



## H.Res. 1287– Commending the Honor Flight Network, its volunteers, and donors, for enabling World War II veterans to travel to our Nation's capital to see the World War II Memorial created in their honor

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### FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 1287 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 Jerry Moran (R-KS) on June 19, 2008. The resolution was referred to the Committee on Veterans Affairs, but was never considered.

H.Res. 1287 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 22, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

H.Res. 1287 resolves that the House of Representatives expresses its deepest appreciation to the Honor Flight Network, its volunteers, and donors, who honor America's World War II veterans with an opportunity to see the World War II Memorial in Washington, District of Columbia.

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### BACKGROUND

In 2004, the World War II Memorial was completed on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., almost sixty years after that conflict ended. The monument honors the service, sacrifice, and victory of American veterans of World War II. Most of these veterans are in their 80s and 90s and as such are unable to physically or financially travel unaccompanied to the World War II Memorial.

The Honor Flight Network is a nonprofit organization which provides free, all-expenses paid trips to Washington, D.C. for World War II veterans. Currently, about 6,000 veterans are on the group's waiting list. Among applicants, top priority is given to veterans with terminal illness. An estimated 2.5 million World War II veterans are alive today.

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### STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Adam Hepburn at 6-2302.



## H.R. 6897 – Filipino Veterans Equity Act of 2008

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### FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 6897 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 Bob Filner (D-CA) on September 15, 2008. The bill was referred to the Committee on Veterans Affairs, but was never considered.

H.R. 6897 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 22, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

H.R. 6897 establishes within the U.S. Treasury a Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund, the funds of which will be available to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Within one year of enactment, the Secretary must make a payment to any person who served in the Filipino armed forces under American control before July 1, 1946, or in the Philippine Scouts pursuant to the Armed Forces Voluntary Recruitment Act of 1945. Payments will be in the amount of \$15,000 for U.S. citizens and \$9,000 for eligible non-citizens.

This bill requires the Secretary to report to Congress annually on the compensation fund. H.R. 6897 also authorizes the appropriation of \$198 million for the purposes of the Act.

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### BACKGROUND

During World War II, Filipinos served in diverse military units, some of which were under the direct control of the U.S. Armed Forces. On July 26, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed an Executive Order which called over 100,000 members of the Philippine Commonwealth Army under direct U.S. military control. The Philippines became a possession of the United States in 1898 as a result of the Spanish-American War.

Under current law, certain Filipino veterans receive reduced benefits and depending on where they reside often are paid benefits at reduced rates. These benefits include service-connected compensation benefits, survivor benefits, and burial benefits. Additionally, dependents' educational assistance is paid at \$.50 per dollar authorized, regardless of the veterans' residency. Since 1993, several bills have been introduced in Congress to restore full benefits for Filipino veterans.

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### COST

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has not produced a cost estimate for this legislation as of September 19, 2008.

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### STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Adam Hepburn at 6-2302.



## S. 1315 – Veterans’ Benefits Enhancement Act of 2007

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### FLOOR SITUATION

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S. 1315 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 Senator Daniel Akaka (D-HI) on May 7, 2007. S. 1315 passed the Senate by a vote of 96 to 1 on April 24, 2008.

S. 1315, as amended, is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 22, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

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Servicemembers Group Life Insurance: The bill expands servicemembers’ group life insurance to include certain members of the Individual Ready Reserve.

Traumatic Injury Protection Coverage: The bill allows servicemembers to designate a fiduciary for traumatic injury protection coverage in the event they become mentally incapacitated or experience an extended loss of consciousness.

*\*Note: Currently, servicemembers are encouraged to designate a Power of Attorney when they enlist. If one is not designated and a servicemember becomes mentally incapacitated, he or she is unable to file a claim on their coverage.*

Home Improvements for Totally Disabled Members of the Armed Forces: S. 1315 allows the Secretary to furnish improvements and structural alterations to the home of a totally disabled member of the Armed Forces prior to their discharge or release from the Armed Forces.

*\*Note: Under current law, the Department of Veterans Affairs can provide up to \$4,100 for home improvements and structural alterations to the homes of permanently service-connected disabled veterans. However, there are a large number of servicemembers returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan who have been designated as totally disabled, but because of their ongoing treatment have not been discharged from the Armed Forces and are not yet veterans.*

Coordination of Approval Activities of Education Benefits: The bill requires the Secretary to reduce overlap and improve the efficiency of approval activities for education programs with the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Education. It also requires the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to report to Congress on the actions taken to establish outcome-oriented performance standards for State approving agencies within 120 days of enactment.

Recall of Retired Judges: S. 1315 modifies the payment retired judges performing recall service receive by repealing the limit on service for judges who voluntarily serve more than 90 days.

Reports on Court Matters: The bill requires the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims to provide Congress with an annual report regarding the type and number of cases heard by the court. Separately, the bill requires the General Services Administration to conduct a study on the feasibility of expanding the facilities of the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

Termination of Cellular Phone Contracts: S. 1315 allows a servicemember who receives orders to deploy outside of the continental United States for not less than 90 days to request the termination or suspension of any cellular phone service contract without incurring an early termination fee.

