



H.RES. 1275 – HONORING THE LIFE OF TIMOTHY JOHN RUSSERT, JR., PUBLIC SERVANT, POLITICAL ANALYST AND AUTHOR

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 1275 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Brian Higgins (D-NY) on June 17, 2008. The resolution was referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, but was never considered.

H.Res. 1275 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on June 17, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.Res. 1275 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- Recognizes and honors the contributions of Timothy John Russert, Jr., as an award-winning political analyst; and
- Expresses its deepest condolences upon the death of Timothy John Russert, Jr., to his wife, Maureen Orth, his son, Luke, and his surviving family members and friends.

BACKGROUND

Tim Russert was born May 7, 1950 in Buffalo, New York. He attended John Carroll University and later the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law. Mr. Russert was a member of the bar in both New York and Washington, D.C. He earned 48 honorary doctoral degrees over his lifetime.

Mr. Russert worked in politics after graduating from law school, working on the Senate campaign of Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-NY) in 1976 and on Mario Cuomo's campaign for Governor of New York in 1982. He decided to work for NBC News in 1984 and supervised NBC's TODAY show from Rome in 1985. While supervising the TODAY show, Mr. Russert negotiated the first televised appearance of a Pope on American television with Pope John Paul II's appearance on the TODAY show. Mr. Russert led NBC News' weeklong broadcasts from South America, Australia, and China from 1986 to 1987.

He was the NBC News Washington bureau chief and vice president, orchestrating the NBC network's coverage of government and political news. Starting in 1991, Mr. Russert served as moderator of the political talk show *Meet the Press*, which is broadcast on Sunday mornings. *Meet the Press* began airing in 1947 and is the longest running program in the history of television. He was also a two-time New York Times best-selling author, writing about his strong relationship with his father in *Big Russ and Me* in 2004 and *Wisdom of Our Fathers* in 2006. Earlier this year, *Time* magazine listed Mr. Russert as one of the 100 most influential people in the world.

While preparing for a recording of *Meet the Press*, Tim Russert died of a sudden heart attack on June 13, 2008. Mr. Russert is survived by his wife Maureen and his son, Luke.

From a statement released by President Bush: "As the longest-serving host of the longest-running program in the history of television, he was an institution in both news and politics for more than two decades. Tim was a tough and hardworking newsman. He was always well-informed and thorough in his interviews. And he was as gregarious off the set as he was prepared on it."

STAFF CONTACT

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