

Ling, Ling, Robinson, and Walker, Rupert, Idaho, on behalf of the Federal Claims Coalition Upper Snake River Water Users; and James S. Riley, Intermountain Forest Association, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S.J. Res. 4, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States;

S. Res. 401, designating the week of November 7 through November 13, 2004, as "National Veterans Awareness Week" to emphasize the need to develop educational programs regarding the contributions of veterans to the country;

S. Con. Res. 109, commending the United States Institute of Peace on the occasion of its 20th anniversary and recognizing the Institute for its contribution to international conflict resolution;

S. Res. 404, designating August 9, 2004, as "Smokey Bear's 60th Anniversary";

S. Res. 407, designating October 15, 2004, as "National Mammography Day"; and

The nominations of David W. McKeague, of Michigan, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit, Richard A. Griffin, of Michigan, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit, Virginia Maria Hernandez Covington, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida, Michael H. Schneider, Sr., of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas, and Robert Clark Corrente, of Rhode Island, to be United States Attorney for the District of Rhode Island.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 1153, to amend title 38, United States Code, to permit medicare-eligible veterans to receive an out-patient medication benefit, to provide that certain veterans who receive such benefit are not otherwise eligible for medical care and services from the Department of Veterans Affairs;

S. 2483, to increase, effective as of December 1, 2004, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans;

S. 2484, to amend title 38, United States Code, to simplify and improve pay provisions for physicians and dentists, to authorize alternate work schedules and executive pay for nurses, with amendments;

S. 2485, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve and enhance the authorities of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs relating to the management and disposal of real property and facilities, with amendments; and

S. 2486, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve and enhance education, housing, employment, medical, and other benefits for veterans and to improve and extend certain authorities relating to the administration or benefits for veterans, with amendments.

INTELLIGENCE REFORM

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee concluded a hearing to examine reform and reorganization of the intelligence community of the United States, focusing on the report of the 9/11 Commission, and prospective legislation to create a Director of National Intelligence, after receiving testimony from Senator Feinstein; and Lieutenant General William E. Odom, USA (Ret.), Hudson Institute, John J. Hamre, Center for Strategic and International Studies, and James R. Woolsey, Booz Allen Hamilton, all of Washington, D.C.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Measures Introduced: 15 public bills, H.R. 4863–4877; 1 private bill, H.R. 4878; and 7 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 475, and H. Res. 728–733, were introduced. **Pages H6126–27**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H6128**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

Conference report on H.R. 2443, to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2004, to amend various laws administered by the Coast Guard (H. Rept. 108–617);

H. Res. 730, waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany H.R. 2443, to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2004, to amend various laws administered by the Coast Guard (H. Rept. 108–618);

H.R. 2929, to protect users of the Internet from unknowing transmission of their personally identifiable information through spyware programs, amended (H. Rept. 108–619);

H. Res. 731, waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules (H. Rept. 108–620);

H. Res. 732, providing for consideration of H.R. 4837, making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005 (H. Rept. 108–621); and

Conference report on H.R. 4613, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005 (H. Rept. 108–622). **Pages H6022–48, H6126 H6129–H6444**

Speaker Pro Tempore: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Bishop of Utah to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Page H5985

Recess: The House recessed at 9:30 a.m. and reconvened at 10 a.m.

Page H5988

Stock Option Accounting Reform Act: The House passed H.R. 3574, to require the mandatory expensing of stock options granted to executive officers, by a yea-and-nay vote of 312 yeas to 111 nays, Roll No. 397.

Pages H6001–22

Agreed to the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Financial Services that was considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment.

Page H6621

Agreed to:

Oxley amendment (printed in H. Rept. 108–616) that clarifies the original intent of the bill to ensure that any company that wishes to voluntarily expense stock options in certain filings required under the securities laws may do so.

Pages H6012–13

Rejected:

Sherman amendment (printed in H. Rept. 108–616) that sought to eliminate the requirement in the bill that an assumption of zero volatility be used when calculating the value of stock option expense for the top-five executives (by a recorded vote of 126 yeas to 296 noes, Roll No. 394);

Pages H6013–14, H6019–20

Maloney amendment (printed in H. Rept. 108–616) that sought to preserve the authority of the Securities and Exchange Commission to establish accounting principles or standards on its own initiative as the SEC deems necessary in the public interest or for the protection of investors (by a recorded vote of 114 yeas to 308 noes, Roll No. 395); and

Pages H6014–16, H6020

Kanjorski amendment (printed in H. Rept. 108–616) in the nature of a substitute (by a recorded vote of 127 yeas to 293 noes, Roll No. 396).

Pages H6016–19, H6020–21

Agreed that the Clerk be authorized to make technical and conforming changes as may be necessary to reflect the actions of the House.

