent or legal guardian, either personally or by certified mail, before performing an abortion on a minor who is a resident of another state. **YES Passed 270-157**  
 > **145 4/27/05 H. Res. 240** Adoption of the self-executing rule (H Res. 241) under which the House automatically adopts a resolution amending the Rules of the House dealing with ethics committee procedures. **YES Passed 406-20**  
 > **149 4/28/05 H. Con. Res. 95** Adoption of the conference report on the concurrent resolution setting broad spending and revenue targets for five years, as well as providing instructions for reconciliation bills proposing \$70 billion in tax cuts and \$34.7 billion in savings to mandatory programs. **YES Passed 214-211**  
 > **150 4/28/05 H. Res. 210** Supporting the goals of World Intellectual Property Day, to promote, inform and teach the importance of intellectual property. **YES Passed\* 315-0**  
 > **152 5/3/05 H. Res. 228** Celebrating the contributions of Vietnamese Americans, honoring all members of the U.S. and South Vietnamese armed forces who fought in the Vietnam conflict and observing the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Republic of Vietnam to the Communist forces of North Vietnam on April 30, 1975. **YES Passed\* 416-0**

> **154 5/4/05 H.R. 366** Reauthorizing the Perkins vocational and technical education program for \$1.3 billion in FY2006 and such funds as necessary in FY2007-2011. The bill merges Perkins funding with Tech-Prep, a program that provides specialized math and science courses to ease the transition of high school students to vocational school or community college. It also provides federal grants to states for supplemental programs, such as courses in emerging technologies. **YES Passed 416-9**

> **155 5/4/05 H. Con. Res. 127** Calling on the government of Nigeria to transfer Charles Ghankay Taylor, former president of Liberia, to a United Nations special court in Sierra Leone to be tried for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other serious violations of international humanitarian law. **YES Passed\* 421-1**

> **156 5/4/05 H. Res. 195** Recognizing the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Western Bohemia by Allied military forces, and honoring those individuals who gave their lives during the liberation. **YES Passed\* 419-0**

> **157 5/4/05 H.R. 1185** Increasing to \$130,000 from \$100,000 the ceiling on bank deposits guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and indexing the limit to inflation thereafter. It merges the FDIC's Bank Insurance Fund and the Savings Association Insurance Fund. The FDIC is able to set risk-based premiums for insured institutions and double to \$260,000 the coverage limits for certain types of retirement accounts. **YES Passed 413-10**

> **158 5/4/05 H. Res. 233** Recognizing the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe, and expressing respect and appreciation to the men and women who served in Europe during the war. **YES Passed\* 423-0**

> **161 5/5/05 H.R. 1268** Adoption of the conference report on the bill appropriating \$82 billion in FY2005 supplemental spending for military operations and reconstruction in Iraq and Afghanistan and for disaster assistance to victims of the December 2004 tsunami. The measure provides \$37.1 billion for military operations and maintenance, \$17.4 billion for military personnel and \$17.4 billion for procurement. It also provides \$635 million for border security, \$907 million for disaster relief for countries affected by the tsunami and \$1.7 billion for relief and reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan. The military death gratuity increases to \$100,000 from \$12,420 for families of soldiers who died on active duty beginning October 7, 2001. It also establishes national driver's license standards, stiffens asylum requirements, and speeds completion of a fence on the U.S.-Mexico border. **YES Passed 368-58**

> **162 5/10/05 H. Res. 193** Asking international community to support the Assembly to Promote the Civil Society in Cuba's mission to bring democracy to that country. It also urges the administration and international community to actively oppose any attempts by the Castro regime to repress or punish the organizers and participants of the assembly. **YES Passed\* 392-22**

> **163 5/10/05 H. Res. 142** Recognizing Rotary International on its Feb. 23, 2005, anniversary for 100 years of service throughout the world. **YES Passed\* 413-0**

> **165 5/11/05 H.R. 1279** Adding five years to any sentence for violent crime or drug-trafficking when the offender is an illegal alien. It adds 15 years to a sentence if the alien has previously been deported for criminal offenses and has re-entered the country. **YES Passed 266-159**

> **166 5/11/05 H.R. 1279** Requiring the Justice and Homeland Security departments to conduct a joint study and report to Congress within one year on the connection between illegal immigration and gang membership. **YES Passed 395-31**

> **168 5/11/05 H.R. 1279** Increasing penalties for crimes committed by "criminal street gangs." Certain gang-related offenses are subject to mandatory minimum sentences, including 30 years or more in prison for cases of kidnapping, aggravated sexual assault or maiming. It authorizes \$438 million over five years for federal, state and local law enforcement efforts against violent gangs and for law enforcement coordination efforts to share intelligence and jointly investigate violent gangs. The bill also adds 94 assistant U.S. attorneys, 100 inspectors and 100 agents to work on gang activity. **YES Passed 279-144**

> **169 5/12/05 H.R. 1544** An amendment limiting to 50 the number of grants provided under the Urban Area Security Initiative. **NO Failed 88-331**

> **170 5/12/05 H.R. 1544** Changing the distribution of certain first responder grants provided by the Homeland Security Department to require that grants be distributed primarily based on threat levels. Each state is guaranteed at least 0.25 percent of the total funding available, or 0.45 percent for states that have an international border or that

are on a body of water with an international border. It also requires state governments to develop three-year homeland security plans for enhancing their preparedness and response capabilities. **YES Passed 409-10**

> **171 5/16/05 H.R. 627** Designating a post office in Hamden, Conn., for Linda White-Epps, who founded the cancer-survivor support group "Sisters' Journey" in Connecticut. **YES Passed\* 390-0**

> **172 5/16/05 H. Res. 266** Supporting the goals and ideals of Peace Officers Memorial Day and asking the public to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and respect. **YES Passed\* 391-0**

> **173 5/16/05 H.R. 2107** Transferring control of the National Law Enforcement Memorial Maintenance Fund from the National Park Service to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, Inc., a non-profit corporation that operates and maintains the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. **YES Passed\* 392-0**

> **176 5/17/05 H.R. 2360** An amendment increasing funds by \$50 million for state and local grant programs to improve security of chemical plants. The amendment is offset by a \$50 million cut for the Office of the Under Secretary for Management (USM). The USM is the State Department's representative on the President's Management Council, and is the department responsible for implementing the President's Management Agenda. **NO Passed 225-198**

> **177 5/17/05 H.R. 2360** An amendment prohibiting the use of funds to assist state or local governments that have restrictions on exchanging information with the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement on an individual's citizenship or immigration status. **NO Failed 165-258**

> **178 5/17/05 H.R. 2360** An amendment prohibiting the use of funds to close any detention facility operated by or on behalf of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement that has been operational in 2005. **NO Failed 199-223**

> **179 5/17/05 H.R. 2360** An amendment providing \$100 million for states to comply with new national driver's license standards. The amendment is offset by cuts to the Office of the Secretary, Office of the Under Secretary for Management, Office of the Under Secretary for Border and Transportation Security, the Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Directorate, and the Science and Technology Directorate. **NO Passed 226-198**

> **180 5/17/05 H.R. 2360** Providing \$31.9 billion in FY2006 for the Homeland Security Department, including \$22 billion for security, enforcement and investigation activities, such as the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Coast Guard and the Secret Service. It also provides \$5.7 billion for the Transportation Security Administration and \$3.6 billion for the Office of State and Local Coordination and Preparedness, including \$2.8 billion for state and local homeland security grant programs. It withholds \$310 million from the department until it implements new air cargo screening measures and deploys more explosive-detection technologies at airports around the country. **YES Passed 424-1**

> **183 5/18/05 H.R. 1817** An amendment increasing funds for the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General to \$200 million. **NO Failed 184-244**

> **184 5/18/05 H.R. 1817** An amendment prohibiting any funds authorized by the bill to come from an increase in the aviation security passenger fee. **NO Passed 363-65**

> **185 5/18/05 H.R. 1817** An amendment clarifying the existing authority for state and local enforcement personnel to apprehend, detain, remove and transport illegal aliens in the routine course of duty. It also requires the Homeland Security Department to establish a manual for training personnel to enforce immigration laws and set guidelines for making the training available. **YES Passed 242-185**

> **186 5/18/05 H.R. 1817** An amendment calling for the Homeland Security secretary to submit a report to Congress on border violence activity including the number and types of activities that have occurred, a description of victim categories and a description of the steps the agency is taking and plans to prevent these activities. **NO Failed 182-245**

> **187 5/18/05 H.R. 1817** An amendment authorizing \$41 billion in FY2006 for the Department of Homeland Security, including \$6.5 billion for grants to state and local governments, \$1.8 billion for science and technology programs and \$3.3 billion for emergency preparedness and response activities. The substitute amendment would have authorized \$2.8 billion for a three-year grant program to reduce the vulnerability of transit systems to terrorist attacks and more than \$1 billion for rail security. **NO Failed 196-230**

> **189 5/18/05 H.R. 1817** Authorizing \$34.2 billion

in FY2006 for the Department of Homeland Security, including \$6.9 billion for Customs and Border Protection and \$2 billion for grants to state and local governments for terrorism preparedness. It also authorizes the hiring of 2,000 new border patrol agents and the creation of an assistant secretary for cybersecurity to oversee a National Cybersecurity Office and the National Communications System. The bill refines the color-coded threat alert system by requiring any alerts or advisories to include information on appropriate protective measures and limit the scope to a specific region, locality, or sector of the economy. **YES Passed 424-4**

> **191 5/19/05 H.R. 2361** An amendment increasing appropriations by \$4.8 million for payments in lieu of taxes while reducing funding for the National Endowment for the Arts by \$15 million. **YES Failed 109-311**

> **192 5/19/05 H.R. 2361** An amendment lifting the moratorium on natural gas production in the Outer Continental Shelf. **NO Failed 157-262**

> **193 5/19/05 H.R. 2361** An amendment increasing funds for the hazardous substance superfund by \$130 million. **NO Failed 76-344**

> **194 5/19/05 H.R. 2361** An amendment increasing the Clean Water State Revolving Fund by \$100 million. **NO Failed 186-235**

> **195 5/19/05 H.R. 2361** An amendment increasing funds for the Forest Service by \$27.5 million. **NO Failed 122-298**

> **196 5/19/05 H.R. 2361** An amendment prohibiting the use of funds for the sale or slaughter of wild horses and burros. **NO Passed 249-159**

> **197 5/19/05 H.R. 2361** An amendment requiring a 1 percent across-the-board cut to discretionary spending. **NO Failed 90-326**

> **199 5/19/05 H.R. 2361** Providing \$26.2 billion in FY2006 for the Department of Interior and related agencies, including \$9.8 billion for the Interior Department and \$7.7 billion for the EPA. It provides \$4.2 billion for the Forest Service, \$1.8 billion for the Bureau of Land Management and \$3.1 billion for the Indian Health Service. **YES Passed 329-89**

> **200 5/23/05 H.R. 744** 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. Anyone who intentionally gained access in furtherance of a federal crime could serve up to five years in prison. The bill authorizes a total of \$40 million over four years to fund federal prosecutions in order to discourage spyware use. **YES Passed\* 395-1**

> **201 5/23/05 H.R. 29** 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 allows 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\* 393-4**

> **202 5/23/05 H. Con. Res. 149** Recognizing that Israel's independence serves to provide a refuge and national homeland for Jewish people, and congratulating the Israeli people on the country's 57th anniversary of independence. **YES Passed\* 397-0**

> **204 5/24/05 H.R. 810** Allowing federal funds to be used in research on embryonic stem cell lines derived from surplus embryos at in-vitro fertilization clinics, only if donors give their consent and if they are not paid for the embryos. The bill authorizes the Health and Human Services Department to conduct and support research involving human embryonic stem cells that meet certain criteria, regardless of the date on which the stem cells were derived from a human embryo. **NO Passed 283-194**

> **205 5/24/05 H.R. 2520** Creating a new federal program to collect and store umbilical-cord-blood stem cells. The bill reauthorizes and expands the current bone marrow registry program to both bone-marrow and cord-blood transplants and helps match those in need of bone marrow or cord blood with appropriate donors. It authorizes \$28 million in FY2006, and \$32 million in each of FY2007 through FY2010 for the program. **YES Passed\* 431-1**

> **206 5/24/05 H.R. 1224** Allowing banks, thrifts and certain industrial loan companies to pay interest on balances held in business checking accounts. **YES Passed\* 424-1**

> **207 5/24/05 H.R. 2419** An amendment transferring \$15.5 million from interim storage and reprocessing and direct the funds towards energy efficiency and conservation. **NO Failed 110-312**

> **208 5/24/05 H.R. 2419** An amendment increasing the bill's appropriations by \$20 million for the Army Corps of Engineers while reducing funding for the Energy Department's administration account by \$20 million. **NO Failed 152-275**

> **209 5/24/05 H.R. 2419** An amendment prohibiting funds from being used to accept oil deliveries to the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. **NO Failed 174-253**

> **211 5/24/05 H.R. 2419** Providing \$29.7 billion in FY2006 for energy and water development projects, including \$4.7 billion for the Army Corps of Engineers and \$8.9 billion for the National Nuclear Security Administration. It also provides \$661 million for the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository, including \$10 million for the department to begin accepting waste for interim storage at one or more storage facilities by 2006. **YES Passed 416-13**

> **214 5/25/05 H.R. 1815** An amendment authorizing 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 245-184**

> **215 5/25/05 H.R. 1815** An amendment requiring the Defense Department to provide the minimum level of support it provided the Boy Scouts in the previous four fiscal years. Support is defined as holding meetings, camping events, or other activities on defense property and hosting any official event of the youth organization. **YES Passed 413-16**

> **216 5/25/05 H.R. 1815** An amendment allowing overseas military facilities to provide privately-funded abortions for women who are in the military or are military dependents. **NO Failed 194-233**

> **217 5/25/05 H.R. 1815** An amendment requiring the Defense Department to provide Congress with a detailed report on current policy regarding women in combat by March 31, 2006, including an examination of its effect on agency efforts to create a leaner force. The Pentagon is required to give Congress at least 60 legislative days advance notice before opening or closing any jobs to women. It extends veterans' preference to individuals who served on active duty in the armed forces for more than 180 consecutive days between September 1, 2001 and the end of Operation Iraqi Freedom and who were discharged under honorable conditions. It also establishes a memorial to the U.S.S. Oklahoma. **YES Passed 428-1**

