

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS:

Senate confirmed the nomination of Robert M. Gates, of Texas, to be Secretary of Defense.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S11375–S11401

Measures Introduced: Sixteen bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 4083–4098, and S. Res. 624–625. **Page S11325**

Measures Reported:

Report to accompany S. 2803, to amend the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 to improve the safety of mines and mining. (S. Rept. No. 109–365)

Report to accompany S. 3570, to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2007 through 2011. (S. Rept. No. 109–366) **Page S11324**

Measures Passed:

HIV/AIDS Program: Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 6143, to amend title XXVI of the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend the program for providing lifesaving care for those with HIV/AIDS, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment:

Pages S11240–43

Ensign (for Enzi/Kennedy) Amendment No. 5212, in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S11242–43**

Sojourner Truth Bust: Committee on Rules and Administration was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4510, to direct the Joint Committee on the Library to accept the donation of a bust depicting Sojourner Truth and to display the bust in a suitable location in the Capitol, and the bill was then passed, clearing the measure for the President.

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Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking Act: Senate passed H.R. 864, to provide for programs and activities with respect to the prevention of underage drinking, after taking action on the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S11375–76**

Frist (for Enzi) Amendment No. 5219, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S11375**

Sgt. First Class Robert Lee ‘Bobby’ Hollar, Jr. Post Office Building: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of S. 4050, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 East Thompson Street in Thomaston, Georgia, as the “Sergeant First Class Robert Lee ‘Bobby’ Hollar, Jr. Post Office Building”, and the bill was then passed. **Page S11376**

Tito Puente Post Office Building: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1472, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 167 East 124th Street in New York, New York, as the “Tito Puente Post Office Building”, and the measure was then passed, clearing the measure for the President. **Page S11376**

Dr. Robert E. Price Post Office Building: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4246, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8135 Forest Lane in Dallas, Texas, as the “Dr. Robert E. Price Post Office Building”, and the bill was then passed, clearing the measure for the President. **Page S11376**

Beverly J. Wilson Post Office Building: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4720, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 200 Gateway Drive in Lincoln, California, as the “Beverly J. Wilson Post Office Building”, and the bill was then passed, clearing the measure for the President. **Page S11376**

Lance Corporal Robert A. Martinez Post Office Building: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 5108, to designate the facility

of the United States Postal Service located at 1213 East Houston Street in Cleveland, Texas, as the “Lance Corporal Robert A. Martinez Post Office Building”, and the bill was then passed, clearing the measure for the President. **Page S11376**

Vincent J. Whibbs, Sr. Post Office Building: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 5736, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 101 Palafox Place in Pensacola, Florida, as the “Vincent J. Whibbs, Sr. Post Office Building”, and the bill was then passed, clearing the measure for the President. **Page S11376**

Morris K. “Mo” Udall Post Office Building: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 5857, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1501 South Cherrybell Avenue in Tucson, Arizona, as the “Morris K. ‘Mo’ Udall Post Office Building”, and the bill was then passed, clearing the measure for the President. **Page S11376**

Dr. Leonard Price Stavisky Post Office: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 5923, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 29–50 Union Street in Flushing, New York, as the “Dr. Leonard Price Stavisky Post Office”, and the bill was then passed, clearing the measure for the President. **Page S11376**

John J. Sinde Post Office Building: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 5989, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10240 Roosevelt Road in Westchester, Illinois, as the ‘John J. Sinde Post Office Building’, and the bill was then passed, clearing the measure for the President. **Page S11376**

Wallace W. Sykes Post Office Building: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 5990, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 415 South 5th Avenue in Maywood, Illinois, as the “Wallace W. Sykes Post Office Building”, and the bill was then passed, clearing the measure for the President. **Page S11376**

Chuck Fortenberry Post Office Building: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 6078, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 307 West Wheat Street in Woodville, Texas, as the “Chuck

Fortenberry Post Office Building”, and the bill was then passed, clearing the measure for the President.

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Captain Christopher Petty Post Office Building: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 6102, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 200 Lawyers Road, NW in Vienna, Virginia, as the “Captain Christopher Petty Post Office Building”, and the bill was then passed, clearing the measure for the President.

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Hamilton H. Judson Post Office: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 6151, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 216 Oak Street in Farmington, Minnesota, as the “Hamilton H. Judson Post Office”, and the bill was then passed, clearing the measure for the President. **Page S11376**

Dietary Supplement and Nonprescription Drug Consumer Protection Act: Senate passed S. 3546, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to serious adverse event reporting for dietary supplements and nonprescription drugs, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S11376–81**

Utu Utu Gwaitu Paiute Tribe Land: Senate passed H.R. 854, to provide for certain lands to be held in trust for the Utu Utu Gwaitu Paiute Tribe, clearing the measure for the President. **Page S11381**

Water Resources Research Act Amendments: Senate passed H.R. 4588, to reauthorize grants for and require applied water supply research regarding the water resources research and technology institutes established under the Water Resources Research Act of 1984, after agreeing to the following amendment:

Pages S11381–82

Frist (for Inhofe) Amendment No. 5213, to modify provisions relating to scope of research, other activities, and cooperation and coordination.