Study: The bill requires the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies to conduct a comprehensive epidemiological study for purposes of identifying any increased risk of developing multiple sclerosis as a



result of service in the Armed Forces during the Persian Gulf War in the Southwest Asia theater of operations or in the Post 9/11 Global Operations theaters.

Report: The bill requires the Comptroller General of the United States to submit a report to the relevant Congressional committees on the adequacy of dependency and indemnity compensation to surviving spouses and dependents of veterans who die as a result of a service-connected disability in replacing the deceased veterans' income.

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#### BACKGROUND

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According to the VA, there were over 24 million veterans in America in 2007, with over 3.58 million veterans and survivors receiving compensation and benefits under programs administered by the VA for 2006. This included more than 2.7 million veterans receiving service-related disability benefits and over 325,000 surviving relatives receiving service connected benefits.

More than 1,600,000 members of the Armed Forces of the United States have been deployed in Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom since September 2001. More than 30,000 soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines have been wounded in battle.

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#### COST

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Preliminary cost estimates from the Congressional Budget Office estimate that S. 1315 would increase discretionary spending by \$6 million over five years.

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#### STAFF CONTACT

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For questions or further information contact Brianne Miller at 6-2302.



## H.R. 160 – Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Battlefield Protection Act

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### FLOOR SITUATION

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H.R. 160 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 Rush Holt (D-NJ) on January 4, 2007. The bill was reported, as amended, by voice vote on July 29, 2008.

H.R. 160 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 22, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

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Grant Program: H.R. 160 establishes a battlefield acquisition grant program for nationally significant battlefields and associated sites of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. The program will be administered by the Secretary of the Interior and provide grants to state and local governments for the preservation of eligible sites.

Reports: The bill requires the Secretary to submit a report to Congress on the activities carried out under the grant program within five years. It also requires the Secretary to update the report to Congress on the preservation activities carried out at the 677 battlefields and associated sites, changes in their condition, and other relevant developments to the battlefields and associated sites within three years of the date of enactment.

Authorization: The bill authorizes \$10 million for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2013 from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for the grant program. In addition, the bill authorizes \$500,000 for the update of the battlefield report.

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### BACKGROUND

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The American Battlefield Act of 1996 established the American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP), which promotes the protection, restoration, and awareness of historically significant American battlefields. The ABPP is administered by the National Park Service and requires matching funds from private donors. Eligibility for the program is currently limited to Civil War battlefields.

In 1996, Congress authorized a study to identify Revolutionary War and War of 1812 battlefields and related sites. In 2007, the National Park Service reported to Congress that they had documented 677 significant places associated with the two wars, which includes 243 battlefields and 434 associated historic properties in 31 states, the District of Columbia, and the United States Virgin Islands. The study also found that 170 of these historical sites are at risk of injury or destruction in the next decade.

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### COST

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According to the Congressional Budget Office, "Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that the NPS would spend \$42 million over the 2009-2013 period (and \$8 million after 2013) to provide grants to state or local governments for land purchases. Enacting H.R. 160 would not affect revenues or direct spending." ([CBO Cost Estimate](#))

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### ADDITIONAL VIEWS

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Representative Rob Bishop (R-UT) from the Additional Views of the Committee Report: "In earlier battlefield protection efforts, the National Park Service used their eminent domain powers to seize land from unwilling sellers and the justified resentment this caused hurt to subsequent efforts. Our



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enthusiasm for battlefield protection not-with-standing, I hope that as we set to preserve historic sites, we emulate George Washington, not George the Third.”

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#### STAFF CONTACT

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For questions or further information contact Brianne Miller at 6-2302.



## H.R. 2933 – Civil War Battlefield Preservation Act of 2008

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### FLOOR SITUATION

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H.R. 2933 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 Gary Miller (R-CA) on June 28, 2007. The bill was reported, as amended, by voice vote on July 29, 2008.

H.R. 2933 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 15, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

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H.R. 2933 extends the authorization of the American Battlefield Protection Act of 1996 through 2013. The bill authorizes \$10 million for each of the fiscal years 2009 through 2013.

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### BACKGROUND

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The American Battlefield Act of 1996 established the American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP), which promotes the protection, restoration, and awareness of historically significant American battlefields. The ABPP is administered by the National Park Service and requires matching funds from private donors. Eligibility for the program is currently limited to Civil War battlefields.

According to the National Park Service, this grant program has assisted in the permanent protection of 13,906 acres at 54 Civil War battlefields in 14 states. Authorization for the program expires September 30, 2008.

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### COST

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According to the Congressional Budget Office, "Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that the National Park Service would spend \$42 million over the 2009-2013 period (and \$8 million in later years) to carry out this grant program. The legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues." ([CBO Cost Estimate](#))

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### ADDITIONAL VIEWS

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Representative Rob Bishop (R-UT) in the Additional Views of the Committee Report: "it would be tragic if we allow our well-meaning enthusiasm for protecting historic sites to result in programs that diminish the property rights of our fellow citizens. This bill has two important safeguards. There is a 'willing seller' provision – and we need to make sure the seller's willingness is un-coerced – and there is a sunset provision on the program's funding authorization. The bill's sponsors are to be commended for including these safeguards."