> **218 5/25/05 H.R. 1815** An amendment expressing the sense of Congress that any college or university that denies equal access or discriminates against Reserve Officer Training Corps programs or military recruiters should be denied certain federal taxpayer support, especially funding for military and defense programs. The amendment requires the Defense Secretary to report to Congress on the colleges and universities that are denying equal access to military recruiters and ROTC programs. **YES Passed 336-92**

> **219 5/25/05 H.R. 1815** An amendment postponing the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure recommendations until one year after the following conditions are met: the recommendations of the Review of Overseas Military Facility Structure are implemented by the Defense Secretary; a substantial number of U.S. troops return from Iraq; the House and Senate Armed Services Committees receive the quadrennial defense review; the National Maritime Security Strategy is implemented; and the Homeland Defense and Civil Support Directive is implemented. **NO Failed 112-316**

> **220 5/25/05 H.R. 1815** An amendment expressing the sense of Congress that the President should develop a plan for the withdrawal of U.S. military forces from Iraq and submit the plan to the appropriate congressional committees. **NO Failed 128-300**

> **222 5/25/05 H.R. 1815** Authorizing \$441.6 billion for defense programs and \$49.1 billion in emergency supplemental spending for FY2006. The bill authorizes \$79.1 billion for weapons procurement, \$124.3 billion for operations and maintenance, \$108.8 billion for personnel, \$12.2 billion for military construction and family housing and \$17 billion for weapons-related and environmental-cleanup activities of the Energy Department. It also authorizes \$7.9 billion for ballistic-missile defense programs. The Pentagon is required to notify Congress within 60 consecutive legislative days if it intends to open to women military jobs closed under a 1994 policy which restricts women from serving in units that are sent into direct ground combat, such as infantry, armor and special forces. It also requires the Defense Department to evaluate and continually monitor changes to initial cost estimates for major defense acquisition programs. **YES Passed 390-39**

> **224 5/26/05 H.R. 2528** An amendment adding \$53 million for veterans health care and process claims for compensation and pensions. It would have been offset by \$169 million cut to the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure account. **NO Failed 213-214**

> **225 5/26/05 H.R. 2528** An amendment adding \$351 million to complete all environmental remediation at bases closed during the 1988 round of base closings. It

would have been offset by a \$351 million cut to the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure account. **NO Failed 171-254**

> 226 5/26/05 H.R. 2528 Providing \$121.8 billion in FY2006 for the Department of Veterans Affairs, military construction and military housing, including \$20 billion for the Defense Health Programs and \$13.3 billion for the basic military housing allowances. The bill provides \$68.1 billion for the Department of Veterans Affairs, including \$28.8 billion for the Veterans Health Administration. It also provides \$5.8 billion for military construction, \$4.2 billion for military family housing and \$1.6 billion for the latest round of base closures. **YES Passed 425-1**

> 228 6/7/05 H. Con. Res. 44 Recognizing Mexico's struggle for independence from European control and requesting the president to issue a proclamation recognizing the struggle for Mexican independence. **YES Passed\* 405-0**

> 229 6/7/05 H. Res. 282 Calling on the United Nations to officially and publicly condemn anti-Semitic statements made at U.N. meetings and by U.N. member states. **YES Passed\* 409-2**

> 230 6/8/05 H.R. 2744 An amendment increasing funds by \$19 million for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, to be offset by a \$21 million decrease to the Agriculture Department common computing environment account. **NO Passed 226-201**

> 231 6/8/05 H.R. 2744 An amendment striking a provision prohibiting the Agriculture Department from using funds to enforce country-of-origin labels for meat and meat products. **NO Failed 187-240**

> 232 6/8/05 H.R. 2744 An amendment prohibiting the use of funds to grant a waiver of a financial conflict of interest requirement for a voting member of an advisory committee or panel of the Food and Drug Administration. **NO Passed 218-210**

> 233 6/8/05 H.R. 2744 An amendment prohibiting funds from being used to pay salaries or expenses of employees to inspect horses intended for slaughter, carcasses or meat under the Federal Meat Inspection Act or the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act. **NO Passed 269-158**

> 234 6/8/05 H.R. 2744 An amendment prohibiting funds from being used for salaries or expenses of personnel who make loans in excess of 17 cents per pound for raw sugar cane or 21.6 cents per pound for refined beet sugar. The amendment would have effectively cut the Sugar Loan Program by 6 percent. **NO Failed 146-280**

> 235 6/8/05 H.R. 2744 An amendment prohibiting the use of funds in the bill to carry out activities of the Market Access Program, which funds the advertising and marketing of agricultural projects overseas. **NO Failed 66-356**

> 236 6/8/05 H.R. 2744 An amendment to require a 1 percent across-the-board cut to discretionary spending for the Department of Agriculture. **NO Failed 80-335**

> 237 6/8/05 H.R. 2744 An amendment prohibiting funds under the food stamp program from being used to contravene existing immigration law requiring that food stamp applicants have an affidavit of support by a sponsor. **YES Failed 169-258**

> 238 6/8/05 H.R. 2744 Providing \$100.3 billion in FY2006 for the Department of Agriculture and related agencies such as the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The bill funds the food stamp program at \$40.7 billion and child nutrition program at \$12.4 billion. It provides \$25.7 billion for the Commodity Credit Corporation, \$5.3 billion for the Women, Infants and Children program and \$1.5 billion for the FDA. The country-of-origin labeling of meat products mandated by the 2002 farm law is delayed for one year. It also bars the FDA from using funds to prevent the importation of drugs approved by the FDA. **YES Passed 408-18**

> 239 6/9/05 H. J. Res. 27 Withdrawing congressional approval of the agreement establishing the World Trade Organization. **NO Failed 86-338**

> 241 6/13/05 S. 643 Authorizing \$7.5 million in FY2006 through FY2010 for grants to states for agricultural mediation programs. **YES Passed\* 371-2**

> 242 6/13/05 H.R. 2326 Designating a post office in Belhaven, N.C., after Floyd Lupton, who served as chief of staff to the late Rep. Walter B. Jones, Sr., D-N.C. (1966-1992), for 26 years. **YES Passed\* 370-0**

> 244 6/14/05 H.R. 2862 An amendment adding \$100 million for justice assistance grants to state and local law enforcement and \$100 million for law enforcement grants under the Community Oriented Policing Services program. The amendment would have been offset by a \$200 million decrease for NASA. **NO Failed 196-230**

> 245 6/14/05 H.R. 2862 An amendment increasing

funds for Justice Assistance Grants by \$286 million and offsetting the increase with a 0.448 percent across-the-board cut in discretionary spending. **NO Failed 175-252**

> 246 6/14/05 H.R. 2862 An amendment providing \$79 million for the Small Business Administration's small business loan program. The increase is offset by a \$39.1 million cut for Justice Department mobile radio technological advancements, a \$59.1 million decrease for State Department capital investments and a \$13.4 million cut for Small Business Administration salaries and expenses. **NO Passed 234-189**

> 247 6/14/05 H.R. 2862 An amendment increasing funds by \$78.3 million for Community Oriented Policing Services programs. It would have been offset by reducing funds for salaries and expenses at the FBI by \$50 million and at the Drug Enforcement Administration by \$11.7 million, and by a \$16.6 million cut for international broadcasting operations. **NO Failed 130-297**

> 248 6/14/05 H.R. 2862 An amendment increasing funds for Community Oriented Policing Services programs by \$10 million and the Drug Enforcement Administration by \$10 million. It is offset by a \$10 million cut in funding for the 2010 decennial census and a \$10 million decrease for salaries and expenses at the Bureau of the Census. **NO Passed 260-168**

> 249 6/14/05 H.R. 2862 An amendment increasing funds for Justice Assistance Grants by \$10 million, offset by a reduction for the Legal Services Corporation. **NO Failed 112-316**

> 250 6/14/05 H.R. 2862 An amendment increasing funds for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program by \$50 million, offset by a reduction for operations, research and facilities at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. **YES Passed 231-195**

> 251 6/15/05 H.R. 2862 An amendment increasing funds for the Community Oriented Policing Services program by \$126.2 million, offset with cuts to the National Science Foundation. **NO Failed 31-396**

> 252 6/15/05 H.R. 2862 An amendment increasing funds for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Operations, Research, and Facilities account by \$5 million, offset by reductions related to export control functions at the Department of Commerce. **NO Failed 177-248**

> 253 6/15/05 H.R. 2862 An amendment cutting the U.S. contribution to the United Nations by \$218 million. **NO Failed 124-304**

> 254 6/15/05 H.R. 2862 An amendment prohibiting the use of funds to implement, administer or enforce regulations related to license exemptions for gift parcels and humanitarian donations for Cuba. **NO Failed 210-216**

> 255 6/15/05 H.R. 2862 An 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, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Vermont or Washington state. **NO Failed 161-264**

> 256 6/15/05 H.R. 2862 An amendment prohibiting funds from being used to close or consolidate any office of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission or to make any reductions in the number of full-time officers or employees in any commission office as part of workforce repositioning, restructuring or reorganizing. **NO Failed 201-222**

> 257 6/15/05 H.R. 2862 An amendment prohibiting the use of funds in the bill to enforce a ruling by the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Indiana in *Russellburg v. Gordon* where the court ruled that a monument representing the Ten Commandments must be removed from the county courthouse. **YES Passed 242-182**

> 258 6/15/05 H.R. 2862 An amendment prohibiting funds from being used to make an application under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act to acquire library circulation records, library patron lists, bookseller sales records or bookseller customer lists in an attempt to investigate and apprehend suspected terrorists. **NO Passed 238-187**

> 259 6/16/05 H.R. 2862 An amendment prohibiting the use of funds in the bill to pay any U.S. contribution to the United Nations or any affiliated agency of the United Nations. **NO Failed 65-357**

> 260 6/16/05 H.R. 2862 An amendment requiring an approximate 1 percent across-the-board cut in discretionary spending to the Science, State, Justice, Commerce, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. **NO Failed 91-336**

> 261 6/16/05 H.R. 2862 An amendment reaffirming the U.S. commitment to the United Nations Convention Against Torture. **NO Passed 415-8**

> 262 6/16/05 H.R. 2862 An amendment

prohibiting the use of funds for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program by any state or local government entity that restricts its officials from transmitting information regarding an individual's citizenship or immigration status to the Department of Homeland Security. **YES Failed 204-222**

> 263 6/16/05 H.R. 2862 An amendment prohibiting the use of funds to include provisions in any trade agreement that would increase the number of aliens permitted into the United States as non-immigrants or permanent residents. **NO Failed 106-322**

> 264 6/16/05 H.R. 2862 An amendment prohibiting funds from being used to fund state or local anti-drug task forces that do not collect and make available data on the racial distribution of convictions. **NO Failed 183-244**

> 265 6/16/05 H.R. 2862 An amendment prohibiting the use of funds to license the export of nonautomatic or semiautomatic .50 caliber firearms. **NO Failed 149-278**

> 266 6/16/05 H.R. 2862 An amendment prohibiting the use of funds to enforce any provision of law that restricts or prohibits funding for the United Nations Population Fund. **NO Failed 192-233**

> 267 6/16/05 H.R. 2862 An amendment increasing by \$1 million funds for provisions in current law that allow state or local officials to transmit information regarding an individual's citizenship or immigration status to the Homeland Security Department. It is offset by a reduction in the salaries and expenses account at the Justice Department. **YES Passed 218-208**

> 268 6/16/05 H.R. 2862 Providing \$57.8 billion in FY2006 for the Departments of Commerce, Justice and State as well as various science and other related agencies. It provides \$21.8 billion for the Justice Department, \$5.8 billion for the Commerce Department and \$9.7 billion for the State Department and international broadcasting agencies. The bill also appropriates \$16.5 billion for NASA and \$5.6 billion for the National Science Foundation. It blocks the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative from enforcing language in future trade agreements that would make it more difficult to import prescription drugs from the specific countries involved. **YES Passed 418-7**

> 270 6/16/05 H.R. 2745 An amendment instructing the president to direct the U.S. permanent representative to the United Nations to ensure that the secretary general exercises the right and duty to waive immunity of any U.N. official who is under investigation for, or is charged with, committing a serious criminal offense. **YES Passed 405-13**

> 271 6/16/05 H.R. 2745 An amendment requiring the Office of Management and Budget to submit a report to the House International Relations Committee on U.S. contributions to the United Nations, including assessed, voluntary, and in-kind contributions. **YES Passed 402-14**

> 272 6/16/05 H.R. 2745 An amendment directing the U.S. permanent representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency to ensure that the IAEA adopts a resolution making Iran ineligible to receive any nuclear material, technology, equipment or assistance from any IAEA member state until it is in full compliance with the agency. **YES Passed 411-9**

> 274 6/17/05 H.R. 2745 An amendment adding language which states that country-specific resolutions shall not be eliminated from the list of changes that the president shall direct the U.S. permanent representative to the United Nations to achieve in the area of human rights overhaul. **YES Passed 373-32**

> 275 6/17/05 H.R. 2745 An amendment directing the U.S. permanent representative to the United Nations to make every effort to ensure the adoption and implementation of mechanisms to suspend a member state if its government is engaged in, or complicit in, acts of genocide, war crimes, or crimes against humanity; or if it imposes an arms and trade embargo, travel restrictions and asset freezes on groups or individuals responsible for the above acts as it relates to the certification and withholding process. **YES Passed 375-29**

> 276 6/17/05 H.R. 2745 An amendment requiring the United Nations to release documents concerning the Oil-for-Food Program upon request by member states. It also requires the United Nations to waive U.S. immunity of U.N. officials for civil or criminal acts under federal or state law that transpired in the United States in connection with the Oil-for-Food Program. **YES Passed 366-38**

> 277 6/17/05 H.R. 2745 An amendment directing the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations to oppose anti-Semitic statements and anti-Israel resolutions in the U.N. **YES Passed 405-2**

> 278 6/17/05 H.R. 2745 An amendment directing the U.S. permanent representative to the United Nations to ensure that the differences in the scale of U.N. dues among permanent members of the U.N. Security Council

be no more than five times what another permanent member is assessed. If the Secretary of State cannot certify that the requirement is met, the U.S. ambassador is directed to try to deny the permanent member the use of their veto in the Security Council. **YES Passed 281-126**

