

Vietnam to immediately and unconditionally release Father Thaddeus Nguyen Van Ly; **Pages H2761–65**

Recognizing the 60th anniversary of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944: H.J. Res. 91, recognizing the 60th anniversary of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944; and **Pages H2766–69**

Recognizing those who contributed to the war effort during World War II and celebrating the completion of the National World War II Memorial: H. Con. Res. 409, recognizing with humble gratitude the more than 16,000,000 veterans who served in the United States Armed Forces during World War II and the Americans who supported the war effort on the home front and celebrating the completion of the National World War II Memorial on the National Mall in the District of Columbia.

Pages H2769–74

Recess: The House recessed at 5:55 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H2774**

Budget Resolution for FY 2005—Motion to Instruct Conferees: Representative Pomeroy announced his intention to offer a motion to instruct conferees on S. Con. Res. 95, original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2005 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2006 through 2009. **Page H2776**

Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2004—Motion to Instruct Conferees: Representative George Miller (CA) announced his intention to offer a motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 2660, making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004. **Page H2783**

Presidential Message: Read a letter from the President wherein he transmitted notification of his issuance of an Executive Order declaring a national emergency with respect to the Government of Syria—referred to the Committee on International Relations (H. Doc. 108–184). **Pages H2776–77**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H2774–75, H2775, and H2775–76. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 12:30 p.m. and adjourned at 11:48 p.m.

Committee Meetings

FASTER AND SMARTER FUNDING FOR FIRST RESPONDERS ACT OF 2004

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing on H.R. 3266, Faster and Smarter Funding for First Responders Act of 2004. Testimony was heard from Representative Cox; Andrew T. Mitchell, Deputy Director, Office of Domestic Preparedness, Department of Homeland Security; and William Raub, Acting Assistant Secretary, Planning and Evaluation, Department of Health and Human Services.

“DOE NUCLEAR SECURITY: WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES, AND WHAT’S NEXT?”

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled “DOE Nuclear Security: What are the Challenges, and What’s Next?” Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Energy: Kyle E. McSlarrow, Deputy Secretary; Ambassador Lynton Brooks, Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration; and Glenn Podonsky, Director, Office of Security and Safety Performance Assessment; Robin M. Nazzaro, Director, Natural Resources and Environment, GAO; and a public witness.

TERRORIST FINANCING AND MONEY LAUNDERING

Committee on Government Reform: Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources held a hearing entitled “Terrorist Financing and Money Laundering Investigations: Who Investigates and How Effective Are They?” Testimony was heard from Marcy Forman, Deputy Assistant Director, Financial Investigations, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security; the following officials of the Department of Justice: Donald C. Semesky, Chief, Office of Financial Operations, DEA; Michael Morehart, Section Chief, Terrorist Financing Operations Section, FBI; and John Roth, Chief, Criminal Division’s Asset Forfeiture and Money Laundering Section; the following officials of the Department of the Treasury: Dwight Sparlin, Director, Operations, Policy, and Support for the Criminal Investigations Branch, IRS; Bob Warner, Chief of Staff, FinCEN; and Daniel Glaser, Director, Money Laundering and Financial Crimes Section; Richard Stana, Director, Homeland Security and Justice, GAO; and a public witness.

COMBATING TERRORISM

Committee on Government Reform: Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats and International Relations held a hearing entitled “Combating Terrorism: Training and Equipping Reserve Component Forces.” Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: ISG Gerald Neill, 323 Military Intelligence Battalion, U.S. Army Reserve, Maryland; SSG Juan SanchezLopez, 2nd Battalion 23rd Marine Reserves; SP Michael Tanguay, 143 Military Police Company, National Guard, Connecticut; LTG Steve J. Novotny, 530th Military Police Battalion, U.S. Army Reserve, Nebraska; BG Louis Weber, Director of Training, U.S. Army; LTG James R. Helmly, Chief of Army Reserve; LTG Roger C. Schultz, Director, Army National Guard; and LTG Edward Hanlon, Commandant, Marine Corps Combat Development Command; and public witnesses.

BRIEFING—CURRENT ISSUES IN WORLD HUNGER

Committee on International Relations: Held a briefing on Current Issues in World Hunger. The Committee was briefed by Ambassador Tony Hall, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

THE AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT

Committee on International Affairs: Subcommittee on Africa held a hearing on The African Growth and Opportunity Act: Building Trade Capacity. Testimony was heard from Emmy Simmons, Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Economic Growth, Agriculture, and Trade, AID, Department of State; Florizelle H. Liser, Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Africa; and a public witness.

PRIVATE RELIEF MEASURES

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security, and Claims approved for full Committee action private relief bills.

MEDICARE CHRONIC CARE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing on the Medicare Chronic Care Improvement Program. Testimony was heard from Mark McClellan, M.D., Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, Services, Department of Health and Human Services; and public witnesses.

