

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S8329–S8402

Measures Introduced: Sixteen bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3745–3760, and S. Res. 541–543. **Page S8377**

Measures Reported:

S. 2562, to increase, effective as of December 1, 2006, 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. Rept. No. 109–296)

S. 2694, to amend title 38, United States Code, to remove certain limitation on attorney representation of claimants for veterans benefits in administrative proceedings before the Department of Veterans Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 109–297) **Page S8377**

Measures Passed:

Spelman College Anniversary: Senate agreed to S. Res. 541, congratulating Spelman College on its 125th anniversary. **Pages S8395–97**

Permitting Photographs in Senate Daily Press Gallery: Senate agreed to S. Res. 543, temporarily suspending the Rules for the Regulation of the Senate Wing of the United States Capitol and Senate Office Buildings for the purpose of permitting the taking of photographs in the area of the Daily Press Gallery. **Page S8397**

Romania Adoption Ban: Senate agreed to S. Res. 359, concerning the Government of Romania's ban on intercountry adoptions and the welfare of orphaned or abandoned children in Romania. **Page S8397**

Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act: Senate began consideration of S. 3711, to enhance the energy independence and security of the United States by providing for exploration, development, and production activities for mineral resources in the Gulf of Mexico, after agreeing to the motion to proceed to its consideration, and taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S8329–64**

Pending:

Frist Amendment No. 4713, to establish an effective date. **Page S8334**

Frist Amendment No. 4714 (to Amendment No. 4713), to amend the effective date. **Page S8334**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the bill and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur on Monday, July 31, 2006. **Page S8334**

Treaty Approved: The following treaty having passed through its various parliamentary stages, up to and including the presentation of the resolution of ratification, upon division, two-thirds of the Senators present having voted in the affirmative, the resolution of ratification was agreed to:

Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty with Germany (Treaty Doc. 108–27). **Pages S8397–98**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Deborah Jean Johnson Rhodes, of Alabama, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Alabama for the term of four years.

Rodger A. Heaton, of Illinois, to be United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois for the term of four years.

1 Army nomination in the rank of general.

Routine lists in the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Public Health Service. **Pages S8400–02**

Messages From the House: **Page S8375**

Measures Referred: **Pages S8375–76**

Measures Placed on Calendar: **Page S8376**

Executive Communications: **Pages S8376–77**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S8377**

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Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S8378–82**

Additional Statements: **Page S8375**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S8382–93**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Pages S8393–95**

Privileges of the Floor: Page S8395

Recess: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m., and recessed at 7:26 p.m., until 10 a.m., on Friday, July 28, 2006. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S8398.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

TECHNICAL SERVICE PROVIDERS

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Subcommittee on Forestry, Conservation, and Rural Revitalization concluded an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Agriculture's use of technical service providers, to provide assistance to carry out conservation programs under Title II of the 2002 Farm Bill, after receiving testimony from Sara Braasch, Regional Assistant Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Department of Agriculture; David Goad, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Little Rock; James D. Chapin, Shasta Land Management Consultants, Redding, California, on behalf of the Association of Consulting Foresters of America; Gene Schmidt, Hanna, Indiana, on behalf of the National Association of Conservation Districts; and Doug Wolf, Lancaster, Wisconsin, on behalf of the National Pork Producers Council.

NOMINATION

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Lieutenant General James T. Conway, USMC, for appointment to the grade of general and to be Commandant of the Marine Corps, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senator Talent, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Nathaniel F. Wienecke, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce, Jay M. Cohen, of New York, to be Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Science and Technology, who was introduced by Senators Domenici and Reed, Sean T. Connaughton, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Maritime Administration, and Charles D. Nottingham, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board, both of the Department of Transportation, both introduced by Senators Warner and Allen and Representative Tom Davis, and Robert L. Sumwalt III, of South Carolina, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board, who was introduced by Senator DeMint, after

the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

WATER BILLS

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Water and Power concluded a hearing to examine S. 3638, to encourage the Secretary of the Interior to participate in projects to plan, design, and construct water supply projects and to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to encourage the design, planning, and construction of projects to treat impaired surface water, reclaim and reuse impaired groundwater, and provide brine disposal in the State of California, S. 3639, to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to provide standards and procedures for the review of water reclamation and reuse projects, H.R. 177, to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Prado Basin Natural Treatment System Project, to authorize the Secretary to carry out a program to assist agencies in projects to construct regional brine lines in California, to authorize the Secretary to participate in the Lower Chino Dairy Area desalination demonstration and reclamation project, H.R. 2341, to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the design, planning, and construction of a project to reclaim and reuse wastewater within and outside of the service area of the City of Austin Water and Wastewater Utility, Texas, and H.R. 3418, to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Central Texas Water Recycling and Reuse Project, after receiving testimony from Representative Dreier; Larry Todd, Deputy Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation, Department of the Interior; P. Joseph Grindstaff, CALFED Bay-Delta Program, Sacramento, California; Chris Lippe, City of Austin Water Utility, Austin, Texas; Richard Atwater, Inland Empire Utilities Agency, Alexandria, Virginia, on behalf of the WateReuse Association; and J. Tom Ray, Central Texas Water Recycling Project, Waco.

STAFFORD ACT

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a hearing to examine a path forward for the nation's emergency preparedness and response system relating to the Stafford Act, after receiving testimony from Robert F. Shea, Acting Director of Operations, Federal Emergency Management Agency, and Corey Gruber, Acting Executive Director, National Preparedness Task Force, both of