Page H6022

H. Res. 725, the rule providing for consideration of the bill was agreed to by a voice vote.

Pages H5991–98

District of Columbia Appropriations Act for FY05: The House passed H.R. 4850, making appropriations for the government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against the revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, by a yea-and-nay vote of 371 yeas to 54 nays, Roll No. 399.

Pages H6048–65

Rejected:

Hefley amendment (No. 2 printed in the Congressional Record of July 19) that reduces total appropriations in the Act by 1 percent (by a recorded vote of 113 yeas to 309 noes, Roll No. 398).

Pages H6063–64

H. Res. 724, the rule providing for consideration of the bill was agreed to by a voice vote.

Pages H5998–H6001

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

Department of Homeland Security Financial Accountability Act: H.R. 4259, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the child tax credit;

Pages H6071–74

Amending United States Code to authorize the location of the principal office of the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims: H.R. 3936, to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the principal office of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims to be at any location in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area;

Pages H6076–78

Recognizing the members of AMVETS for their service to the Nation: H. Con. Res. 308, recognizing the members of AMVETS for their service to the Nation and supporting the goal of AMVETS National Charter Day;

Pages H6081–82

Providing for the appointment of Eli Broad as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution: S.J. Res. 38, providing for the appointment of Eli Broad as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution—clearing the measure for the President;

Pages H6082–83

Permitting the Library of Congress to hire Library of Congress police employees: H.R. 4816, to

permit the Librarian of Congress to hire Library of Congress Police employees; **Pages H6084–85**

Junk Fax Prevention Act of 2004: H.R. 4600, amended, to amend section 227 of the Communications Act of 1934 to clarify the prohibition on junk fax transmissions; and **Pages H6089–93**

Minor Use and Minor Species Animal Health Act of 2003: S. 741, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with regard to new animal drugs—clearing the measure for the President. **Pages H6093–H6101**

Suspensions—Proceedings Postponed: The House completed debate on the following measures under suspension of the rules. Further consideration will continue on Wednesday, July 21.

Recognizing the 35th anniversary of the Apollo 11 lunar landing: H. Res. 723, recognizing the 35th anniversary of the Apollo 11 lunar landing; **Pages H6065–71**

Bob Michel Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic Designation Act: H.R. 4608, to name the Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic located in Peoria, Illinois, as the “Bob Michel Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic”; **Pages H6074–76**

Veterans Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2004: H.R. 4175, amended, to increase, effective as of December 1, 2004, the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain service-connected disabled veterans; and **Pages H6078–80**

Sense of the House regarding the postponement of Presidential elections due to terrorist actions: H. Res. 728, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the actions of terrorists will never cause the date of any Presidential election to be postponed and that no single individual or agency should be given the authority to postpone the date of a Presidential election. **Pages H6085–89**

Tax Relief, Simplification, and Equity Act of 2003—Motion To Instruct Conferees: The House debated the Stenholm motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 1308, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to accelerate the increase in the refundability of the child tax credit. Further consideration of the motion will continue on Wednesday, July 21. **Pages H6101–04**

Late Conference Report: Agreed that the managers on the part of the House have until midnight on July 20 to file a conference report on H.R. 4613,

making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005. **Page H6048**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today appears on pages H5988–89.

Senate Referral: S. 2385 was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; S. 2277 and S. 2398 were held at the desk. **Page H6124**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes and four recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H6019–20, H6020, H6020–21, H6021–22, H6064, H6064–65. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 10:59 p.m.

Committee Meetings

FOREST LAND ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

Committee on Agriculture: Held a hearing to review the Forest Land Enhancement Program. Testimony was heard from Mark E. Rey, Under Secretary, Natural Resources and Environment, USDA; and public witnesses.

VA, HUD AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on VA, HUD and Independent Agencies approved for full Committee action the VA, HUD and Independent Agencies appropriations for fiscal year 2005.

DEPOT MAINTENANCE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Readiness held a hearing on Depot Maintenance—Capacity and Resources for Future Work. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: MG Mitchell Stevenson, USA., Deputy Chief of Staff, Logistics and Operations, U.S. Army Materiel Command, Department of the Army; the following officials of the Department of the Navy: RAD Mark A. Hugel, USN, Deputy Director, Fleet Readiness Division; and LTG Richard L. Kelly, USMC, Deputy Commandant, Installations and Logistics, U.S. Marine Corps; and LTG Donald J. Wetekam, USAF, Deputy Chief of Staff, Installations and Logistics, Department of the Air Force.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND PERSONNEL ISSUES

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Terrorism, Unconventional Threats and Capabilities held a hearing on Special Operations Command Personnel Issues. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: COL