Pages S11381–82

Jefferson County, Colorado Land Use: Senate passed S. 4092, to clarify certain land use in Jefferson County, Colorado. **Page S11382**

Farm Security and Rural Investment Act Amendment: Senate passed S. 4093, to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to extend a suspension of limitation on the period for which certain borrowers are eligible for guaranteed assistance. **Page S11382**

Senate National Security Working Group Extension: Senate agreed to S. Res. 625, extending the

authority for the Senate National Security Working Group. **Page S11382**

Dam Safety Act: Senate passed S. 2735, to amend the National Dam Safety Program Act to reauthorize the national dam safety program, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, and the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S11382–83**

Frist (for Inhofe) Amendment No. 5214, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S11383**

Pool and Spa Safety Act: Senate passed S. 3718, to increase the safety of swimming pools and spas by requiring the use of proper anti-entrapment drain covers and pool and spa drainage systems, by establishing a swimming pool safety grant program administered by the Consumer Product Safety Commission to encourage States to improve their pool and spa safety laws and to educate the public about pool and spa safety, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S11383–84**

Iraq Reconstruction Accountability Act: Senate passed S. 4046, to extend oversight and accountability related to United States reconstruction funds and efforts in Iraq by extending the termination date of the Office of the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction. **Pages S11384–85**

Honoring William Wilberforce: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 613, honoring the life and work of William Wilberforce and commemorating the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade in Great Britain, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S11385**

National Purple Heart Hall of Honor: Committee on Armed Services was discharged from further consideration of H. Con. Res. 419, recognizing and supporting the efforts of the State of New York to develop the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor in New Windsor, New York, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S11385**

Recognizing American Council of Young Political Leaders: Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of H. Con. Res. 430, recognizing the accomplishments of the American Council of Young Political Leaders for providing 40 years of international exchange programs, increasing international dialogue, and enhancing global understanding, and commemorating its 40th anniversary, and the resolution was then agreed to, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Page S11385**

Frist Amendment No. 5215, to amend the preamble. **Page S11385**

Wool Suit Fabric Labeling Fairness and International Standards Conforming Act: Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4583, to amend the Wool Products Labeling Act of 1939 to revise the requirements for labeling of certain wool and cashmere products, and the bill was then passed, clearing the measure for the President. **Page S11385**

Aerospace Revitalization Task Force: Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 758, to establish an interagency aerospace revitalization task force to develop a national strategy for aerospace workforce recruitment, training, and cultivation, and the bill was then passed, clearing the measure for the President. **Page S11386**

Nursing Relief for Disadvantaged Areas Reauthorization Act: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1285, to extend for 3 years changes to requirements for admission of non-immigrant nurses in health professional shortage areas made by the Nursing Relief for Disadvantaged Areas Act of 1999, and the bill was then passed, clearing the measure for the President. **Page S11386**

Department of Justice Attorneys Travel Time: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of S. 1876, to provide that attorneys employed by the Department of Justice shall be eligible for compensatory time off for travel under section 5550b of title 5, United States Code, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Page S11386**

Frist (for Akaka) Amendment No. 5216, to revise the description of a certain citation. **Page S11386**

Department of Justice Attorneys Travel Time: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4057, to provide that attorneys employed by the Department of Justice shall be eligible for compensatory time off for travel under section 5550b of title 5, United States Code, and the bill was then passed, clearing the measure for the President. **Page S11386**

Secure Access to Justice and Court Protection Act: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1751, to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect judges, prosecutors, witnesses, victims, and their family members, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S11386–87**

Frist (for Specter) Amendment No. 5217, to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect judges, prosecutors, witnesses, victims, and their family members. **Page S11387**

Native American Languages Preservation Act: Committee on Indian Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4766, to amend the Native American Programs Act of 1974 to provide for the revitalization of Native American languages through Native American language immersion programs, and the bill was then passed, clearing the measure for the President. **Page S11387**

Call Home Act: Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was discharged from further consideration of S. 2653, to direct the Federal Communications Commission to make efforts to reduce telephone rates for Armed Forces personnel deployed overseas, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Page S11387**

Frist (for Stevens) Amendment No. 5218, to enhance public safety. **Page S11387**

Marine Mammal Protection Act Amendments Act: Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4075, to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 in order to implement the Agreement on the Conservation and Management of the Alaska-Chukotka Polar Bear Population, after agreeing to the following amendments proposed thereto: **Page S11387**

Frist (for Stevens) Amendment No. 5220, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S11387**

Frist (for Stevens) Amendment No. 5221, to amend the title.