> 279 6/17/05 H.R. 2745 An amendment prohibiting U.S. assistance to a country that opposed the U.S. position in the United Nations on more than 50 percent of U.N. votes. **YES Failed 108-297**

> 280 6/17/05 H.R. 2745 An amendment increasing the amount of regular U.S. dues withheld under the bill to 75 percent from 50 percent. **NO Failed 100-306**

> 281 6/17/05 H.R. 2745 An amendment authorizing the Secretary of State to withhold up to 50 percent of U.N. dues unless the Secretary of State certifies by October 1, 2007, the organization has complied with 32 of 39 changes in its operations. It would have authorized the Secretary of State to withhold up to 50 percent of U.S. dues to the U.N. if member states do not make substantial progress in changing certain programs from the "assessed" to the "voluntary" budget. **NO Failed 190-216**

> 282 6/17/05 H.R. 2745 Withholding up to 50 percent of U.S. dues to the United Nations unless the Secretary of State certifies by October 1, 2007, the organization has complied with 32 of 39 changes in its operations, such as more rigorous budget control, the creation of a U.N. independent oversight board and detailed financial disclosure for top U.N. officials. Overall U.S. contributions are capped at 22 percent of the regular (non-peacekeeping) U.N. budget. The Secretary of State is permitted some discretion in certifying compliance with most of the specified goals, with the exception of 14 conditions, including those requiring the United Nations to establish a new independent oversight and ethics office, prohibiting countries that violate human rights from serving on the U.N. Human Rights Commission and the establishment of a U.N. chief operating officer. **YES Passed 221-184**

> 283 6/20/05 H.R. 2863 An amendment expressing the sense of Congress that coercive and abusive religious proselytizing at the Air Force Academy is inconsistent with the academy and would have required the Air Force secretary to develop and submit a report to Congress on a plan to ensure the academy remains free of religious intimidation and inappropriate proselytizing. **NO Failed 198-210**

> 284 6/20/05 H.R. 2863 An amendment prohibiting any funds in the bill from being used for activities in Uzbekistan. **NO Failed 84-329**

> 285 6/20/05 H.R. 2863 An amendment prohibiting the administration from initiating military operations against Syria, Iran, North Korea or other potential rogue nations without authorization from Congress. **NO Failed 136-280**

> 286 6/20/05 H.R. 2863 An amendment prohibiting any funds in the bill from being used to carry out certain sections of the 1988 Small Business Competitiveness Demonstration Program Act that relate to procurement policies for small businesses. **NO Failed 180-235**

> 287 6/20/05 H.R. 2863 Appropriating \$408.9 billion, including \$45.3 billion for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. The total includes \$116.1 billion for operations and maintenance, \$76.8 billion for procurement and \$71.7 billion for research and development. It also provides \$7.6 billion for ballistic missile defense and \$84.1 billion for military personnel, including a 3 percent pay raise for military personnel. As amended, it also requires the Air Force Secretary to issue a report on maintaining religious freedom and tolerance at the Air Force Academy. **YES Passed 398-19**

> 290 6/21/05 H.R. 2475 Authorizing classified amounts in FY2006 for U.S. intelligence activities and agencies including the CIA, the National Security Agency, the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency and the Defense Intelligence Agency. It maintains current powers in overseeing personnel transfers between the Pentagon and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. **YES Passed 409-16**

> 291 6/21/05 H.J. Res. 52 Extending for one year import restrictions on products from Myanmar, formerly known as Burma, until the President certifies that the Myanmar government has made significant progress toward practicing democracy and ending human rights violations. **YES Passed\* 423-2**

> 292 6/21/05 H. Con. Res. 160 Recognizing the historical significance and supporting the celebration of June 19, 1865, as "Juneteenth," and urging the president to issue a proclamation calling on the public to observe the day. **YES Passed\* 425-0**

> 293 6/22/05 H.J. Res. 10 A substitute amendment granting Congress the power to prohibit the physical desecration of the U.S. flag but only if that is consistent  
Votes Continued, Page 8



Left to right in the photo above: Matthew Harber, Goodman, Air Force Academy; Paulina Tuell, Springfield, Air Force Academy; Sarah Gregis, Bolivar, Air Force Academy; Congressional District Director Sharon Nahon; Meredith Leake, Springfield, Air Force Academy; Andrea May, Marionville, Air Force Academy; Price Harris, Springfield, West Point; Samuel Holbrook; Springfield, Air Force Academy; Nathan McCartney, Nixa, Air Force Academy

## 8 Southwest Missouri Students Begin Classes at Service Academies

One of the largest classes of Southwest Missouri students began classes this past summer at the nation's service academies. Eight students were accepted — one at the Military Academy at West Point and seven men and women began their higher education at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado. "Seven at one school in one year may be a record," Blunt said. "It shows that the quality of our students in Southwest Missouri is quality much sought after by the schools that shape our military leaders of the next generation."

More than twenty Southwest Missouri students are currently studying at the service academies where they will earn degrees and become officers. Congressman Blunt, the father of a Naval Academy graduate who went on to become Missouri's current governor, said, "These eager new academy students are full of hope and excitement facing the challenges ahead of them. Being in the Armed Forces brings a unique set of concerns for students and their families. These students renew my faith in the future of our military." Blunt is urging families to start building relationships and establishing networks with other academy families in the area to best approach the lifestyle that goes with attending a military academy.

## Blunt Appoints Former State Rep Jerry Bough to Missouri Congressional Awards Council

Former educator and state legislator Jerry Bough of Christian County will represent the Seventh District on the Missouri Congressional Awards Council. Bough will encourage young people to participate in the Congressional Awards program. He will also seek to enlist adults to act as mentors and counselors.

Established in 1979 by Congress, the Congressional Award recognizes young Americans between the ages of 14 and 24 who donate their time to achieve a set of personal goals in four areas—voluntary public service, personal development, physical fitness and expedition/exploration. The Congressional Award is the highest honor Congress can bestow on a young person. The Missouri Congressional Awards Council has representatives from the state's 9 congressional districts. The council tracks the progress of participants and awards bronze, silver and gold medals and certificates in recognition of completing an individual's goals.

"The young people who participate in the Congressional Awards program make a commitment to bettering themselves and giving back to the community where they live," Congressman Blunt said. Blunt praised the volunteers who give their time and leadership skills to help students in the program grow toward adulthood mentally, spiritually and physically.

Students or parents interested in the Congressional Awards program can contact Bough at 417-581-2413.



Jerry Bough (left) with Congressional Award winner Logan Skelley from Joplin High School and his mother, Billie.



The final contract to four-lane Highway 71 to the Arkansas line in McDonald County was awarded in late summer. Motorists could be on a dual-lane, divided highway in 2007.

## New Highway Bill Promises Jobs & Safer Roads

The Conference Report on H.R. 3 - Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users, containing ten Southwest Missouri highway projects sponsored by Seventh District Congressman Roy Blunt, was signed into law August of 2005. "The goal of this legislation is to modernize some of Southwest Missouri's busiest highways and most dangerous intersections to make the traveling public safer and our transportation system more efficient," Blunt, the House Majority Whip, said.

Blunt added, "Due to our combined work with Senator Bond and Senator Talent, the new transportation bill means Missouri will have our fair share of highway funds to undertake crucial highway improvements. It also means more of the money Missouri taxpayers send to Washington will come back to be used on our highway priorities."

Additionally, Blunt praised Senator Bond's work to secure \$25 million for improvements to Highway 13 between Springfield and Bolivar. He also placed significant increases in projects to improve the 65 and 60 Intersection in south Springfield and the Bypass project in Joplin. Bond, who is chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure subcommittee on the Senate's Environment & Public Works Committee included language in the bill that will eventually turn Missouri taxpayers into recipients of nearly every penny of gas taxes they put into the Federal Highway Trust Fund. Those funds will be put into modernizing our highways and keeping up with the demands of growth in the Ozarks.

### Blunt's Missouri Highway Project List in the new Transportation Bill

Construction and replacement of Interstate 44 & US 65 interchange in Northeast Springfield.....	\$13,040,000
Construction of US 71 to expressway status in McDonald County.....	\$12,000,000
Construction of Highway 249 (Range Line By-pass) in Joplin.....	\$8,000,000
Design, right-of-way and construction of Highway 465, from Highway 76 to Highway 376 in Taney County.....	\$4,800,000
Design, right-of-way and construction of Highway 13-Branson West By-pass in Stone County.....	\$4,160,000
Design, right-of-way and construction of Interstate 44 & Highway 39 Interchange at Mt. Vernon.....	\$4,000,000
Study Needs and Design of Highway 37 & 60 Corridor from Republic Missouri to Monett to the Arkansas state line.....	\$2,000,000
Study Needs and Design of Highway 160 & Kansas Expressway in Greene County.....	\$1,600,000
Study Burlington Northern-Sante Fe Railroad Reconfiguration Needs In Springfield.....	\$800,000

## Blunt's Ag Tour Catalyst for Taiwan Agriculture Trip for Six Ozarks FFA Students

A trio of Southwest Missouri FFA students spent the week before Christmas in Taiwan on a trip prompted by the suggestion of then-Director General Jo-chin Wang of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Kansas City. During Blunt's Ag Tour, Wang raised the idea of sending a small group of Southwest Missouri students to Taipei to tour agriculture facilities in her country. Congressman Blunt was quick to accept Wang's offer and began searching for students



who could participate.

"It was a chance for them to experience another culture, share experiences with Taipei students, review Taipei's marketing of specialty crops, and meet with a farmers' association," Congressman Blunt said.



Upper Photo FFA members, Erica Dean, Ash Grove (right), James Kaiser, Purdy (center) & Joanna Bellis, Mt. Vernon (left) spent a week in Taiwan in December 2004.

Lower photo Joey Stokes, Pleasant Hope (right), Jordan Haymes, Mt. Vernon (center) & Stephanie Mathews, Carthage (left) will visit Taiwan in November 2005.

"The students were able to ask how they address the challenges of increasing yields, protecting the environment and managing water resources," Director-General Wang said. She has been on two of Blunt's Ag Tours.

"I extend my thanks to the annual Southwest Missouri Agriculture Tour hosted by Congressman Roy Blunt, which has educated me on Missouri's agriculture development," former Director-General Jo-chin Wang said. "When the national Taichung Agriculture Vocational High School asked me to assist in inviting American students to Taiwan, I immediately thought of Missouri."

## Blunt Delivers Grant to Missouri Southern State University for Dental Hygiene, Environmental Health Programs

Springfield's Jordan Valley Dental Clinic Expands Staff and Facilities to Reduce Backlog of Children's Cases

Missouri Southern State University's Schools of Arts and Sciences and Technology is using an appropriation of nearly \$1.3 million secured by Southwest Missouri Congressman Roy Blunt. "We are thrilled," Dean Tia Strait of the School of Technology said. "The expansion of these programs will benefit the entire state of Missouri."

Two-thirds of the one-year, \$1,290,592 grant will be used to establish a distance-learning program to train dental hygienists in two areas of Missouri that are experiencing a severe shortage. Dr. Strait said, "We'll establish a dental clinic at the Rolla Technical Center and another in northwest Missouri at a site to be

determined at an educational center. Missouri Southern will offer distance-learning classes with interactive television classrooms in dental hygiene. MSSU will set up fully equipped clinics at the two sites to give new students hands-on-learning opportunities and offer oral health care services to low-income persons, children and seniors on fixed-incomes at nominal costs."

"There is a crisis in Missouri of a shortage of dental hygienists in rural areas," Dr. Strait said. "Central and Northwest Missouri are the two areas most in need of trained oral hygienists. One goal of the grant is to address that shortage."

Another part of the grant secured by Congressman Blunt during the 2005 appropriations process will be used to upgrade the computer forensics courses at MSSU. Funds will be used to upgrade computer lab equipment to teach how to safeguard computers and software and to retrieve and recreate lost, damaged or destroyed data.

The remaining money will be used to upgrade equipment in MSSU's growing field of environmental health and bioinformatics. Missouri Southern State University has one of only 25 accredited environmental health programs in the nation.



A dentist at the Jordan Valley Dental Center works on a four-year-old patient in one of the new treatment rooms for which Congressman Blunt and Senator Bond secured federal funding.



The collection of Karen and Dr. Tom Sweeney (above) is regarded as the finest collection of Civil War artifacts in the trans-Mississippi area. The collection was transferred to the National Parks Service in August.

## Blunt Delivers \$175,000 for Integrating Sweeney Museum Into Wilson's Creek Battlefield

Southwest Missouri Congressman Roy Blunt secured \$175,000 for Wilson's Creek National Battlefield in the 2006 Interior Appropriations Bill. The funds will be used for planning and integrating the neighboring Sweeney Museum facilities into the neighboring park.

Last fall, Blunt, working with Senators Talent and Bond, secured \$4.5 million to acquire the privately owned Sweeney Museum on the northern boundary of the battlefield. It was part of a 615-acre expansion

of the battlefield sponsored by Blunt and Talent that was signed into law in late 2004.

The additional lands were part of the 1861 battle but not included in the 1,750-acre park when it was created in 1960. Senator Talent's efforts secured \$1.2 million to purchase land from willing sellers to protect the lands from developments.

The 4,500 pieces of the Sweeney Museum collection, considered one of the finest private

holdings of Civil War artifacts, memorabilia and weaponry in the country, is now on park property. Work is also moving forward to acquire the other five parcels of land identified as critical for preservation from nearby urban development.

Blunt said, "These new funds will allow the National Park Service to develop a plan to bring all the pieces together and help them use the park's resources and facilities in the best way."

## Superintendents Seeing Sweeping Changes to IDEA

Last year, Congress approved legislation to reauthorize the Individuals with Disability Education Act (IDEA).

The bill approved in November puts the federal government on a six-year path to fully fund the federal share of the programs. Over the last decade, Congress has increased funding for special education grants to states by more than threefold. The \$11.1 billion appropriated for fiscal year 2005 is IDEA's highest level of funding in history.

"I firmly believe that the reforms in this act will help every student with disabilities to receive a quality education."

Congressman Blunt said, "From now on, parents and schools will be allowed to change a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) without holding a formal IEP meeting, making it easier to make changes without contending with unnecessary bureaucratic requirements."