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### STAFF CONTACT

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For questions or further information contact Brianne Miller at 6-2302.



## H.R. 4828 – Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park Boundary Expansion and Redesignation Act of 2008

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### FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 4828 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 Solomon Ortiz (D-TX) on December 18, 2007. The House Committee on Natural Resources agreed to the bill, as amended, by unanimous consent on July 16, 2008.

H.R. 4828 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 22, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

H.R. 4828 redesignates the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site, located in Texas, as the 'Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park.'

Additionally, the bill designates thirty-four acres of the Resaca de la Palma State Park as an additional unit of the Palo Alto National Historical Park.

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### BACKGROUND

The Palo Alto battlefield is the site of the May 8, 1846 battle of Palo Alto, which was an important battle of the U.S.-Mexico War. Palo Alto is a low-lying, coastal prairie about ten miles north of the Rio Grande River. Here, General Zachary Taylor and his army of 2,300 U.S. soldiers met General Mariano Arista's 3,200 men, ensuing in a four-hour heavy-artillery battle. The U.S. emerged victorious in the battle, with Mexican casualties at 102 killed, 129 wounded, and 26 missing. U.S. casualties were 9 killed, 44 wounded, and 2 missing. Victory in this battle allowed the U.S. to advance their military campaign significantly, and drive Mexican forces further south.

Today, the Park offers a one-mile round trip trail walk which gives an educational overlook of the battlefield. Admission to the battlefield and connected visitor center is free of charge.

[Palo Alto Battlefield – National Park Service website](#)

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### COST

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that implementing H.R. 4828 'would cost \$1.2 million over the 2009-2013 period. Of that amount, CBO estimates that about \$400,000 would be used to construct trails, a parking lot, and other visitor facilities on the 34-acre parcel to be added to the park, which CBO expects would remain in nonfederal ownership. The remaining amounts (\$200,000 annually beginning in 2010) would be used to operate the site under a cooperative agreement with the Brownsville Community Foundation, which owns the property. Enacting H.R. 4828 would not affect revenues or direct spending.' [CBO cost estimate for H.R. 4828](#)

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### STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Justin Hanson at 6-2302.



## H.R. 5853 – Minute Man National Historical Park Boundary Revision Act

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### FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 5853 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 Niki Tsongas (D-MA) on April 17, 2008. The House Committee on Natural Resources agreed to the bill, by voice vote, on July 23, 2008.

H.R. 5853 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 22, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

H.R. 5853 expands the boundary of the Minute Man National Historical Park, located in Massachusetts, to include the 67 acres of historic Colonial James Barrett's Farm.

Additionally, the bill allows the Secretary of the Interior to acquire the lands by purchase from a willing seller, by donation, or through exchange.

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### BACKGROUND

Located in Concord, Massachusetts, Barrett's Farm is the former home of Colonial James Barrett, who was the commander of the Middlesex militia during the Revolutionary War. It was at Barrett's Farm where the "shot heard 'round the world" was fired, marking the beginning of the Revolutionary War. The famous shot was fired after the British military marched from Boston to seize the Revolutionary Army's munitions held at the Farm.

The Minute Man National Park allows visitors to visit the first battlefields of the Revolutionary War near Concord, Massachusetts. [Minute Man National Park – National park Service Website](#)

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### COST

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that 'implementing the legislation would cost \$2.5 million over the 2009-2013 period.' [CBO cost estimate for H.R. 5853](#)

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### STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Justin Hanson at 6-2302.



## H.R. 6176 – To authorize the expansion of the Fort Davis National Historic Site in Fort Davis, Texas, and for other purposes

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### FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 6176 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 Ciro Rodriguez (D-TX) on June 4, 2008. The Committee on Natural Resources ordered the bill to be reported, as amended, by unanimous consent on July 16, 2008.

H.R. 6176 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 22, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

H.R. 6176 authorizes the Secretary of Interior to acquire from willing sellers land comprising approximately 55 acres, as depicted on the map titled 'Fort Davis Proposed Boundary Expansion'. Upon acquisition of the land, these acres will be incorporated into the Fort Davis National Historic Site in Texas.

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### BACKGROUND

The Fort Davis National Historic Site in west Texas was authorized by Congress in 1971. The fort is named for former Secretary of War Jefferson Davis, and was operational from 1854-1891. Fort Davis was strategically located to protect emigrants, mail coaches, and freight wagons on the Trans-Pecos portion of the San Antonio-El Paso Road and on the Chihuahua Trail.

The purpose of the proposed expansion is to protect the rural backdrop behind portions of the fort in order to preserve the view of the fort as it appeared in the nineteenth century. Fort Davis is administered by the National Park Service, a component of the Department of Interior.

