

John A. Bradley, USAF, U.S. Air Force Reserves; LTG John W. Bergman, USMC, U.S. Marine Corps Reserves; MG Ronald Young, USA, Acting Director, U.S. National Guard Bureau Joint Staff; RADM Craig McDonald, USN, U.S. Navy Reserves; and RADM Sally Brice-O'Hara, USCG, U.S. Coast Guard Reserves, Department of Homeland Security.

#### LONG-TERM ACUTE CARE HOSPITALS

*Committee on Ways and Means:* Subcommittee on Health held a hearing on Long-Term Acute Care Hospitals. Testimony was heard from Herb B. Kuhn, Director, Center for Medicare Management, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services; Mark E. Miller, Executive Director, Medicare Payment Advisory Commission; and public witnesses.

#### UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT OVERSIGHT

*Committee on Ways and Means:* Subcommittee on Human Resources held a hearing Regarding New Research on Unemployment Benefit Recipients. Testimony was heard from Sigurd Nilsen, Director, Education, Workforce, and Income Security Issues, GAO.

### Joint Meetings

#### TAX RELIEF EXTENSION RECONCILIATION ACT

Conferees met to resolve the differences between the Senate and House passed versions of H.R. 4297, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 201(b) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006, but did not complete action thereon, and recessed subject to the call.

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#### NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D225)

H.R. 4515, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4422 West Sciota Street in Scio, New York, as the "Corporal Jason L. Dunham Post Office". Signed on March 14, 2006. (Public Law 109-180)

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#### COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2006

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

##### Senate

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2007 for the Forest Service, 9:30 a.m., SD-124.

Subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury, the Judiciary, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2007 for the Department of Transportation and Amtrak, 9:30 a.m., SD-138.

Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, to hold hearings to examine an overview of democracy programs, 2 p.m., SD-138.

*Committee on Armed Services:* to hold hearings to examine military strategy and operational requirements in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2007 and the future years defense program; to be followed by a closed session in SH-219, 8:30 a.m., SH-216.

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, to hold hearings to examine Global Strike Plans and programs in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2007, 3:30 p.m., SR-222.

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* Subcommittee on Disaster Prevention and Prediction, to hold hearings to examine impacts on aviation regarding volcanic hazards, 10:30 a.m., SD-562.

Full Committee, business meeting to consider pending calendar business, 3 p.m., S-128, Capitol.

*Committee on Environment and Public Works:* to hold hearings to examine the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration's strategy to restore and protect the Great Lakes, 10 a.m., SD-628.

*Committee on Finance:* Subcommittee on International Trade, to hold hearings to examine Cuno and competitiveness, 9:30 a.m., SD-215.

*Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:* to hold hearings to examine reauthorization of Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act relating to enhancing public health and medical preparedness, 10:30 a.m., SD-430.

*Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:* Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, and International Security, to hold hearings to examine understanding the obligation of Funds Transparency Act, focusing on the need for earmark reform and legislation that would be an important step toward achieving such reform, 9:30 a.m., SD-342.

*Committee on the Judiciary:* business meeting to consider the nominations of Patrick Joseph Schiltz, to be United States District Judge for the District of Minnesota, Norman Randy Smith, of Idaho, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, Steven G. Bradbury, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Attorney General, and John F. Clark, of Virginia, to be Director of the United States Marshals Service, both of the Department of Justice, David F. Kustoff, of Tennessee, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Tennessee, proposed comprehensive immigration reform, S. 1768, to permit the televising of Supreme Court proceedings, S. 829, to allow media coverage of court proceedings, S. 489, to amend chapter 111 of title 28, United States Code, to limit the duration of Federal consent decrees to which State and local governments are a party, S. 2039, to provide for loan repayment for prosecutors and public defenders, S. 2292, to provide relief for the Federal judiciary from excessive rent charges, S.J. Res. 1, proposing an

amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to marriage, and S. Res. 398, relating to the censure of George W. Bush, 9 a.m., SD-226. Subcommittee on Constitution, Civil Rights and Property Rights, business meeting to consider S.J. Res. 12, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States, 1:30 p.m., SD-226.

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs*, to hold hearings to examine the homeless programs administered by the VA, 10 a.m., SR-418.

### House

*Committee on Armed Services*, hearing on the Fiscal Year 2007 National Defense Authorization Budget Request for the U.S. Southern Command, 9 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, hearing on Fiscal Year 2007 National Defense Authorization Budget Request for space activities, 1 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces, hearing on the Fiscal Year 2007 National Defense Authorization Budget Request for the Department of the Navy and the Department of the Air Force Aviation Acquisition Programs, 2 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

*Committee on the Budget*, hearing on the Key Budget Process Reforms, 10 a.m., 210 Cannon.

*Committee on Education and the Workforce*, Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, hearing entitled "Mine Safety and Health: A Congressional Perspective," 10:30 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

*Committee on Energy and Commerce*, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled "Legislative Proposals To Promote Electronic Health Records and a Smarter Health Information System," 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

*Committee on Financial Services*, to mark up the following: H.R. 3997, Financial Data Protection Act of 2005; the Flood Insurance Modernization and Reform Act of 2006; H.R. 2990, Credit Rating Agency Duopoly Relief Act of 2005; and S. 2141, To make improvements to the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

*Committee on Government Reform*, hearing entitled "Leave No Computer System Behind: A Review of the 2006 Federal Computer Security Scorecards," 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

*Committee on Homeland Security*, Subcommittee on Economic Security, Infrastructure Protection, and Cybersecurity, to continue markup of H.R. 4439, Transportation Security Administration Reorganization Act of 2005, 10 a.m., followed by a hearing on H.R. 4954, Security and Accountability for Every Port Act, 10:30 a.m., 311 Cannon.

*Committee on International Relations*, hearing on the Status of Reform and Fraud Investigations at the United Nations, 10:30 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations, hearing on Monitoring Respect for Human Rights Around the World: A Review of the Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2005, 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

*Committee on the Judiciary*, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security, oversight hearing on United States v. Booker: One Year Later—Chaos or Status Quo? 10:30 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

*Committee on Resources*, hearing on H.R. 4857, To better inform consumers regarding costs associated with compliance for protecting endangered and threatened species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, 3 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, oversight hearing on the Department of the Interior and United States Forest Service Budgets for Fiscal Year 2007 Energy and Mineral Programs, 10 a.m., 1334 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Fisheries and Oceans, oversight hearing on the Impact of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita on the National Wildlife Refuge System, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Subcommittee on National Parks, oversight hearing entitled "National Park Service business strategies, including the development and implementation of National Park Service business plans," 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth

*Committee on Science*, Subcommittee on Environment, Technology, and Standards, hearing on EPA's Fiscal Year 2007 Science and Technology Budget Proposal, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

*Committee on Small Business*, Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform and Oversight, hearing on the State of Small Business Security in a Cyber Economy, 2 p.m., 2360 Rayburn.

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure*, Subcommittee on Highways, Transit and Pipelines, oversight hearing on Pipeline Safety, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs*, Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, oversight hearing on the accuracy of benefits information provided to, and the quality of service received by, individuals calling into the Veterans Benefits Administration, 2 p.m., 334 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Select Revenue Measures, hearing on the Use of Tax-Preferred Bond Financing, 10:30 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Social Security, to continue hearings on Social Security Number High-Risk Issues, 10 a.m., B-318 Rayburn.

*Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence*, executive, briefing on Global/Updates, 9 a.m., H-405 Capitol.

*Select Bipartisan Committee to Investigate the Preparation for and Response to Hurricane Katrina*, to consider the Select Committee's Supplemental Report and Document Annex, 1:15 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.