The act shifts the emphasis from compliance with burdensome and bureaucratic red tape to educational results for students. The act also includes strong steps to reduce unnecessary and costly litigation. The legislation seeks to restore trust between parents and schools by creating opportunities for early resolution of problems before they escalate and holding

attorneys liable for frivolous lawsuits.

Blunt added, "The act also gives teachers and schools more freedom to exercise reasonable discipline. The bill will hopefully restore common sense to school discipline. IDEA students will have the same punishment for the same infraction, unless the discipline problem is the direct result of a child's disability."



## Legislative Forum

### Blunt Critical of Supreme Court Decision On Use of Eminent Domain

Southwest Missouri Congressman Roy Blunt believes the U.S. Supreme Court has undermined the "Takings Clause" in the Bill of Rights by giving government total control over the taking of private property through the use of eminent domain. The Court's 5-4 decision this summer strikes at more than two centuries of American private property jurisprudence, a right explicitly guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution.

On October 26, Blunt voted in favor of legislation that cuts off federal funding of private property seizures by state or local governments when the effect is merely to transfer property from one private entity to another. The bill also clarifies that the federal government cannot use economic development as a reason for exercising its power of eminent domain.

Blunt also cosponsored HR 340, which

passed the House on June 29 and expressed "the grave disapproval of the House of Representatives regarding the majority opinion of the Supreme Court in the Case of Kelo et al. v. City of New London." The resolution agreed with the dissenting members of the Court. The Court's decision allowed a city to condemn a neighborhood in order for private developers to build condominiums, hotels and offices.

Blunt condemned the decision, calling it an "unfair ruling that penalizes Americans who have worked hard to own private property. The ruling violates the Fifth Amendment, which states that 'private property cannot be taken for public use without just compensation'."

Historically, that has meant taking private land for public facilities like government buildings, roads, and dams. Eminent domain should never be used to the advantage of one private party over another."

### Blunt Amendment To Prevent International Taxes Passes

An amendment sponsored by House Majority Whip Roy Blunt (Mo.) to the Foreign Relations Authorization Act for fiscal years 2006 and 2007 would prevent the taxation of American citizens or businesses by international entities.

"The United States already pays nearly 25 percent of the United Nations' \$2 billion annual budget," Blunt said. "This payment, of course, comes out of the pockets of the American people."

"Congress sent the message that we would oppose any attempts to levy even more backdoor taxes on the American people," Blunt continued. "International taxation is out of step with our nation's formative opposition to 'taxation without representation'."

"The specter of international taxation is not as remote or outlandish as it may seem," Blunt said, noting a senior U.N. staffer to Kofi Annan recently suggested the most effective way to close the \$65 billion gap in the U.N. anti-poverty budget was a global tax.

### Mandatory vs. Voluntary

#### Blunt Votes for Two-Year Delay of Mandatory Country of Origin Labeling

Southwest Missouri Congressman Roy Blunt successfully implemented a two-year delay of the mandatory Country of Origin Label law that would have subjected America's meat producers and processors to a new set of harmful and costly federal mandates. "I favor a voluntary approach," said Blunt. "I, and most of the cattle producers I have talked to in Southwest Missouri, favor a voluntary program to market their products as 'American Made.'" Blunt's work has led to implementation of a two-year delay of mandatory country of origin labeling (COOL) in the Agriculture Appropriations bill, which was signed into law by President Bush.

"Mandatory country of origin labeling is a marketing issue, not a food safety issue, and it puts an unnecessary cost and regulatory burden on producers, processors and consumers," said Congressman Blunt.

with the First Amendment of the Constitution. **NO Failed 129-279**

> **296 6/22/05 H.J. Res. 10** Proposing a constitutional amendment to state that Congress shall have the power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States. **YES Passed 286-130**

> **299 6/22/05 H.R. 2985** An amendment striking the section of the bill regarding reconstituting the House of Representatives requiring states to hold special elections within 49 days to fill open House seats if more than 100 vacancies occur due to a terrorist attack or other catastrophe. **NO Failed 143-268**

> **300 6/22/05 H.R. 2985** An amendment striking provisions in the bill prohibiting the Capitol Police from operating a mounted horse unit and requiring the transfer of the horses and equipment to the U.S. Park Police. **NO Failed 185-226**

> **301 6/22/05 H.R. 2985** An amendment reducing all discretionary spending in the bill by 1 percent. **NO Failed 114-294**

> **303 6/22/05 H.R. 2985** Appropriating \$2.9 billion in FY2006 for legislative branch operations, excluding funds for Senate operations. It provides \$1.1 billion for operations of the House of Representatives, \$543 million for the Library of Congress, \$482 million for the Government Accountability Office, \$317 million for the Architect of the Capitol and \$123 million for the Government Printing Office. It also requires states to hold special elections within 49 days in the event that more than 100 lawmakers are killed or incapacitated as determined by the Speaker and requires state parties to nominate candidates for the vacancies within 10 days of the Speaker's announcement. **YES Passed 330-82**

> **305 6/23/05 H.R. 3010** An amendment adding \$100 million for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, offset with cuts to the Department of Labor departmental management and pilot programs, Health Resources and Services Administration program management and Department of Education departmental management and demonstration projects. **NO Passed 284-140**

> **306 6/23/05 H.R. 3010** An amendment striking a provision in the bill which bars funds from being used to enforce an Occupational Health and Safety Administration requirement that hospitals conduct annual testing of respirators for tuberculosis exposure. **NO Failed 206-216**

> **307 6/23/05 H.R. 3010** An amendment increasing funds for special education by \$50 million, offset with reductions to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration salaries and expenses and Education Department program administration accounts. **NO Failed 161-262**

> **308 6/24/05 H.R. 3010** An amendment adding \$70 million to the Teacher Incentive Fund, offset by a cut in operations funding for AmeriCorps grants. **NO Failed 102-298**

> **309 6/24/05 H.R. 3010** An amendment prohibiting funds appropriated by the Act from being used by the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation to enforce or implement a "Settlement Agreement By and Among UAL Corporation and all Direct and Indirect Subsidiaries and Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation" **NO Passed 219-185**

> **310 6/24/05 H.R. 3010** An amendment prohibiting the use of funds for the operations of the Medicaid Commission. **NO Failed 170-237**

> **311 6/24/05 H.R. 3010** An amendment prohibiting the use of funds to place Social Security account numbers on identification cards issued to beneficiaries under the Medicare program under Title XVIII of the Social Security Act. **YES Passed 314-94**

> **312 6/24/05 H.R. 3010** An amendment prohibiting the use of funds in the bill to pay for drugs prescribed for the treatment of impotence. **YES Passed 285-121**

> **313 6/24/05 H.R. 3010** An amendment reducing discretionary spending in the bill by 1 percent. **NO Failed 84-323**

> **314 6/24/05 H.R. 3010** An amendment prohibiting the use of funds by any department, agency, officer or employee of the U.S. government to exercise any direction, supervision, or control over the content or distribution of public telecommunications programs and services. **NO Failed 187-218**

> **316 6/24/05 H.R. 3010** An amendment prohibiting the use of funds in the bill to pay certain lenders a rate of return on student loans that is 6 percent higher than the return lenders receive on regular student loans. **NO Passed 224-178**

> **317 6/24/05 H.R. 3010** An amendment prohibiting the use of funds in the bill to create or implement any universal mental-health screening

program. **NO Failed 97-304**

> **319 6/24/05 H.R. 3010** An amendment prohibiting funds in the bill from being used to market the availability of Medicare prescription drug plans. **NO Failed 192-210**

> **321 6/24/05 H.R. 3010** Appropriating \$602 billion, including \$142.5 billion in discretionary spending, for the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education departments and related agencies in FY2006. It provides \$63.7 billion for the Education Department, including \$13.4 billion for Pell Grants; \$14.8 billion for the Labor Department, including \$5.1 billion for training and employment services; and \$473.8 billion for Health and Human Services, including \$28.5 billion for the National Institutes of Health. As amended, the bill provides \$400 million for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. **YES Passed 250-151**

> **322 6/27/05 H. Res. 199** Expressing the sense of the House that the victims of the massacre at Srebrenica should be honored and remembered and that the actions of the Serbian forces in Bosnia between 1992 and 1995 meet the criteria of genocide. **YES Passed\* 370-1**

> **323 6/27/05 H. Con.Res. 155** Urging the government of Albania to conduct fair elections in which observers are given unobstructed access to all aspects of the election process. **YES Passed\* 369-1**

> **324 6/28/05 H.R. 458** Banning all future sales of contractual plan mutual funds, requiring greater regulation of insurance sales on military bases and establishing requirements for certain loans to service members. **YES Passed\* 405-2**

> **326 6/28/05 H.R. 3057** An amendment transferring \$750 million of military aid for Egypt to programs for malaria in Africa. **NO Failed 87-326**

> **329 6/28/05 H.R. 3057** An amendment reducing by \$100 million funds for the Andean Counterdrug Initiative. **NO Failed 189-234**

> **330 6/28/05 H.R. 3057** An amendment limiting assistance to foreign countries that refuse to extradite to the United States any individual accused of killing a law enforcement officer in the U.S. **YES Passed 327-98**

> **331 6/28/05 H.R. 3057** An amendment prohibiting any funds in the bill from being used for assistance to Saudi Arabia. **NO Passed 293-132**

> **332 6/28/05 H.R. 3057** An amendment prohibiting the Export-Import Bank from approving federal loans or loan guarantees for the construction of nuclear power plants in China. **YES Passed 313-114**

> **333 6/28/05 H.R. 3057** An amendment prohibiting funds made available for the State Department from being used to provide assistance to any country the United States has an extradition treaty with that refuses to extradite individuals accused of a crime. The amendment does not apply to international narcotics control and law enforcement activities. **NO Passed 294-132**

> **334 6/28/05 H.R. 3057** An amendment reducing discretionary spending in the bill by 1 percent. **NO Failed 117-309**

> **335 6/28/05 H.R. 3057** Appropriating \$20.3 billion in FY2006 for foreign operations and economic assistance. It provides \$2.5 billion in military assistance for Israel and \$1.8 billion for Egypt. It also appropriates \$2.7 billion for programs to combat HIV/AIDS and related diseases as well as \$1.75 billion for the Millennium Challenge Corporation. The bill also forbids foreign organizations that receive U.S. aid from providing abortions or abortion counseling. **YES Passed 392-32**

> **336 6/29/05 H.R. 3058** An amendment eliminating language prohibiting the use of federal funds for 18 specified Amtrak routes, all of which require federal subsidies of more than \$30 per passenger. **NO Passed 269-152**

> **337 6/29/05 H.R. 3058** An amendment increasing homeless assistance grants by \$100 million, offset with a reduction to Amtrak. **NO Failed 59-362**

> **338 6/29/05 H.R. 3058** An amendment increasing funding for Housing and Urban Development Fair Housing programs by \$7.7 million, offset by a cut to the IRS information systems account. **NO Passed 231-191**

> **339 6/29/05 H.R. 3058** An amendment providing an additional \$100 million for Section 8 housing vouchers, offset with a decrease to the working capital fund from the Housing and Urban Development management and administration account and from other administrative expenses. **NO Passed 225-194**

> **340 6/29/05 H.R. 3058** An amendment increasing HOPE VI housing grants by \$60 million, offset by a decrease in the General Services Administration Federal Buildings Fund. **NO Passed 248-173**

> **341 6/29/05 H.R. 3058** An amendment reducing by \$1.5 million salaries and expenses for the United States

Supreme Court. **NO Failed 42-374**

> **342 6/29/05 H.R. 3058** An amendment to increase funding for the salaries and expenses of the Courts of Appeals, district courts, and other judicial services by \$6.9 million, offset by a reduction in the General Services Administration Federal Buildings Fund. **NO Failed 188-232**

> **343 6/29/05 H.R. 3058** An amendment adding \$9 million to the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Program, offset by a cut in the Office of Management and Budget salaries and expenses account. **NO Passed 315-103**

> **344 6/29/05 H.R. 3058** An amendment increasing by \$25 million funding for the National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign, offset by a decrease in the General Services Administration Federal Buildings Fund. **NO Passed 268-151**

> **345 6/30/05 H.R. 3058** An amendment prohibiting the use of funds in the bill to implement, administer or enforce administration restrictions on travel to Cuba that allow individuals to visit immediate relatives there once every three years for a maximum of two consecutive weeks. **NO Failed 208-211**

> **346 6/30/05 H.R. 3058** An amendment prohibiting the use of funds in the bill to enforce regulations preventing travel to Cuba by academic institutions. **NO Failed 187-233**

> **347 6/30/05 H.R. 3058** An amendment prohibiting the use of funds in the bill for the competitive sourcing of flight service stations. The amendment nullifies a \$1.9 billion contract awarded to Lockheed Martin Corp. in February. **NO Passed 238-177**

> **348 6/30/05 H.R. 3058** An amendment prohibiting the use of funds to implement, administer or enforce the economic embargo on Cuba. **NO Failed 169-250**

> **349 6/30/05 H.R. 3058** An amendment preventing the use of funds in the bill to enforce the District of Columbia's laws that require registered firearms to be kept unloaded and disassembled or with the trigger locked, unless it is kept at a place of business or used for lawful recreation. **YES Passed 259-161**

> **350 6/30/05 H.R. 3058** An amendment prohibiting the use of funds to improve or construct infrastructure support on private property obtained through the power of eminent domain for private development. **YES Passed 231-189**

> **351 6/30/05 H.R. 3058** An amendment preventing the use of funds to carry out contracts with a U.S. company that is incorporated or chartered in Bermuda, Barbados, the Cayman Islands, Antigua or Panama to avoid U.S. taxes. **NO Failed 190-231**

> **352 6/30/05 H.R. 3058** An amendment reducing discretionary spending in the bill by 1 percent. **NO Failed 88-338**

> **353 6/30/05 H.R. 3058** An amendment prohibiting the use of funds by the Treasury Department allowing the department to make a favorable recommendation of the sale of Unocal Corporation to CNOOC Ltd. **NO Passed 333-92**

> **354 6/30/05 H.R. 3058** An amendment prohibiting the use of funds to contravene an Office of Management and Budget regulation that requires administration officials to give frank and complete answers to all questions when testifying before congressional committees or communicating with members of Congress. **NO Failed 208-215**