[U.S. National Park Service – Fort Davis](#)

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### COST

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that implementing H.R. 6176 "would cost about \$1 million over the next two years." [Full CBO Cost Estimate](#)

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### STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Adam Hepburn at 6-2302.



## H.R. 6159 – Deafy Glade Land Exchange Act

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### FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 6159 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 George Miller (D-CA) on May 22, 2008. The Committee on Natural Resources ordered the bill to be reported, as amended, by voice vote on July 23, 2008.

H.R. 6159 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 22, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

H.R. 6159 authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to exchange 82 acres of Federal land in the Mendocino National Forest for 160 acres of land currently owned by Solano County, California. The bill requires Solano County to pay \$6,000 annually to the Forest Service for ten years after enactment, as well as administrative costs for the land exchange.

The bill also authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to sell or exchange property currently operated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to the City of Norfolk, Virginia, if the Secretary determines that the conveyance is in the best interests of NOAA and the Federal Government and provides prior notification to the relevant Congressional committees. In addition, the bill requires that the Federal Government receive no less than fair market value for the NOAA property.

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### BACKGROUND

This legislation will transfer 82 acres to Solano County, California which the county currently leases from the Federal government to run the Fouts Springs youth correctional program. In exchange, Solano County will transfer 160 acres of nearby land, known as Deafy Glade, to the U.S. Forest Service to become part of the Mendocino National Forest.

The Mendocino National Forest straddles the eastern spur of the Coastal Mountain Range in northwestern California. Some 65 miles long and 35 miles wide, the Forest includes 913,306 acres of mountains and canyons utilized for camping, hiking, backpacking, boating, fishing, hunting, and nature study.

#### [U.S. Forest Service – Mendocino National Forest](#)

The City of Norfolk, Virginia, has expressed interest in acquiring property currently owned and operated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The property includes a 700 square foot office building that houses NOAA's National Geodetic Survey Norfolk Field Operations office and consists of 3.78 acres. It was purchased by the Federal Government in 1970 to support NOAA's Marine Operations Center-Atlantic.

NOAA has been contacted about this property several times in the past by both public-private ventures and the City of Norfolk about acquiring the property. However, according to NOAA testimony given before the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Oceans on April 24, 2008, "NOAA has a continuing mission that is being served at this location. The property is not excess property; and NOAA has no other property in its inventory that can meet the current NOAA mission requirements supported at this site."

NOAA and the City of Norfolk have agreed to a framework for the future sale, conveyance, or exchange of properties, which is embodied in this legislation. The bill does not mandate that the sale, conveyance, or exchange take place.



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## COST

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that implementing H.R. 6159 "would increase net direct spending by \$15,000 over the next 10 years." [Full CBO Cost Estimate](#)

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## STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Adam Hepburn at 6-2302.



## H.R. 5335 – Trail of Tears Documentation Act

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### FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 5335 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 Zach Wamp (R-TN) on February 8, 2008. The House Committee on Natural Resources agreed to the bill, as amended, by voice vote on July 23, 2008.

H.R. 5335 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 22, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

H.R. 5335 adds approximately 2,900 miles of trail and water routes to the existing Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. The additional trail components will consist of water routes in Alabama, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Tennessee, as well as trails in Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee. With the addition of these trails and water routes, the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail will span about 5,300 miles in length.

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### BACKGROUND

With the passage of the Indian Removal Act of 1830, the U.S. Government forcibly removed over 16,000 Cherokee Indians from their settled homelands east of the Mississippi River in Tennessee, Alabama, North Carolina, and Georgia. The Cherokee were forced to resettle in present day Oklahoma. The migration west claimed thousands of Cherokee lives as a result of illness, exposure to the elements, and exhaustion. The route traveled by the Cherokee in their resettlement west of the Mississippi became known as the Trail of Tears.

In 1987, Congress designated over 2,400 miles of the original Trail of Tears to commemorate the Cherokee lives lost over the course of the removal. H.R. 5335 would add 2,900 new miles of the side routes traveled by the Cherokee during the removal to the originally designated Trail of Tears.

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### COST

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that "implementing the bill would cost about \$300,000 a year beginning in fiscal year 2009." [CBO cost estimate for H.R. 5335](#)

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### STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Justin Hanson at 6-2302.



## H.R. 3336 – Camp Hale Study Act

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### FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 3336 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 Doug Lamborn (R-CO) on August 2, 2007. The House Natural Resources Committee agreed to the bill, as amended, by unanimous consent on July 29, 2008.

H.R. 3336 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 22, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

H.R. 3336 directs the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a resource study of Camp Hale, located in Colorado, to determine the feasibility of designating the Camp as a separate unit of the National Park System. The study is to have no effect on any existing local, State, or Federal water rights. The Secretary is required to report to Congress on the results of the study within three years of funds being made available to carry out H.R. 3336.