DISPOSITION OF UNUSED HEALTH BENEFITS IN CAFETERIA PLANS AND FLEXIBLE SPENDING ARRANGEMENTS; IMPROVE PATIENT ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND IMPROVE MEDICAL CARE; AND SMALL BUSINESS HEALTH FAIRNESS ACT

Committee on Rules: Granted, by voice vote, a rule providing for consideration of H.R. 4279, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the disposition of unused health benefits in cafeteria plans and flexible spending arrangements, under a modified closed rule. The rule provides one hour of debate in the House on H.R. 4279 equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means. The rule provides for consideration of the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in part A of the Rules Committee report accompanying the resolution, if offered by Representative Rangel of New York or his designee, which shall be considered as read and shall be separately debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent. The rule waives all points of order against the amendment printed in part A of the report. The rule provides one motion to recommit H.R. 4279 with or without instructions.

Section 2 of the resolution provides for consideration of H.R. 4280, to improve patient access to health care services and provide improved medical care by reducing the excessive burden the liability system places on the health care delivery system, under a closed rule. The rule provides one hour of debate in the House on H.R. 4280 with 40 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary and 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce. The rule provides one motion to recommit H.R. 4280.

Section 3 of the resolution provides for consideration of H.R. 4281, Small Business Health Fairness Act of 2004, under a modified closed rule. The rule provides one hour of debate in the House on H.R. 4281 equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. The rule provides for consideration of the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in part B of the Rules Committee report accompanying the resolution, if offered by Representative Kind of Wisconsin or his designee, which shall be considered as read and shall be separately debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent. The

rule waives all points of order against the amendment printed in part B of the report. The rule provides one motion to recommit H.R. 4281 with or without instructions.

Section 4 of the resolution provides that in the engrossment of H.R. 4279 the clerk shall add the texts of H.R. 4280 and H.R. 4281 as passed by the House, as new matter at the end of H.R. 4279, and then lay H.R. 4280 and H.R. 4281 on the table. Finally, the rule provides that if H.R. 4279 is disposed of without reaching the stage of engrossment, H.R. 4280 shall be treated in the manner specified for H.R. 4279 and only H.R. 4281 shall be laid on the table. Testimony was heard from Chairman Boehner and Representatives McCrery, Greenwood, Shadegg, Smith of Texas, Andrews, Kind, Wynn, Scott of Virginia, Sandlin and Baird.

PERMANENTLY EXTEND 10-PERCENT INDIVIDUAL TAX RATE BRACKET

Committee on Rules: Granted, by voice vote, a modified closed rule providing one hour of debate in the House on H.R. 4275, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the 10-percent individual income tax rate bracket, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means. The rule provides for consideration of the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in the Rules Committee report accompanying the resolution, if offered by Representative Rangel of New York or his designee, which shall be considered as read, and shall be separately debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent. The rule waives all points of order against the amendment printed in the report. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Testimony was heard from Representative Sessions.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 2004

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2005 for the Department of Defense, 9 a.m., SH-216.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: to hold hearings to conduct a telecommunications policy review, focusing on a view from the industry, 9:30 a.m., SR-253.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: to hold hearings to examine the environmental regulatory framework

affecting oil refining and gasoline policy, 9:30 a.m., SD-406.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine continuing challenges in Afghanistan, 9:30 a.m., SD-419.

Committee on Governmental Affairs: to continue hearings to examine tax payer dollars subsidizing diploma mills, 10 a.m., SD-342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: to hold hearings to examine S. 1715, to amend the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to provide further self-governance by Indian tribes, 10 a.m., SR-485.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine S. 2013, to amend section 119 of title 17, United States Code, to extend satellite home viewer provisions, 2 p.m., SD-226.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Legislative, on Library of Congress; Architect of the Capitol; and Capitol Visitor Center, 1 p.m., 2362A Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury and Independent Agencies, on Election Assistance Commission, 10 a.m., 2358 Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services: to mark up the following: H.R. 4323, To amend title 10, United States Code, to provide rapid acquisition authority to the Secretary of Defense to respond to combat emergencies; H.R. 4322, To provide for the establishment of the headquarters for the Department of Homeland Security in the District of Columbia, to require the transfer of administrative jurisdiction over the Nebraska Avenue Naval Complex; and H.R. 4200, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, hearing on H.R. 4283, College Access and Opportunity Act of 2004, 10:30 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection, hearing on H.R. 107, Digital Media Consumers' Rights Act of 2003, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled "NIH Ethics Concerns: Consulting Arrangements and Outside Awards," 10 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Capital Markets, Insurance, and Government Sponsored Enterprises, to consider H.R. 3574, Stock Option Accounting Reform Act, 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit, hearing entitled "Cutting Through the Red Tape: Regulatory Relief for America's Community-Based Banks," 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Government Reform, to consider the following: Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2004; H.R. 2432, Paperwork and Regulatory Improvements Act of 2003; H.R. 4302, District of Columbia Civil Commitment Modernization Act of 2004; and H. Res. 612, Recognizing and honoring the firefighters, police, public servants, civilians, and private businesses who responded to the devastating fire in Richmond, Virginia, on March 26, 2004, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.