> **355 6/30/05 H.R. 3058** An amendment prohibiting the use of funds by the Council of Economic Advisers to produce an Economic Report of the President estimating that the average cost of developing and introducing a new prescription drug to the market would be \$800 million or more. **NO Failed 141-284**

> **356 6/30/05 H.R. 3058** An amendment prohibiting funds in the bill from being used by the General Services Administration to carry out the eTravel Service program. **NO Passed 233-192**

> **357 6/30/05 H.R. 3058** An amendment prohibiting any funds in the bill from being used to implement a May 29, 2003, Office of Management and Budget rule streamlining the outsourcing of work by federal agencies. **NO Passed 222-203**

> **358 6/30/05 H.R. 3058** Appropriating \$139.1 billion in FY2006 spending, including \$66.9 billion in discretionary spending, for the Departments of Housing and Urban Development, Treasury and Transportation, and related agencies. It provides \$14.4 billion for the Federal Aviation Administration, \$11.6 billion for the Treasury Department and \$5.8 billion for the judiciary. It also provides \$18.7 billion for the Office of Personnel Management and \$603 million for the District of Columbia. The bill, as amended, funds grants to Amtrak at \$1.2 billion. **YES Passed 405-18**

> **360 6/30/05 H. Res. 344** Urging the president to begin a thorough review, if the Unocal Corporation enters into an agreement of acquisition, merger, or takeover by the China National Offshore Oil Corporation. **YES Passed\* 398-15**

> **361 6/30/05 H. Res. 340** Expressing the sense of House disagreeing with the majority opinion in *Kelo v. City of New London* and its holdings, and agreeing with the dissenting opinion in its upholding of the historical interpretation of the takings clause and its deference to the rights of individuals and their property. **YES Passed\* 365-33**

> **362 6/30/05 H.R. 3130** Appropriating \$975 million in supplemental FY2005 funding for veterans' medical care, including \$273 million for veterans of the Iraq war, \$226 million for long-term nursing care and \$200 million for high-priority veterans. **YES Passed\* 419-0**

> **363 7/11/05 H. Con.Res. 168** Condemning the North Korean government for the abduction and continued captivity of citizens of South Korea and Japan as acts of terrorism and gross violations of human rights. The resolution calls on the North Korean government to immediately cease and desist from carrying out abductions. **YES Passed\* 362-1**

> **364 7/11/05 H. Res. 333** Supporting a National Weekend of Prayer and Reflection for Darfur, Sudan. The resolution urges U.S. citizens and religious institutions to observe the weekend with appropriate activities and services. **YES Passed\* 364-2**

> **367 7/12/05 H. Res. 352** Recognizing that in order to improve U.S. competitiveness, Congressional action is needed to remove barriers - ranging from tax law and trade restrictions to health care security - to keeping and creating jobs. **YES Failed\* 242-177**

> **368 7/12/05 H. Res. 343** Commending the government of Kuwait for providing female citizens of that country the right to vote and hold public office. The resolution urges the full participation of Kuwaiti women in the political life of their country. **YES Passed\* 420-0**

> **369 7/12/05 H.R. 739** Allowing the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission to make exceptions to the 15-day deadline by which employers must respond to a citation from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. **YES Passed 256-164**

> **370 7/12/05 H.R. 740** Expanding the membership of the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission from three to five members. **YES Passed 234-185**

> **371 7/12/05 H.R. 741** 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 226-197**

> **372 7/12/05 H.R. 742** 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 235-187**

> **374 7/14/05 H.R. 3100** Requiring the President to report to Congress 180 days after the bill's enactment, and yearly thereafter, identifying European or other entities that have exported any arms or dual-use technology to China for military use since Jan. 1, 2005. **YES Failed\* 215-203**

> **375 7/14/05 H. Res. 356** Condemning the London terrorist attacks on July 7, 2005 and expressing condolences to the families and friends of those killed in the attacks and sympathies to those injured. **YES Passed\* 416-0**

> **376 7/14/05 H.R. 2864** An amendment permitting ports to impose container or tonnage fees on imports. Any collected fees could be used only for infrastructure or security that is related to the port that levies the fee. **NO Failed III-310**

> **377 7/14/05 H.R. 2864** An amendment allowing the Army Corps of Engineers to proceed with new locks and dams authorized in the bill on the Mississippi and Illinois rivers only if an average of 35 million tons of commodities are processed between 2007 and 2009. It would have required the Corps to develop an appointment system to schedule and prioritize barge traffic and prepare a report to re-evaluate any project that goes forward. **NO Failed 105-315**

> **378 7/14/05 H.R. 2864** Authorizing \$11.6 billion for more than 700 water resource development projects and studies by the Army Corps of Engineers for flood control, navigation, beach erosion control and environmental restoration. Certain water development



projects that exceed \$50 million receive an independent review. The bill authorizes \$3.4 billion for a system of new locks and dams and environmental restoration for the Upper Mississippi River and Illinois water system. **YES Passed 406-14**

> **379 7/14/05 H. Con. Res. 191** Honoring all veterans of World War II on the 60th anniversary of the war's end and calling upon the public to commemorate Sept. 2, 2005 as a day of remembrance and appreciation. **YES Passed\* 399-0**

> **380 7/18/05 H. Res. 328** Recognizing the 25th anniversary of the strikes that led to the formation of Poland's Solidarity trade union and the fall of Communism in that nation. **YES Passed\* 385-0**

> **381 7/18/05 H. Con. Res. 175** Recognizing the injustices suffered by African descendants of the transatlantic slave trade in Latin America and the Caribbean and recommending that the United States and the international community work to improve the situation of such individuals. **YES Passed\* 382-6**

> **382 7/18/05 H. Res. 364** Commending the continuing improvement of relations between the United States and India. **YES Passed\* 388-0**

> **385 7/19/05 H.R. 2601** Withholding up to 50 percent of U.S. dues to the United Nations unless the secretary of State certifies by October 1, 2007, that the organization has complied with 32 of 39 changes in its operations. These changes include more rigorous budget control, the creation of a U.N. independent oversight board and detailed financial disclosure for top U.N. officials. **YES Passed 226-195**

> **386 7/19/05 H.R. 2601** Requiring the State Department to annually certify that the five biggest exporters and importers of certain methamphetamine precursors are fully cooperating with U.S. law enforcement to prevent diversion of these chemicals for illicit purposes. Countries that are not certified will be subject to foreign aid eligibility provisions under current law. **YES Passed 423-2**

> **387 7/19/05 H.R. 2601** Directing the Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) to make a priority of stemming the influx of methamphetamine from Mexico into the U.S. It directs the INL to improve border security and coordinate with Mexican law enforcement as well as the Mexican government. **YES Passed 424-1**

> **388 7/19/05 H.R. 2601** Requiring a State Department report on pending U.S. extradition requests for Afghans who have committed violations of narcotics laws in the United States. **YES Passed 426-1**

> **389 7/19/05 H.R. 2601** An amendment increasing access to emergency obstetrical care for women suffering from obstetric fistula and increasing the FY2007 authorization for new treatment centers to \$7.5 million. It also expands prevention by providing access to family planning services and abstinence education and makes these prevention activities discretionary. **YES Passed 223-205**

> **390 7/20/05 H.R. 2601** An amendment condemning the attacks on U.S. citizens by Palestinian terrorists. It also encourages Palestinian leaders to work with Israel to end all terrorist acts on innocent individuals, regardless of citizenship. **YES Passed 423-0**

> **391 7/20/05 H.R. 2601** An amendment requiring the President to direct the U.S. representative to the United Nations to begin negotiations for an international treaty banning space-based weapons. **NO Failed 124-302**

> **392 7/20/05 H.R. 2601** An amendment requiring the State Department to develop a strategy to counter perceptions among foreign students that the United States is no longer a welcoming place and to annually consult non-governmental organizations, university officials and other interested parties on the development of the strategy. **YES Passed 373-56**

> **393 7/20/05 H.R. 2601** An amendment recognizing the efforts of the Great Lakes governors and Canadian premiers in developing a common standard for decisions related to water withdrawal from the Great Lakes and urged that the management authority remain with the governors and premiers that share stewardship over the lakes. **YES Failed 156-273**

> **394 7/20/05 H.R. 2601** An amendment requiring the U.S. to seek the extradition of former Liberian president Charles Taylor to the Special Court for Sierra Leone, where he will be tried for war crimes, crimes against humanity and other violations of international humanitarian law. **YES Passed 422-2**

> **395 7/20/05 H.R. 2601** An amendment stating that the U.S. should promote the emergence of a democratic Palestinian government that denounces and combats terrorism. It specifies that no more than 25 percent of the aid for the Palestinian Authority can be

obligated and expended during any calendar quarter. **YES Passed 330-100**

> **396 7/20/05 H.R. 2601** An amendment expressing the sense of Congress that the capture, detention and interrogation of alleged international terrorists is essential to the successful prosecution of the global war on terrorism and to U.S. defense. It notes that the detention and lawful, human interrogation of detainees at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, is essential to this effort. **YES Passed 304-124**

> **397 7/20/05 H.R. 2601** An amendment noting that it is U.S. policy to pursue a transfer of responsibility to Iraqi forces and not withdraw U.S. forces prematurely from Iraq. It requires a withdrawal when it is determined that U.S. national security and foreign policy goals relating to a free and stable Iraq have been or are about to be achieved. **YES Passed 291-137**

> **399 7/20/05 H.R. 2601** Authorizing \$10.8 billion in FY2006 and \$10 billion in FY2007 for the State Department, international broadcasting activities, international assistance programs and related agencies. The bill authorizes \$3.8 billion in FY2006 and \$3.9 billion in FY2007 for the State Department's operating budget. It authorizes \$690 million in FY2006 and \$710 million in FY2007 for worldwide embassy-security upgrades. The bill also authorizes \$2.6 billion over two years for assessed contributions to international organizations such as the United Nations, and \$661 million in FY2006 for international broadcasting activities. **YES Passed 351-78**

> **400 7/20/05 H. Res. 326** Calling for free and fair parliamentary elections in the Republic of Azerbaijan in November 2005 and urging the international community and domestic nongovernmental organizations to provide a sufficient number of election observers. **YES Passed 416-1**

> **403 7/21/05 H.R. 3199** An amendment requiring the FBI director to personally approve a request for library or bookstore records under the business records provision of the Patriot Act. **YES Passed 402-26**

> **404 7/21/05 H.R. 3199** An amendment requiring authorities to notify the issuing judge of a venue change of a surveillance facility or place within 15 days or at the earliest reasonable time as determined by the court. It also requires authorities to specify the total number of electronic surveillances that have been or are being carried out. **YES Passed 406-21**

> **405 7/21/05 H.R. 3199** An amendment authorizing up to 20 years in prison for individuals who commit terrorist or other violent attacks on land, water, or air against railroad and mass transportation systems. It also provides a minimum sentence of 30 years if the vehicle attacked is carrying spent nuclear fuel or high-level radioactive waste, and a mandatory life sentence, with the possibility of the death penalty, if the attack results in the death of a person. **YES Passed 362-66**

> **406 7/21/05 H.R. 3199** An amendment specifying that the recipient of a national security letter may consult with an attorney and challenge the letter in court. It authorizes a judge to set aside the letter if complying with the request would be "unreasonable or oppressive." It allows the letter recipient to challenge the non-disclosure requirements of the request in court. **YES Passed 394-32**

> **407 7/21/05 H.R. 3199** An amendment raising the threshold for authorities to seize assets of suspected terrorists. It allows assets to be seized only for those specifically accused of terrorist crimes. **YES Passed 418-7**

> **408 7/21/05 H.R. 3199** An amendment requiring the Administrative Office of the Courts to report annually to Congress on the number of search warrants granted and eliminating unduly delaying a trial as a reason for delaying notification of "sneak and peek" searches. **YES Passed 407-21**

> **409 7/21/05 H.R. 3199** An amendment requiring the Justice Department to report to Congress on the development and use of data-mining technology by federal departments and agencies. **NO Passed 261-165**

> **410 7/21/05 H.R. 3199** An amendment making it a crime to use a vessel to smuggle terrorists or dangerous substances, including nuclear material, into the United States. It imposes criminal penalties for providing false information to a federal law enforcement officer at a port or on a vessel and increases penalties for anyone who fraudulently gains access to a seaport. **YES Passed 381-45**

> **411 7/21/05 H.R. 3199** An amendment increasing criminal penalties for anyone convicted on charges of financing terrorists to \$50,000 in fines per transaction and 20 years in prison. It also adds terrorism-financing offenses to the list of crimes that constitute money-

laundering and permits authorities to seize the assets of anyone who has committed terrorist acts against foreign countries or international organizations. **YES Passed 387-38**

> **412 7/21/05 H.R. 3199** An amendment allowing for the seizure of assets in the enforcement of a civil judgment against an individual or entity who has engaged in planning or perpetrating an act of domestic or international terrorism. **NO Passed 223-192**

> **414 7/21/05 H.R. 3199** Making permanent 14 of the 16 provisions of the Patriot Act scheduled to expire at the end of this year and extending for 10 years the remaining two provisions -- access to business and other records and "roving" wiretaps. The bill permanently extends provisions that expand law enforcement's power to investigate suspected terrorists. As amended, the bill requires the Justice Department to report to Congress on the development and use of data-mining technology by federal departments and agencies. **YES Passed 257-171**

> **415 7/22/05 H.R. 3070** Creating a four-year pilot program for NASA to award grants to minority-serving institutions for the development of NASA research facilities and infrastructure. It would have authorized \$4 million per year for FY2006 through FY2009 for the pilot program and required each grant to have a matching amount provided from a non-federal source. **NO Failed 192-206**

> **416 7/22/05 H.R. 3070** Reauthorizing \$34.7 billion for NASA, including \$17 billion in FY2006 and \$17.7 billion in FY2007. It authorizes \$3.8 billion for exploration systems in FY2006 and \$4.5 billion in FY2007, as well as \$6.2 billion for space operations in FY2006 and \$5.8 billion in FY2007. It also directs the NASA administrator to manage the human space flight program with a goal of sending Americans to the moon by 2020. The bill aims to launch a crew exploration vehicle as close to 2010 as possible and to send astronaut crews to Mars and other destinations. It directs NASA to devise a plan to send a crew to repair the Hubble Telescope after completion of the currently planned space shuttle mission. **YES Passed 383-15**