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### BACKGROUND

Camp Hale was established as a winter and mountain warfare training ground during World War II. The Camp is located in west-central Colorado, and provides trainees with several natural terrains which include large, flat valley bottoms surrounded by steep hillsides ideal for training in combat skiing, rock climbing, and cold climate survival. In addition to soldier training, the Army has used the Camp to test a variety of weapons and equipment and the Central Intelligence Agency used the Camp for covert training operations. As a result of the weapons testing conducted at the Camp, potentially hazardous munitions have been left in areas of Camp Hale. Today, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is working to safely remove and clean up these materials.

In 1966, Camp Hale was deactivated from military training use and control of the land was turned over to the Forest Service. In 1992, Camp Hale was placed on the National Register of Historic Places and is currently part of the White River and San Isabel National Forests. [Camp Hale website](#)

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### COST

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that “conducting the required study would cost less than \$500,000 over the next three years.” [CBO cost estimate for H.R. 3336](#)

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### STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Justin Hanson at 6-2302.



## H.R. 3849 – Box Elder Utah Land Conveyance Act

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### FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 3849 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 Rob Bishop (R-UT) on October 16, 2007. The House Committee on Natural Resources agreed to the bill, as amended, by unanimous consent on July 16, 2008.

H.R. 3849 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 22, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

H.R. 3849 directs the Secretary of Agriculture to convey 31.5 acres of National Forest System land in Wasatch-Cache National Forest in Box Elder County, Utah to the city of Mantua, Utah.

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### BACKGROUND

In 1941, the U.S. Forest Service purchased a tract of land, which includes the parcels conveyed in this legislation, from the family of Hans Rasmussen, an early settler of the area, for \$1.00. The City of Mantua has asked for the 31.5 acres of land from the Wasatch-Cache National Forest in Utah to be conveyed in order for them to develop a new city cemetery, a new town hall and fire station, an elementary school, court and law enforcement facilities, and a memorial park.

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### COST

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that “implementing H.R. 3849 would have no significant effect on discretionary spending and no effect on direct spending or revenues.”

[CBO cost estimate for H.R. 3849](#)

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### STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Justin Hanson at 6-2302.



## H.R. 3229 – National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center Commemorative Coin Act

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### FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 3229 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 Lynn Westmoreland (R-GA) on July 30, 2007. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Financial Services, but was never considered.

H.R. 3229 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 22, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

H.R. 3229 authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to mint and issue silver \$1 coins commemorating the United States Infantry for issue in 2012. The bill allows for no more than 350,000 of these coins to be minted. Surcharges on the sale of these coins are to go to the National Infantry Foundation to establish an endowment to support the maintenance of the National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center once the museums have been completed.

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### BACKGROUND

The National Infantry Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation formed in 1998 to help fund the construction and operation of a new National Infantry Museum. Current plans would place the new Museum on a 200 acre site just inside the main entrance of Fort Benning in Georgia. The Museum will include artifacts, films, and narratives, as well as interactive exhibits intending to relate stories and experiences from the soldiers of the United States Infantry.

Public admission to the Museum will be free and the Foundation seeks to raise \$70 million to create the Museum. The Museum campus will hold a museum building, a storage and recreation facility, a parade field, and a memorial walk. Funding sources for the operation of the Museum will come from the Museum's shop and café sales, theatre ticket sales, and donations. Currently, the Foundation is unsure of a completion date for the Museum.

[National Infantry Foundation](#)

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### COST

The Congressional Budget Office did not have a cost estimate available for H.R. 3229 as of September 21, 2008.

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### STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Justin Hanson at (202) 226-2302.



## H.Res. 1374 – Commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Grand Coulee Dam and recognizing its critical role in the national and economic security of the United States and the contributions of hydroelectric power to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions

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### FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 1374 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 Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA) on July 24, 2008. The resolution was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, but was never considered.

H.Res. 1374 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 22, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

H.Res. 1374 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- Commemorates the 75th anniversary of the Grand Coulee Dam;
- Honors the sacrifice of the 107 individuals who lost their lives during the construction of the Grand Coulee Dam; and
- Recognizes that--
  - the Grand Coulee Dam continues to play a critical role in the national and economic security of the United States by providing vital electric power and crop irrigation;
  - hydroelectric power is a clean, renewable resource that is emissions-free and plays a major role in controlling emissions of greenhouse gases; and
  - having clean, affordable hydroelectric power helps reduce the reliance of the United States on foreign oil imports and supports the successful wind power industry in the Northwestern United States by ensuring the availability of electricity in the absence of sufficient wind power.

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### BACKGROUND

The Grand Coulee Dam in Washington State is the largest hydroelectric power facility in North America. Construction of the Grand Coulee Dam began in 1933 as part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's 'New Deal' response to the Great Depression. The dam was completed in 1942, and 107 workers were killed during the construction process. During World War II, electricity from the Grand Coulee Dam was used in aluminum plants which manufactured ships and planes for the war effort.

The Grand Coulee Dam, on the Columbia River, is almost a mile long. Today, the dam supplies irrigation water in the Columbia Basin, generates 6.5 million kilowatts of electricity, and serves a flood control purpose in the Columbia River Basin. The dam is maintained by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

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### STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Adam Hepburn at 6-2302.