Secretary of the Army Authority Extension: Senate passed H.R. 6316, to extend through December 31, 2008, the authority of the Secretary of the Army to accept and expend funds contributed by non-Federal public entities to expedite the processing of permits, clearing the measure for the President. **Page S11387**

Creating Opportunities for Minor League Professional, Entertainers, and Teams Through Legal Entry Act: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. 3821, to authorize certain athletes to be admitted temporarily into the United States to compete or perform in an athletic league, competition, or performance, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S11387-88**

Frist (for Collins) Amendment No. 5223, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S11388**

Admonishing President Hugo Chavez Statements: Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 607, admonishing the statements made by President Hugo Chavez at the United Nations General Assembly on September 20, 2006, and the undemocratic actions of President Chavez, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Pages S11388-89**

Living Resources of the High Seas Protection: Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 610, expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States should promote the adoption of, and the United Nations should adopt, a resolution at its October meeting to protect the living resources of the high seas from destructive, illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing practices, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Pages S11388-89**

Consumer Assurance of Radiologic Excellence Act: Senate passed S. 2322, to amend the Public Health Service Act to make the provision of technical services for medical imaging examinations and radiation therapy treatments safer, more accurate, and less costly, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S11389-91**

National Integrated Drought Information System Act: Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 5136, to establish a National Integrated Drought Information System within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to improve drought monitoring and forecasting capabilities, and the bill was then passed, clearing the measure for the President. **Page S11391**

Military Construction/VA Appropriations—Conferees: Senate insisted on its amendment to H.R. 5385, making appropriations for Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007 (passed the Senate on November 14, 2006), requested a conference with the House thereon, and the Chair was authorized to appoint the following conferees on the part of the Senate: Senators Hutchison, Burns, Craig, DeWine, Brownback, Allard, McConnell, Cochran, Stevens, Feinstein, Inouye, Johnson, Landrieu, Byrd, Murray, Leahy, and Harkin. **Pages S11269-70**

Agriculture Appropriations—Vote Change: A unanimous-consent request was granted permitting Senator Stevens to change his yea vote to a nay vote on Vote No. 271 on the motion to waive relative to Conrad Amendment No. 5205, rejected on Tuesday, December 5, 2006, to H.R. 5384, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development Food

and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007.

Page S11274

Export-Import Bank Reauthorization House Message: Senate concurred in the amendment of the House to S. 3938, to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank of the United States, clearing the measure for the President.

Pages S11391–96

Nomination: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Kent A. Jordan, of Delaware, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit.

Page S11396

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture may occur on Friday, December 8, 2006.

Page S11396

Nomination Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination of Andrew von Eschenbach, of Texas, to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services, with 60 minutes of debate equally divided, followed by a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination.

Page S11396

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 95 yeas 2 nays (Vote No. EX. 272), Robert M. Gates, of Texas, to be Secretary of Defense.

Pages S11259–93, S11401

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Michael J. Burns, of New Mexico, to be Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Chemical and Biological Defense Programs.

Beryl A. Howell, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the United States Sentencing Commission for a term expiring October 31, 2011.

John R. Steer, of Virginia, to be a Member of the United States Sentencing Commission for a term expiring October 31, 2011.

Rosemary E. Rodriguez, of Colorado, to be a Member of the Election Assistance Commission for the remainder of the term expiring December 12, 2007.

Pages S11400–01

Nominations Withdrawn: Senate received notification of withdrawal of the following nominations:

David H. Laufman, of Texas, to be Inspector General, Department of Defense, which was sent to the Senate on June 5, 2006.

Tracy A. Henke, of Missouri, to be Executive Director of the Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness, Department of

Homeland Security, which was sent to the Senate on September 5, 2006.

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Messages From the House: Pages S11321–22

Measures Placed on Calendar: Page S11322

Executive Communications: Pages S11322–24

Executive Reports of Committees: Pages S11324–25

Additional Cosponsors: Pages S11325–26

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: Pages S11326–49

Additional Statements: Pages S11320–21

Amendments Submitted: Pages S11349–72

Authorities for Committees to Meet: Pages S11372–73

Privileges of the Floor: Page S11372

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—272) Pages S11292–93

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m., and adjourned at 9:30 p.m., until 9:30 a.m., on Thursday, December 7, 2006. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S11396.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Leland A. Strom, of Illinois, to be a Member of the Farm Credit Administration Board, Farm Credit Administration, Mark Everett Keenum, of Mississippi, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services, and to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Commodity Credit Corporation, who was introduced by Senator Cochran, and Jill E. Sommers, of Kansas, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a hearing to examine issues relating to climate change and the media's treatment of the issue, after receiving testimony from David Deming, University of Oklahoma, Norman; Daniel P. Schrag, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts; Robert M. Carter, James Cook University, Townsville, Australia; Naomi Oreskes, University of California, San Diego; and Dan Gainor, Business and Media Institute, Alexandria, Virginia.