> **417 7/25/05 H. J. Res. 59** Passage of the joint resolution expressing the sense of Congress that women suffragists should be revered and celebrated for working to ensure the right of women to vote in the United States. **YES Passed\* 378-0**

> **418 7/25/05 H. Con. Res. 181** Adoption of the concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Life Insurance Awareness Month and calling on the president to issue a proclamation urging various entities, including government and businesses, to observe the month with appropriate activities. **YES Passed\* 377-4**

> **419 7/25/05 H. Res. 376** Adoption of the resolution urging the Federal Trade Commission to launch an investigation of the "Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas" video game. The resolution imposes the strictest penalty if the game manufacturer is found guilty of fraud to secure a lesser content rating. **YES Passed\* 355-21**

> **420 7/26/05 H.R. 3200** Passage of the bill making permanent current laws that raise the maximum federally subsidized life insurance payout to \$400,000 for service members killed in the line of duty. It requires that a service member's family be notified if the individual turns down coverage or if the designated beneficiary is someone other than the spouse or child of the service member. **YES Passed\* 424-0**

> **421 7/26/05 H.R. 3283** Passage of the bill that would have established mechanisms to ensure that China abides by previous trade agreement commitments, including creating a system to monitor compliance with trade obligations on intellectual property rights, market access for U.S. goods, services and agriculture and the accounting of Chinese subsidies. It would have authorized an increase in funding for the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative and the International Trade Commission to improve the enforcement of existing trade agreements. **YES Failed\* 240-186**

> **423 7/26/05 H.R. 2977** Passage of the bill designating a post office in Brockway, MT, for Paul Kasten, a postal carrier serving eastern Montana postal routes for more than 50 years. **YES Passed\* 422-0**

> **424 7/26/05 H.R. 525** An amendment that would have required the Labor Department to establish a Small Employer Health Benefits Plan and make all employers with fewer than 100 employees during the previous calendar year eligible for coverage. Employers would have to offer coverage to all employees who have completed three months of service; those working fewer than 30 hours per week would be eligible for prorated coverage. The Labor Department would have to contract annually with state-licensed health insurers to offer health

insurance within a state and participating insurers would remain subject to the laws of the state in which they cover residents. **NO Failed 197-230**

> **426 7/26/05 H.R. 525** Passage of the bill 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. The bill requires all employers that participate in association health plans to be members or affiliated members of the sponsoring association. **YES Passed 263-165**

> **427 7/26/05 H.R. 2894** Passage of the bill designating a post office in Hodgenville, KY, for Abraham Lincoln, the 16th president who was born on February 12, 1809, in Hodgenville, KY, on the Sinking Spring Farm, now a national historic site. **YES Passed\* 421-0**

> **428 7/26/05 H.R. 22** An amendment that would have removed a provision in the bill requiring one position on the Postal Service's Board of Governors to be filled by an individual with the unanimous backing of labor unions. **YES Failed 82-345**

> **429 7/26/05 H.R. 22** An amendment that would have created pilot programs for up to 20 communities to determine the feasibility of alternative mail delivery services. Communities would have to submit applications to the Postal Service proposing alternative postal service providers, the impact on consumers, the services providers would supply and the duration of the program, which could be up to five years. **NO Failed 51-379**

> **430 7/26/05 H.R. 22** Passage of the bill overhauling the operations of the U.S. Postal Service. The bill establishes a Postal Regulatory Commission and makes changes to the system for regulating postal rates. It requires the Postal Regulatory System to develop separate rate regulation systems for market-dominant products and competitive products, including Express and Priority Mail, within two years of enactment. The bill also requires the Treasury Department to pay retirement costs related to military service and establish the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund. The Postal Service is required to calculate its unfunded liability for health benefits costs for current and future retirees. The Postal Service is also subject to competition laws, including fair trade and antitrust laws. **YES Passed 410-20**

> **431 7/26/05 H.R. 3339** Passage of the bill designating a post office in Buffalo, NY, for James T. Molloy, who was elected by the 94th Congress in 1974 to serve as Doorkeeper of the House, and unanimously re-elected for the position through the 103rd Congress. **YES Passed\* 423-0**

> **434 7/27/05 S. 544** Passage of the bill establishing a set of procedures for the voluntary and confidential reporting of medical errors to patient safety organizations, which would analyze the data and develop ways to improve patient safety and reduce medical errors. **YES Passed\* 428-3**

> **435 7/27/05 S. 45** Passage of the bill lifting the 30-patient limit on group practices for treating drug addicts with narcotic drugs in a maintenance or detoxification-treatment program. **YES Passed\* 429-0**

> **437 7/27/05 H.R. 3283** Passage of the bill establishing mechanisms to ensure that China abides by previous trade agreement commitments, including creating a system to monitor compliance with trade obligations on intellectual property rights, market access for U.S. goods, services and agriculture and the accounting of Chinese subsidies. It authorizes an increase in funding for the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative and the International Trade Commission to improve the enforcement of existing trade agreements. **YES Passed 255-168**

> **438 7/27/05 H. Res. 383** Adoption of the resolution acknowledging the commitment of the Bush administration to ensuring that the full rights of women are granted in the Iraqi constitution and strongly encouraging Iraq to adopt a constitution that grants women equal rights. **YES Passed\* 426-0**

> **439 7/27/05 H. Res. 384** Adoption of the resolution strongly condemning the terrorist attacks in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, and other terrorist attacks against Egypt and expressing condolences to the families and friends of those individuals killed in the attacks and sympathies to those injured. **YES Passed\* 428-0**

> **443 7/27/05 H.R. 3045** Passage of the bill implementing a free trade agreement between the United States and Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua and a separate pact with the Dominican Republic. It also eliminates customs duties on all originating goods traded among the participating nations within 10 days. **YES Passed 217-215**

> **445 7/28/05 H.R. 6** Adoption of the conference

report on the bill overhauling the nation's energy policy and providing for \$14.6 billion in energy-related tax incentives. It allows lawsuits involving the gasoline additive methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) to be moved to a federal district court and requires refiners to annually use 7.5 billion gallons of renewable fuels by 2012. The measure grants the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission jurisdiction over reliability standards for electricity transmission networks and extends daylight-savings time by one month. A new cabinet-level advisory committee is established to develop a national policy to address climate change. It allows the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to approve the construction, expansion or operation of any facility that imports or processes natural gas, including liquefied natural gas. **YES Passed 275-156**

> 449 7/28/05 H.R. 5 Passage of the bill 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 caps punitive damages at \$250,000 or double economic damages, whichever is greater. Punitive damages can only be awarded if economic damages were found. A court is required to find "substantial probability" that a plaintiff could be awarded punitive damages before a request for such an award can be filed. Punitive damages are barred against makers and distributors of medical products if those products were approved by the Food and Drug Administration. The bill does not pre-empt state damage caps but would impose federal caps on any states that do not have their own. The bill also limits attorneys' contingency fees to 40 percent of the first \$50,000 in damages; 33.33 percent of the next \$50,000; 25 percent of the next \$50,000; and 15 percent of any amount in excess of \$600,000. **YES Passed 230-194**

> 450 7/28/05 H.R. 2361 Adoption of the conference report on the bill appropriating \$26.2 billion in FY2006 for the Interior Department, the EPA and related agencies. It provides \$9.9 billion for the Interior Department, \$7.9 billion for the EPA, \$4.3 billion for the Forest Service, \$1.8 billion for the Bureau of Land Management and \$3.1 billion for the Indian Health Service. The National Endowment for the Arts receives \$126 million and the National Endowment for the Humanities is funded at \$143 million. The measure provides \$1.5 billion in emergency FY2005 funding for veterans' medical care. **YES Passed 410-10**

> 451 7/28/05 H.R. 2985 Adoption of the conference report on the bill appropriating \$3.8 billion in FY2006 for legislative branch operations. It provides \$1.1 billion for operations of the House of Representatives and \$786 million for Senate operations. The measure also appropriates \$561 million for the Library of Congress, \$482 million for the Government Accountability Office, \$428.5 million for the Architect of the Capitol and \$123 million for the Government Printing Office. It requires states to hold special elections within 49 days in the event that more than 100 Members of the House of Representatives are killed or incapacitated as determined by the Speaker and requires state parties to nominate candidates for the vacancies within 10 days of the Speaker's announcement. **YES Passed 305-122**

> 452 7/28/05 H. Con. Res. 225 Adoption of the concurrent resolution providing for an adjournment of the House until 2 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 6. The resolution also provides for an adjournment of the Senate until 12 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 6. **YES Passed 404-16**

> 453 7/29/05 H.R. 3 Adoption of the conference report on the bill authorizing \$286.5 billion for federal aid highway, mass transit, safety and research programs from FY2004 to FY2009. The measure includes \$45.3 billion for mass transit and \$14.8 billion for individual highway projects. It increases the rate of return to states on their Highway Trust Fund contributions to 92 percent by 2008. It permits states to charge tolls on high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes to vehicles that are otherwise ineligible and permits reduced tolls, including no toll at all, for certain low-emission and energy-efficient vehicles. The measure also reauthorizes highway and motor-carrier-safety programs under the National Highway and Traffic Safety Administration and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. Certain drivers, including operators of utility service vehicles, are exempted from 2003 regulations that increased the maximum driving time per shift and required additional time off between shifts. It requires the development of standards to reduce deaths and injuries associated with vehicle rollovers and side-impact crashes. It also designates the Transportation Department to conduct environmental impact reviews of transportation projects. **YES Passed 404-16**

> 454 9/6/05 H. Res. 360 Commemorating the 60th anniversary of Victory over Japan Day (V-J Day) and the end of World War II, while expressing appreciation for the

members of the armed services who served in the Pacific during the war. **YES Passed\* 394-0**

> 455 9/6/05 S. J. Res. 19 Calling on the president to issue a proclamation recognizing the 30th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act signing and reasserting U.S. commitment to its full implementation. **YES Passed\* 393-1**

> 456 9/7/05 H.R. 3650 Allowing circuit courts, district courts, and bankruptcy courts to hold special sessions outside their normal geographic region if no area within their jurisdiction is reasonably available because of emergency conditions. **YES Passed\* 409-0**

> 457 9/7/05 H.R. 3169 Allowing the Education Department to waive the repayment requirement for Pell Grant recipients whose school attendance is interrupted because of the impact of a disaster if students were living, working, or attending school in an area designated by the President to warrant major disaster assistance. **YES Passed\* 412-0**

> 460 9/8/05 H.R. 3673 Appropriating \$51.8 billion in FY2005 supplemental spending for disaster relief to areas affected by Hurricane Katrina. The bill provides \$50 billion for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, \$1.4 billion for the Defense Department, and \$400 million for the Army Corps of Engineers. **YES Passed\* 410-11**

> 461 9/8/05 H.R. 3669 Temporarily increasing to \$3.5 billion, from \$1.5 billion, the amount that the Federal Emergency Management Agency may borrow to pay claims under the National Flood Insurance Program that exceed collected premiums in the National Flood Insurance Fund. **YES Passed\* 416-0**

> 462 9/8/05 H.R. 3668 Allowing the Education Department to waive the repayment requirement for any federal student grant assistance provided to students under Title IV of the Higher Education Act if their school attendance is interrupted because of the impact of a major disaster. To qualify for the waiver, students must have lived, worked, or attended schools in an area designated by the President as a major disaster. **YES Passed\* 414-0**

> 463 9/8/05 H. Res. 428 Expressing the sincere gratitude of the House to foreign individuals, organizations, and governments that have offered material assistance and other forms of support to people affected by Hurricane Katrina. **YES Passed\* 410-0**

> 464 9/8/05 H. Res. 427 Expressing the sense of the House on the anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The resolution extends the deepest sympathies of the House to the victims of the attacks and thanks foreign leaders and citizens of all nations who assisted the United States in its fight against terrorism. **YES Passed\* 402-6**

> 465 9/13/05 S. Con. Res. 26 Establishing a panel made up of congressional leaders to select a Capitol memorial honoring the passengers and crew of Flight 93. **YES Passed\* 403-0**

> 466 9/13/05 H.R. 3649 Continuing funding through FY2005 for various sportfishing and recreational boating programs including the Coast Guard's state recreational boating safety grant program and a program to provide assistance to states for pump-out stations and waste-reception facilities. **YES Passed\* 401-1**

> 467 9/13/05 S. 276 Authorizing the Interior Department to acquire 5,675 acres of land by donation or with appropriated funds. Under the bill, the Interior Department will transfer jurisdiction of the land to the National Park Service. **NO Passed\* 295-106**

> 468 9/14/05 H.R. 3132 An amendment to eliminate the mandatory minimum sentence of five years in prison for failing to register as a sex offender or for making false statements during registration. **NO Failed 106-316**

> 469 9/14/05 H.R. 3132 An amendment broadening the categories covered by hate crimes to include crimes motivated by the victim's gender, sexual orientation or disability. Such crimes may be prosecuted in federal courts. The amendment requires the Justice Department to certify that bias was a motivating factor in the crime and that state or local law enforcement officials have been consulted and the state does not object to the federal government assuming jurisdiction. It also authorizes \$5 million per year for FY2006 and FY2007 for the Justice Department to assist states and local authorities in investigating and prosecuting hate crimes. **NO Passed 223-199**

> 470 9/14/05 H.R. 3132 Broadening the hate crimes category and requiring the Justice Department to certify bias as a factor in a crime. This bill also creates a national sex offender registry database and requires an individual convicted of a sex crime to register before completing a prison term or within five days of being sentenced. Updates are required within five days of any

change of address. Any convicted sex offenders who are notified that they must register and fail to do so face fines and between five and 20 years in prison. The bill increases the penalties to 25 years to life in prison for the sexual exploitation of children. It requires state foster care programs to check any child abuse and neglect registries in all areas that prospective foster care families have lived within the past five years. **NO Passed 371-52**

> 473 9/15/05 H.R. 889 An amendment to require the Coast Guard to conduct a comprehensive security and safety review of the proposed construction, expansion or operation of a waterfront facility for transferring liquefied natural gas between ships and land. **NO Failed 163-254**

> 474 9/15/05 H.R. 889 Authorizing \$8.7 billion in FY2006 for the Coast Guard, including \$5.6 billion for operation and maintenance, \$1 billion in mandatory spending for retired pay and \$1.6 billion for the Deepwater program to replace aging ships and aircraft. It also requires a new implementation plan for the program. **YES Passed 415-0**