## **H.R. 6685 – To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide an annual grant to facilitate an iron working training program for Native Americans**

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### FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 6685 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 Stephen Lynch (D-MA) on July 31, 2008. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources, but was never considered.

H.R. 6685 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 22, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

H.R. 6685 directs the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Indian Affairs, to provide an annual grant to programs that offer iron working training to members of federally recognized Indian tribes. Training programs receiving funding under this legislation must: 1) provide specialized training in iron working skills to adult members of federally recognized Indian tribes; 2) provide classroom and on-the-job training; and 3) facilitate job placement for participants upon successful completion of the requirements of the program.

For a program to be eligible for funding under H.R. 6685, a program must have proven experience in providing successful iron working training programs to Native American populations and have the facilities necessary to carry out such a program with a grant provided through this bill.

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### BACKGROUND

The National Ironworkers Training Program for American Indians provides an eleven-week iron working training program to Native Americans. After completion of training, program participants are provided with direct entry into a Union Ironworker Apprenticeship Program, as well as insurance and pension.

Applicants to the program must be a member of a Federally recognized tribe and at least 18 years old. Applicants must possess either a high school degree or a General Equivalency Development and be able to begin working within six months.

[The National Ironworkers Training Program for American Indians website](#)

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### COST

The Congressional Budget Office did not have a cost estimate available for H.R. 6685 as of September 17, 2008.

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### STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Justin Hanson at 6-2302.



## H.R. 1907 – Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program Act

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### FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 1907 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 Jim Saxton (R-NJ) on April 18, 2007. The Committee on Natural Resources ordered the bill to be reported, as amended, by voice vote on June 25, 2008.

H.R. 1907 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 22, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program: H.R. 1907 directs the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to establish a program to protect land near coastal areas and estuaries. Under the program, NOAA would make competitive grants to coastal states that wish to purchase eligible lands or other property interests. Grant awards will be based on demonstrated need for protection, and the ability to leverage funds from Federal, regional, State, and other sources. Lands may only be purchased through this program from willing sellers. Federal grant funds must be matched at 100 percent, unless this requirement is waived by the Secretary of Interior.

The bill authorizes the appropriation of \$60 million for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2013.

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### BACKGROUND

Many coastal areas in the United States face increasing environmental pressures due to population growth and related development. Over half of the nation's population lives in coastal counties, though these areas only account for 17 percent of land in the U.S. Population growth and associated development lead to higher levels of solid waste production, more urban and suburban run-off, loss of green space and wildlife habitat, as well as less drinkable water supply.

Congress established the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) as part of the Commerce, Justice, and State Appropriations Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-77). This program, administered by NOAA, provides matching grants for the purchase of coastal property by state coastal management agencies and local governments. This program has spent around \$200 million supporting 150 projects between 2002 and 2007, protecting over 35,000 acres of land. Although CELCP has been reauthorized in subsequent appropriations bills, it risks cancellation without the formal statutory authorization provided in this bill.

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### COST

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that implementing H.R. 1907 “would cost \$240 million over the 2009-2013 period and \$60 million after 2013.” [Full CBO Cost Estimate](#)

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### STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Adam Hepburn at 6-2302.



## S.J.Res. 45 - Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact

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### FLOOR SITUATION

S.J.Res. 45 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 Senator Carl Levin (D-MI) on July 23, 2008. The Senate passed the bill by unanimous consent on August 1, 2008. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Judiciary, but was never considered.

S.J.Res. 45 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 22, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

S.J.Res. 45 resolves that Congress consents to and approves the interstate compact known as the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact. The Compact will be governed by a Council consisting of the Governors of states included in the agreement. The Council will develop plans and policies regarding Basin Water resources, and this legislation grants certain powers to the Council. These powers include conducting scientific research and the ability to sell property.

Under this legislation, each State party to the Compact must report to the Council every 5 years on its water management, conservation, and efficiency programs. S.J.Res. 45 also establishes water management and regulation policies for the States affected by the Compact.

S.J.Res. 45 establishes certain dispute resolution and enforcement measures regarding compliance with the Compact. All meetings, public hearings, and records of the Council will be open to the public. The legislation also specifies that federally recognized Tribes will be consulted and notified regarding the Compact's actions and policies.

This legislation states that the Compact will become effective when ratified by the state legislatures of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania. The Compact may be terminated at any time by a majority of the parties to the agreement.

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### BACKGROUND

The waters in the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Basin are interconnected and part of a single water system. These waters are simultaneously used for agriculture, energy development, recreation, and industrial applications. States and Canadian provinces bordering the Basin are concerned about potential future water diversions and consumption. It is believed that uncoordinated water usage would have a negative economic impact in the region.

The Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact is an interstate agreement which intends to avoid controversies, promote cooperative water resources planning and science, as well as to facilitate data exchange, among other purposes. On December 13, 2005, the Great Lakes Governors and Premiers signed agreements at the Council of Great Lakes Governors' (CGLG) Leadership Summit, including the Compact. On July 9, 2008, the Great Lakes states completed ratification of the Compact. In order to become law, Congress must consent to the agreement

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### COST

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has not produced a cost estimate for S.J.Res. 45 as of September 20, 2008.

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### STAFF CONTACT

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## H.R. 5352 – Elder Abuse Victims Act of 2008

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### FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 5352 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 Joe Sestak (D-PA) on February 21, 2008. The Committee on Judiciary ordered the bill to be reported, as amended, by voice vote on June 11, 2008.

H.R. 5352 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 22, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

H.R. 5352 requires the Department of Justice to hire staff to work on elder justice issues and directs the Department of Health and Human Services to hire personnel to investigate cases of elder care neglect. The bill authorizes \$3 million in 2009, as well as \$4 million annually from 2010-2015 for these purposes.

The bill also establishes Department of Justice grant programs to assist state and local prosecutors, law enforcement, and victim advocacy groups which deal with elder abuse issues. The victims advocacy grants are authorized at \$3 million per year from 2009-2015. The bill authorizes \$6 million annually from 2009-2015 for local prosecutor grants and \$8 million per year between 2009-2015 for state prosecutor grants. Finally, this legislation authorizes \$6 million in 2009 and \$8 million per year from 2010-2015 for local law enforcement grants.

H.R. 5352 creates an Elder Justice Coordinating Council and an Advisory Board on Elder Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation. The Council and Advisory must report to Congress with various recommendations regarding elder abuse. The bill also establishes a Department of Justice grant program to fund local governments and nonprofit organizations which protect and locate missing persons with Alzheimer's disease or dementia.

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### BACKGROUND

The Department of Health and Human Services operates a National Center of Elder Abuse which coordinates efforts to combat elder abuse, exploitation, and neglect. This center was created by the Older Americans Amendments Act in 1992. National Center of Elder Abuse awards grants to carry out its goals and recent grant recipients include the National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse and the University of Delaware.

According to the Department of Health and Human Services, between 1-2 million Americans over the age of 65 have been injured, mistreated, or exploited by a caregiver. Data suggest that only 1 in 14 incidents are brought to the attention of authorities. The elderly are also vulnerable to financial exploitation, and estimates indicate there are around five million elderly victims of financial abuse each year.

[National Center on Elder Abuse](#)

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### COST

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that implementing H.R. 5352 "would cost \$173 million over the 2009-2013 period, with remaining amounts spent in subsequent years."

[Full CBO Cost Estimate](#)

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### STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Adam Hepburn at 6-2302.



## H.R. 6853 – Nationwide Mortgage Fraud Task Force Act

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### FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 6853 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 Kendrick Meek (D-FL) on September 9, 2007. The bill was referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary, but was never considered.

H.R. 6853 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 22, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

H.R. 6853 establishes the Nationwide Mortgage Fraud Task Force in the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). It requires regional branches of the task force to be placed by the Director of the FBI in the ten states with the highest concentration of mortgage fraud.

The task force is responsible for establishing coordinating entities and soliciting voluntary participation of Federal, State, and local law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies to organize initiatives to combat mortgage fraud and provide training to these entities. In addition, they must collect and disseminate data regarding mortgage fraud investigations and prosecutions.

The bill requires the task force to establish a toll-free hotline for reporting mortgage fraud and for providing the public with information with respect to mortgage fraud and to create a database of suspensions and revocations of mortgage industry licenses and certifications.

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### BACKGROUND

The FBI defines mortgage fraud as the intentional misstatement, misrepresentation, or omission by an applicant, relied on by a lender or underwriter to provide funding for, to purchase, or insure a mortgage loan. There is no single Federal agency that monitors mortgage fraud. The FBI, Department of Housing and Urban Development-Office of Inspector General, Internal Revenue Service, Postal Inspection Service, and state and local agencies all investigate mortgage fraud.

According to statistics compiled by the FBI, the estimated annual losses from mortgage fraud are between \$4 billion and \$6 billion. During 2007, 46,717 Suspicious Activity Reports were filed by financial institutions which are a 31 percent increase from the previous year. In addition, FBI mortgage fraud investigations led to 321 indictments and 260 convictions. As of May 2008, the FBI had 1,380 mortgage fraud investigations pending.

The current turmoil in the housing market is a contributing factor to the number of instances of mortgage fraud. In 2007, there were approximately 1.5 million foreclosures. This year economists estimate that there will be closer to 2.5 million foreclosures. According to the FBI, "the declining housing market affects many in the mortgage industry who are paid by commission. During declining markets, mortgage fraud perpetrators may take advantage of industry personnel attempting to generate loans to maintain current standards of living."

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### COST

The Congressional Budget Office did not have a cost estimate available for H.R. 6853 as of September 22, 2008.

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### STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Brianne Miller at 6-2302.



## H.Res. 1438– Commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Azorean Refugee Act of 1958 and celebrating the extensive contributions of Portuguese-American communities to the United States

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### FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 1438 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 Devin Nunes (R-CA) on September 15, 2008. The resolution was referred to the Committee on Judiciary, but was never considered.