> 475 9/15/05 H. Res. 437 Establishing a select committee to investigate the government preparation and response to Hurricane Katrina. The House Speaker will select 20 members to the committee, including nine Democrats appointed after consultation with the Minority Leader. The measure earmarks \$500,000 out of existing House accounts for the committee. **YES Passed 224-188**

> 476 9/20/05 H.R. 3761 Giving more flexibility for a Labor Department program that provides temporary disaster relief and training of up to six months to individuals who take part in projects that assist victims of a disaster. It allows National Emergency Grant (NEG) program funds to be used for employment projects outside the Hurricane Katrina disaster area and expands fund eligibility to include individuals displaced by the hurricane who are currently unemployed and those who have no prior work history. **YES Passed\* 400-0**

> 477 9/20/05 H. Res. 441 Commending the NASA team and community for the recent Space Shuttle Discovery flight and recognizing the achievements of the Discovery crew, especially Commander Eileen Collins, for being the first female space shuttle commander. **YES Passed\* 401-0**

> 479 9/21/05 H.J. Res. 61 Expressing the support of the House of Representatives for the goals and ideals of Gold Star Mothers Day. **YES Passed\* 419-0**

> 480 9/21/05 H.R. 3768 Agreeing to the Senate amendment to HR 3768. The bill, as modified, provides tax breaks to Hurricane Katrina victims, including provisions to waive penalties allowing hurricane victims access to their retirement funds, increasing deductions for charitable donations by individuals and businesses and allowing low-income workers to maintain benefits such as the Earned Income Tax Credit. **YES Passed\* 422-0**

> 481 9/21/05 H.R. 250 An amendment making funds authorized in the bill for scientific, technical research and general services available, to the maximum extent practical, to historically black colleges and universities and other minority-serving institutions. **YES Passed 416-8**

> 482 9/21/05 H.R. 250 An amendment to establish a Manufacturing and Technology Administration within the Commerce Department. It would have directed the President to appoint an Undersecretary of Commerce for manufacturing and technology to supervise the new office. **NO Failed 210-213**

> 483 9/21/05 H.R. 250 An amendment to increase the authorization to \$220.5 million for FY2006 through FY2008 for the National Institute of Standards and Technology's Advanced Technological Education Program. **NO Failed 210-212**

> 485 9/21/05 H.R. 250 Authorizing \$2.1 billion in FY2006 through FY2008 for activities designed to improve the competitiveness of the U.S. manufacturing sector, including grant programs, scientific research, and education. The bill authorizes \$1.3 billion in FY2006 through FY2008 for laboratory activities and technical research run by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). It also authorizes \$345 million in FY2006 through FY2008 for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program. As amended, it authorizes \$3 million for NIST to conduct a study on the effects of Hurricane Katrina on buildings for new building standards and codes. **YES Passed 394-24**

> 488 9/22/05 H.R. 2123 An amendment to allow the policy councils of the Head Start program to approve or disapprove most program planning and operation activities. **NO Failed 156-266**

> 489 9/22/05 H.R. 2123 An amendment to provide staff and teacher training concerning children with

disabilities. **YES Passed 411-0**

> 490 9/22/05 H.R. 2123 An amendment to direct the Health and Human Services Department to conduct an outreach program to train and recruit African-American and Latino-American men to become Head Start teachers. **NO Passed 401-14**

> 491 9/22/05 H.R. 2123 An amendment to allow for-profit Head Start programs that spend less than 15 percent of their grant money on administration to take as profit the difference between the 15 percent and the amount they actually spend. **YES Failed 175-241**

> 492 9/22/05 H.R. 2123 An amendment to allow faith-based charities that operate Head Start programs to consider religion as a factor in hiring decisions. **YES Passed 220-196**

> 493 9/22/05 H.R. 2123 Reauthorizing the Head Start program through FY2011. It authorizes \$6.8 billion for the program in FY2006. It reserves 5 percent of the annual total Head Start funds for migrant and seasonal Head Start programs. Half of all Head Start teachers are required to have at least a bachelor's degree by 2011. The bill authorizes the Health and Human Services Department (HHS) to conduct unscheduled reviews of Head Start programs and allows HHS to contract out monitoring activities to third parties. As amended, it allows faith-based charities that operate Head Start programs to consider religion as a factor in hiring decisions. **YES Passed 231-184**

> 494 9/27/05 H.J. Res. 66 Supporting the goals and ideals of "Lights on Afterschool!" and calling on the president to issue a proclamation requesting that communities nationwide institute after-school programs. **YES Passed\* 403-0**

> 495 9/27/05 H.R. 438 Designating a post office in Berkeley, Calif., for Maudelle Shirek, who was active in the civil rights movement and in the rights of unions and their workers. **NO Failed\* 190-215**

> 496 9/27/05 H. Con. Res. 209 Supporting the goals and ideals of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. **YES Passed\* 404-0**

> 499 9/28/05 H.R. 3402 An amendment to authorize \$7.5 million in each of FY2006 through FY2010 for grants to the American Prosecutors Research Institute to assist state and local law enforcement agencies in prosecuting child abuse cases. It also encourages the Chief Justice of each U.S. District Court to respond to requests by state and local courts to make federal facilities available for the proceedings of courts whose operations have been "significantly disrupted" by hurricanes Katrina or Rita. **YES Passed 225-191**

> 501 9/28/05 H.R. 3402 Authorizing nearly \$85 billion for the Justice Department, related programs and agencies for FY2006 through FY2009. It authorizes \$24.4 billion for the FBI, \$21.5 billion for the Federal Prison System and \$7.25 billion for the Drug Enforcement Administration. The measure also reauthorizes provisions of the Violence Against Women Act, requiring the Attorney General to report to Congress annually on the number of U.S. citizens or legal residents detained on suspicion of terrorism while creating a privacy officer for the department. **YES Passed 415-4**

> 503 9/29/05 H. Res. 388 Condemning the gross human rights violations committed by the Cuban government and calling on the Secretary of State to initiate an international solidarity campaign on behalf of the immediate release of all Cuban political prisoners. **YES Passed\* 393-31**

> 504 9/29/05 H. Con. Res. 245 Expressing the sense of Congress that the Supreme Court should, at the earliest opportunity, resolve the conflict between the rulings of the Fourth and Ninth circuit courts by recognizing the constitutional right of children to recite the Pledge of Allegiance in school. **YES Passed\* 383-31**

> 505 9/29/05 H.R. 3824 An amendment to reauthorize the Endangered Species Act through 2010 and made changes to the species recovery plan process. It would have required species recovery plans to identify publicly owned land necessary to achieving recovery. It would have established a new program to promote voluntary habitat conservation for endangered species on privately owned land. The definition of putting a species in jeopardy would be changed to any action that directly or indirectly "makes it less likely" that a threatened or endangered species would recover, or significantly delays or increases the cost of species recovery. **NO Failed 206-216**

> 506 9/29/05 H.R. 3824 Overhauling and reauthorizing the Endangered Species Act through 2010. It replaces the critical habitat designation with expanded authority to develop recovery plans for species that take into account areas of "special value" in conserving an endangered or threatened species. The Interior Department

is required to reimburse landowners when they are not allowed to develop their land because of protections for endangered species. It also authorizes grants for private landowners to protect endangered species. **YES Passed 229-193**

> **507 9/29/05 H. J. Res. 68** Providing continuing appropriations through Nov. 18 for all federal departments and agencies whose FY2006 appropriations bills have not been enacted. **YES Passed 348-65**

> **508 9/29/05 H. Con. Res. 178** Recognizing the need to increase awareness of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis and to work to find a cure. **YES Passed\* 401-0**

> **509 10/6/05 S. 1786** Authorizing the Transportation Department to provide emergency grants to airports in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Texas that were damaged by hurricanes Katrina and Rita, if they are listed in the Federal Aviation Administration's National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems. **YES Passed\* 420-0**

> **510 10/6/05 H. Res. 276** Supporting the goals and ideals of Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month and designating it for November. **YES Passed\* 415-0**

> **511 10/6/05 H.R. 3894** Directing the Housing and Urban Development Department to waive eligibility requirements for the Section 8 housing voucher program for anyone who resided in a federal disaster area and whose residence became uninhabitable as a result of Hurricane Katrina. **YES Passed\* 418-0**

> **512 10/6/05 H.R. 2360** Adoption of the conference report appropriating \$31.9 billion in FY2006 for the Homeland Security Department and related agencies. The bill includes \$6 billion for customs and border protection; \$5.9 billion for the Transportation Security Administration, including fees; \$7.8 billion for the Coast Guard; \$1.2 billion for the Secret Service and \$2.6 billion for response and recovery efforts conducted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. **YES Passed 347-70**

> **513 10/6/05 H.R. 3895** Allowing the Agricultural Department, in the event of federally declared natural disaster, to convert rural rental assistance into urban and rural housing vouchers. **YES Passed\* 335-81**

> **514 10/6/05 H.R. 3896** Directing the Housing and Urban Development Department to suspend Community Development Block Grant caps for FY2005 through FY2008 for communities directly affected by Hurricane Katrina. **YES Passed\* 415-0**

> **517 10/7/05 H.R. 3893** An amendment to allow the President to declare an energy emergency, prohibit gasoline price gouging in times of such emergencies and create a Strategic Refinery Reserve. It would have allowed the Federal Trade Commission to enforce the ban on price gouging and set penalty fines of up to three times the profits gained through price gouging, or up to \$3 million. The Energy Department would have been allowed to construct new refineries or open closed refineries to create the reserve, which would have a capacity equaling 5 percent of the daily U.S. demand for gasoline, home heating oil, and other refined petroleum products. **NO Failed 199-222**

> **519 10/7/05 H.R. 3893** Allowing state Governors to opt into a streamlined regulatory process for refinery expansion and construction projects. It requires the President to designate federal sites for new oil refineries and allows the federal government to pay new refineries for the costs of significant delays due to lawsuits and government regulations. Price gouging on gasoline is banned in times of emergencies. The bill also directs the Federal Trade Commission to investigate price gouging after Hurricane Katrina. It specifies that the federal government can provide loan guarantees for the Alaska natural gas pipeline up to two years after enactment, unless the state of Alaska has a contractual agreement to complete construction of the pipeline. **YES Passed 212-210**

> **520 10/7/05 H. Con. Res. 248** Honoring the life and work of Simon Wiesenthal to memorialize the victims of the Holocaust and to bring the perpetrators of crimes against humanity to justice. **YES Passed\* 354-0**

> **522 10/17/05 H. Res. 457** Supporting the goals of National Chemistry Week and encouraging citizens to observe the week with appropriate activities and programs. **YES Passed\* 366-2**

> **523 10/17/05 H. Res. 491** Expressing support for the goals and ideals of National Cyber Security Awareness Month. **YES Passed\* 354-13**

> **525 10/18/05 H.R. 1409** Establishing a new special advisor for orphans and vulnerable children within the U.S. Agency for International Development. The individual is responsible for reviewing and approving all assistance provided by the agency to orphans and vulnerable children in developing

countries. **YES Passed\* 415-9**

> **526 10/18/05 H. Res. 49** Mourning the loss of life and suffering caused by the earthquake that occurred in Pakistan and India on Oct. 8, 2005. **YES Passed\* 423-0**

> **527 10/18/05 H.R. 3549** Designating a post office in Warren, Pa., for William F. Clinger, R-Pa., (1979-97), who represented Pennsylvania in the House for nine terms and was chairman of the Government Reform Committee in the 104th Congress. **YES Passed\* 422-1**

> **529 10/19/05 H.R. 554** An amendment to prohibit food manufacturers, vendors, or their trade associations from filing lawsuits against any individual due to that person's consumption of food leading to weight gain, obesity or related health problems. **NO Failed 67-357**

> **530 10/19/05 H.R. 554** An amendment to allow lawsuits for obesity-related injuries of children age 8 and under against chain outlets with at least 20 stores that have marketed food to children under age 8. **NO Failed 129-298**

> **531 10/19/05 H.R. 554** An amendment to exempt from the bill an action brought by a state agency to enforce state consumer protection laws concerning mislabeling or other "unfair and deceptive trade practices." **NO Failed 192-234**

> **532 10/19/05 H.R. 554** An amendment to allow lawsuits against dietary supplement makers for damages because of obesity, weight gain or related health problems. **NO Failed 177-247**

> **533 10/19/05 H.R. 554** Prohibiting lawsuits in federal or 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 allows suits if the defendant knowingly and willfully violated federal or state laws governing the labeling, advertising or selling of food products. Any party bringing a suit, as permitted by the bill, is required to state the particular federal and state statutes allegedly violated and the facts alleged to have caused the injury claimed. **YES Passed 306-120**

> **534 10/20/05 S. 397** Prohibiting certain civil lawsuits against manufacturers, distributors, dealers and importers of firearms and ammunition, principally those lawsuits aimed at making them liable for gun violence. Trade groups are also protected and all pending legal action against gunmakers shall be dismissed. It also, with certain exceptions, makes it unlawful for licensed gun importers, manufacturers or dealers to sell, deliver or transfer handguns without a secure gun storage or safety device. As amended, it establishes penalties for noncompliance, including a six-month suspension of a license, the revocation of a license, or a \$2,500 fine. It requires the Attorney General to commission a study on the feasibility of uniform standard for the testing of projectiles against body armor. Penalties for violent or drug trafficking crimes in which the perpetrator uses or possesses armor-piercing ammunition are increased to a minimum of 15 years imprisonment. If death resulted from the use of such ammunition, a person may be imprisoned up to life or face the death penalty. **YES Passed 283-144**

> **536 10/25/05 H.R. 3675** Doubling to \$22,000 per violation, the civil penalties the Federal Trade Commission could impose on individuals or companies that commit unfair or deceptive acts that exploit the popular reaction to national emergencies, Presidentially declared disasters or international disasters. **YES Passed\* 399-3**

> **537 10/25/05 H. Con. Res. 269** Adoption of the concurrent resolution recognizing the 40th anniversary of the White House Fellows Program and the contributions of the fellows to their communities, the United States and the world. **YES Passed\* 401-0**

> **538 10/25/05 H.R. 3256** Designating a post office in Pittsburgh, Pa., for James Grove Fulton, R-Pa. (1945-71), who represented Pennsylvania in the House for 13 terms and who served more than two terms as the ranking member of the then-Science and Astronautics Committee. **YES Passed\* 396-1**

> **541 10/26/05 H.R. 1461** An amendment sunsetting the affordable housing fund in the bill after five years and requiring Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to allocate toward the fund 3.5 percent of their profits in the first two years and 5 percent of profits in the final three years. Priority consideration for funds must be given to areas affected by hurricanes Katrina and Rita in the first two years. It also prohibits the use of funds in the bill for political activities, advocacy, lobbying, counseling services, travel expenses, or preparing or providing advice on tax returns. **YES Passed 210-205**

> **542 10/26/05 H.R. 1461** An amendment to allow

the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) to establish a minimum capital level for Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, or any Federal Home Loan Bank if the FHFA decides one is needed for the long-term viability of any of the institutions. **NO Failed 36-378**

> **543 10/26/05 H.R. 1461** An amendment to authorize the Federal Housing Finance Agency to require Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac to sell or acquire assets or liabilities, if an asset or liability is deemed to be a potential systemic risk to the housing market, the capital markets or the financial system. **YES Failed 73-346**

> **544 10/26/05 H.R. 1461** An amendment to eliminate the ability of Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and the Federal Home Loan Bank Board to borrow from the U.S. Treasury. **NO Failed 47-371**

> **545 10/26/05 H.R. 1461** An amendment to eliminate language in the bill increasing the maximum size mortgages Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac can buy by 50 percent in areas with high home prices. **NO Failed 57-358**

> **547 10/26/05 H.R. 1461** Passage of the bill overhauling the regulations regarding government-sponsored enterprises, including Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and the 12 Federal Home Loan Banks. The bill creates a new independent agency, the Federal Housing Finance Agency, to regulate Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and the Federal Home Loan Bank System. It also establishes an affordable housing fund. As amended, the bill sunsets the fund in the bill after five years and requires Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to allocate 3.5 percent of their profits in the first two years of the fund and 5 percent of profits in the final three years. It also prohibits the use of funds in the bill for political activities, advocacy, lobbying, counseling services, travel expenses, or preparing or providing advice on tax returns. **YES Passed 331-90**

> **548 10/27/05 H. J. Res. 65** Disapproving of the President's recommendations for the fifth round of base closures and realignments. **NO Failed 85-324**

> **549 10/27/05 H.R. 3945** Requiring federal reserve banks to waive or rebate any transaction fee for wire transfer services that would normally be imposed on an insured depository institution or insured credit union if they are all headquartered in a Presidentially declared disaster area. **YES Passed\* 411-0**

> **550 10/27/05 H. Res. 368** Congratulating Ambassador Dan Gitterman, Israel's permanent representative to the United Nations, and the Israeli government and people on Gitterman's election as Vice-President of the 60th U.N. General Assembly. **YES Passed\* 407-0**

> **557 11/1/05 H.R. 3548** Designating a post office in Pearl River, N.Y., for Heinz Ahlmeier Jr., who was killed in action along with three members of his seven-man patrol, known as Team Breaker, while on a reconnaissance mission in Vietnam. **YES Passed\* 390-0**

> **558 11/1/05 H.R. 398** Designating a post office in Dennison, Minn., for Albert Harold Quie, R-Minn. (1958-79), who represented Minnesota in the House for 10 full terms and served as governor of the state for one term. **YES Passed\* 391-1**

> **559 11/1/05 H.R. 1606** Exempting the Internet, including blogs and e-mail, from being considered as a form of public communication subject to Federal Election Commission regulation and disclosure requirements. **YES Failed\* 225-182**

> **560 11/1/05 H.R. 4061** Reorganizing the Veterans Affairs (VA) Department division of information technology (IT) and giving the VA chief information officer authority over all IT resources, budget and personnel. **YES Passed\* 408-0**

> **561 11/1/05 H.R. 1691** Designating a Veterans Affairs Department outpatient clinic in Appleton, Wis., for John H. Bradley, one of six Marines who raised a U.S. flag on the top of Mount Suribachi at Iwa Jima. **YES Passed\* 407-0**

World War II. It honors veterans and those killed in the battle, and reaffirms the bond of friendship between the United States, Belgium and Luxembourg. **YES Passed\* 392-0**

> **532 11/17/04 H.R. 141** Concurrence with the Senate amendments to the bill that establishes three new judgeships, called copyright royalty judges, to determine copyright royalty rates and the distribution of royalties. The Librarian of Congress -- in consultation with the Register of Copyrights -- appoints the three full-time copyright royalty judges to serve six-year, staggered terms. The bill, as amended, allows the U.S. Copyright Office to retain the right to review the judge rulings for legal errors. **YES Passed\* 407-0**

> **533 11/17/04 S. 2302** Providing a two-year extension, retroactive to May 2006, of a visa program waiver that allows foreign nationals who complete medical school in the United States to stay in the country if they agree to work for three years as physicians in specified rural and urban areas. It would permit five doctors in each state to work in areas not specifically designated as "underserved" and clarify that the waivers would not count against the ceiling on H1-B visas granted to other highly skilled foreign workers. **YES Passed\* 407-4**

> **536 11/18/04 S. 2986** Passage of the bill that increases the federal debt limit. **YES Passed 208-204**

> **537 11/19/04 H.R. 1350** Adoption of the conference report on the bill that reauthorizes and amends the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) through 2011 to provide public education for children with disabilities. It authorizes \$12.4 billion in discretionary spending for states and school districts in FY2005 and authorizes an increase of \$2.3 billion per year to provide for full federal funding by 2011. It authorizes such sums as necessary in fiscal 2012 and succeeding fiscal years. It also maintains some student discipline rules under current law, reduces paperwork burdens for teachers, and changes several procedures for handling complaints under IDEA, including establishing a two-year statute of limitations that requires parents to file a complaint of an IDEA violation within two years of the date of the alleged violation. **YES Passed\* 397-3**

> **539 11/20/04 H.R. 853** Recognizing the public service efforts of the Boys Scouts of America. It also commends the group for its Good Turn for America program, which aims to combat hunger, homelessness and poor health through partnerships with other organizations. **YES Passed\* 391-3**

> **541 11/20/04 H.R. 5382** Requiring the Federal Aviation Administration to issue regulations relating to the design or operation of a spacecraft to protect the safety of flight crews and passengers. It stipulates that the regulations apply only to flights with paying customers as passengers. The regulations are limited for the first eight years to prohibit only technologies already proven to cause serious or near-fatal injuries. **YES Passed\* 269-120**

> **542 11/20/04 H.R. 4818** Adoption of the conference report on the bill that provides approximately \$388.4 billion in discretionary spending in FY2005 for all federal departments and agencies whose FY2005 spending bills have not been enacted. The measure incorporates nine previously separate appropriations bills: Agriculture, Commerce-Justice-State, Energy and Water, Foreign Operations, Interior, Labor-HHS-Education, Transportation and Treasury, Legislative Branch and VA-HUD. It imposes a 0.8 percent across-the-board cut on all non-security accounts in the bill. States and localities are barred from receiving federal funding if they compel health care providers or insurance companies to provide, pay for or refer abortion services. **YES Passed\* 344-51**

> **543 12/6/04 H. Con. Res. 582** Making several corrections to the conference report on the bill (HR 4818) that would provide \$388.4 billion in discretionary spending in FY2005 for all federal departments and agencies. **YES Passed\* 381-0**

> **544 12/7/04 S. 2845** Adoption of the conference report on the bill that would reorganize 15 U.S. intelligence agencies and create a new director of national intelligence to oversee all U.S. intelligence activities and determine the intelligence budget. The National Counterterrorism Center would serve as the primary organization for analyzing and integrating all U.S. intelligence pertaining to terrorism and counterterrorism. The measure would authorize approximately 10,000 additional border patrol agents over five years along with new programs and pilot projects to upgrade airport and airplane security. **YES Passed\* 336-75**

2004

## ROY'S RECORD

7th District Missouri  
Congressman Roy Blunt's  
Voting Record

108th Congress, Second Session-2004

> **531 1/16/04 H. J. Res. 110** Recognizing the 60th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge that occurred during



More than 4,800 people attended two Medicare Insurance Fairs in Springfield and Joplin to get information from more than a dozen companies.

## Medicare Keeping Pace with 21st Century Medicine

### Three key elements in modernizing Medicare are:

A new prescription drug benefit. It is voluntary, competitive, and helps seniors pay for the drugs their doctors say they need. For the poorest seniors, it offers extra help and in many cases requires a minimum out-of-pocket cost. For a monthly premium and annual deductible, seniors will have access to medicines that the government will help pay for.

"Welcome to Medicare Physicals" started for new persons entering Medicare in 2005. Before, seniors who wanted a general physical had to be sick to get one. Now, seniors can receive, within six months of entering Medicare, a free physical that includes measurement of height, weight and blood pressure, medical history and an electrocardiogram.

New screenings have been added to Medicare. In addition to already covering screening for glaucoma, as well as breast, cervical, colorectal, and prostate cancers, Medicare now covers new cholesterol, blood, lipid, diabetes and osteoporosis screenings.

### Six things you need to know about Medicare Part D if you are considering a drug coverage plan:

1. It is totally voluntary. You will never be forced to join any

Medicare insurance plan for drug coverage, unless you are Medicaid eligible. If you want drug benefits to start January 1, 2006, you must enroll before December 31, 2005.

2. It is an insurance plan. Persons who enroll between November 15, 2005 and May 15, 2006 can start receiving benefits the following month of their enrollment. Persons who enroll after May 15 will face penalties for late sign-up, unless, through no fault of their own, their existing coverage is ended or withdrawn.

3. All seniors need to know the drugs they are prescribed, how they want them delivered and what companies provide the most coverage for the most reasonable costs. Seniors can contact 1-800-Medicare, the Southwest Missouri Office on Aging in Springfield (417-862-0762) or the VantAge Point Area Agency on Aging in Joplin (417-627-0600) or the Constituent Service Centers in Springfield (417-889-1800) or in Joplin (417-781-1041).

4. If the plan you choose does not work as anticipated, you have the option to move to a new plan each year.

5. Seniors with annual income of less than \$12,920 for an individual (\$17,231 for a couple in 2005), and limited resources, will pay no deductible and no premium. Co-pays will be a few dollars. If your income is less than \$14,355 for an individual (\$19,245 for a couple in 2005), and you have limited resources, you will pay reduced deductibles, premiums, and co-pays.

6. If you have no present drug coverage and are in good health, you may want to consider the lowest-cost, minimum coverage possible to cover you in the event of an unexpected medical condition that may require the use of prescriptions.



## A Few Blunt Constituent Advocacy Success Stories

★ Lt. William Patton and his P-51 disappeared in early 1945 on a flight over German-occupied France. More than a half-century later the plane and Lt. Patton were found when a French farmer drained a bog. Lt. Patton was returned to the US for burial at the National Cemetery in Springfield with full military honors.

The French used parts of the crashed plane to erect an extensive memorial to Lt. Patton. The Patton family that lives in the Neosho area asked Congressman Blunt to see if other parts of the aircraft could be transported by the US so a similar memorial could be established in Southwest Missouri.

The effort took three years, but in July, 21 parts, including one of the six machine guns (shown in the photo) from the P-51 Mustang, landed at the Air and Military Museum of the Ozarks where a memorial to Lt. Patton will be created.

★ Mrs. Ethel Simmerman Cook came to the congressional office seeking information about reports that the U.S.S. Lagarto, an American Naval submarine missing since May 1945 in the Pacific, had been found. A letter to the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations got a quick response. In less than a week, Mrs. Cook had confirmation that the submarine her brother, Ralph Simmerman, served on was found by British divers. The boat carried a crew of 61 that included three crewmen with family currently residing in the Ozarks.

★ A retired Air Force Lt. Colonel sought Congressman Blunt's help when the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) notified him he owed \$22,000 because he had received benefits he was not entitled to. A letter from the congressional office brought an unusual admission from the Department of Defense (DoD). The DoD, in its letter to Congressman Blunt said, the erroneous "claim arose from an administrative error with no indication of fraud, fault or lack of good faith on the part" of the service member. The DoD claim for repayment was dismissed. The Springfield man wrote Congressman Blunt, "This is a great day for me. I choose to believe that your help was what made this appeal approval possible; you have given a little quality to my life."

★ A National Guardsman from Springfield, retired from the 203rd Engineer Battalion, believed he had two years of back pay owed him. He had filed for retirement in April 2002 and filed for the pay 18 months later. A year later he still had not received a response on his back pay. It took caseworker Jon Bledsoe less than a month to receive notice that the \$23,800 owed the guardsman was awarded.

★ When a local businessman was stricken with a heart attack during a visit to China, his family asked for help from Congressman Blunt to expedite their passport renewals that normally take four to six weeks. Working the phones, Constituent Advocate Sue Ellen Ball coordinated with the passport office in San Francisco to get a same-day passport as the family waited for their flight to China. Ball also called the Chinese Consulate in San Francisco to arrange the receipt of their visitor's visas that same day.



★ After receiving several calls about a defaulted student loan he or his children never had, a Springfield man called Congressman Blunt's office for help. The Department of Education was contacted and informed they had the wrong guy by the same name that lives in the same county. Within two days the matter was fixed.

★ A Springfield woman got a quick response when she asked the constituent advocate to work on her Social Security claim. What normally takes six to ten weeks was processed by hand the same day it was sent to California. She received her money within the week. "I want to thank you and your very efficient staff for helping me. I really NEVER saw the government act so quickly," she wrote.

## Blunt Proposes WWII Veterans Enlist In Library of Congress Video History Project

After observing the 60th anniversary of Victory in Europe and in Japan this year, Southwest Missouri Congressman Roy Blunt offers veterans who served in World War II the opportunity to participate in the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project. Created by Congress in 2000, the Veterans History Project relies on volunteers to collect and preserve stories of wartime service. "The key is for veterans to come forward and share their experience and have them recorded on video," Congressman Blunt said.

Blunt said, "The Veterans History Project is aimed at preserving those individual memories for future generations to understand the personal sacrifice that preserving freedom demands."

Missouri State University in Springfield and the College of the Ozarks at Point Lookout have set up archives, in addition to the Library of Congress. Missouri Southern State University in Joplin is active in securing interviews with local veterans.

Register now by calling  
1-888-889-3535.



A team from the Veterans History Project interviews World War II veteran, Mel Thompson of Springfield.