H.Res. 1438 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 22, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

H.Res. 1438 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- Commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Azorean Refugee Act of 1958;
- Celebrates the Azorean Refugee Act of 1958 as worthy and admirable legislation that represented America at its finest, reaching out to people in need; and
- Recognizes the momentous contributions of Portuguese immigrants and their descendants to the United States, who have so greatly enriched our Nation.

---

### BACKGROUND

Between September 27, 1957, and October 24, 1958, a series of earthquakes and volcano eruptions destroyed the economic infrastructure of Faial Island, Portugal, which is located in the Azores. Most of the island's 25,000 residents were forced to escape to other islands in the Azores. In 1958, Senator John F. Kennedy introduced the Azorean Refugee Act (P.L. 85-892).

This legislation made 1,500 special immigrant visas available to victims of the disaster in the Azores. The legislation was later extended through 1962 which allowed for more refugees to immigrate to the United States. Between 1960 and 1980, an additional 175,000 immigrated to the U.S. and according to the 2000 U.S. Census there are approximately 1.2 million Portuguese-Americans today. Today, major Portuguese-American communities exist in New England, California, Hawaii, and the New York metropolitan area.

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### STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Adam Hepburn at 6-2302.



## **H.Res. 1464– Recognizing and honoring the 50th anniversary of the founding of AARP**

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### FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 1464 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 George Miller (D-CA) on September 18, 2008. The resolution was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor, but was never considered.

H.Res. 1464 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 22, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

H.Res. 1464 resolves that the House of Representatives recognizes and commends AARP for 50 years of outstanding service, promoting the lives and retirement security of older persons age 50 and older, and to future generations for aging Americans.

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### BACKGROUND

The AARP was founded in 1958 by Ethel Percy Andrus. AARP is a nonprofit nonpartisan membership organization which advocates for its over 38 million members. The organization's mission is to involve individuals over the age of 50 in the nation's legislative, judicial, and administrative processes. AARP also sells insurance and other financial products.

AARP's programs include its philanthropic AARP Foundation, the AARP Tax Aide which helps low- and middle-income taxpayers prepare their taxes, and the AARP Driver Safety Program which helps older drivers hone their driving skills. The organization also publishes "AARP The Magazine" which focuses on aging issues.

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### STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Adam Hepburn at 6-2302.



## H.R. 6890 – To extend the waiver authority for the Secretary of Education under section 105 of subtitle A of title IV of division B of Public Law 109-148, relating to elementary and secondary education

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### FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 6890 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 Charlie Melancon (D-LA) on September 15, 2008. The resolution was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor, but was never considered.

H.R. 6890 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 22, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

This legislation extends the Secretary of Education's waiver authority provided under the Hurricane Education Relief Act (P.L. 109-148) for one additional year, through Sept. 30, 2009.

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### BACKGROUND

The Hurricane Education Relief Act was enacted into law as part of the fiscal year 2006 Defense Appropriations Act. The Act provides assistance to elementary and secondary school students displaced by hurricanes in the Gulf Coast. Under current law, school districts may only use Federal funds to supplement state and local funds. The Hurricane Education Relief Act, however, granted the Education Department the authority to waive this requirement in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

The current waiver authority in the Hurricane Education Relief Act is set to expire on September 30, 2008. In recent weeks, the Gulf Coast has been hit by Hurricanes Gustav and Ike. These storms have caused severe damage to parts of Texas, Louisiana, and the Gulf Coast, including widespread flooding and power outages.

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### COST

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has not produced a cost estimate for H.R. 6890 as of September 20, 2008.

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### STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Adam Hepburn at 6-2302.



## H.R. 642– Honorable Stephanie Tubbs Jones College Fire Prevention Act

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### FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 642 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 the late Representative Stephanie Tubbs Jones (D-OH) on January 23, 2007. The bill was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor, but was never considered.

H.R. 642 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 22, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

H.R. 642 directs the Secretary of Education to make competitive demonstration grants to private or public colleges or universities, fraternities, or sororities for installing fire sprinkler systems, or other fire suppression or prevention technologies, in student housing. These grants may cover up to half the cost of installing such systems. Priority will be given to applicants with the greatest financial need.

The Secretary must report to Congress within one year of enactment on the grant program. The bill authorizes such sums as necessary for fiscal years 2009-2011.

This legislation states that applications or negative determinations under this Act may be admissible as evidence in the proceeding of any court.

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### BACKGROUND

Each year, college and university students experience a growing number of fire-related emergencies. Fires are caused by many reasons, however most are due to a general lack of knowledge about fire safety and prevention, according to the U.S. Fire Administration. Alcohol plays a significant role as well; more than 50 percent of college fire fatalities are under the influence of alcohol at the time. Alcohol abuse impairs judgment and fire evacuation efforts.

Other leading causes of college fires include cooking, careless smoking, and arson. On May 21, 2008, a fire at an off-campus house in Ithaca, New York, killed one student. Eighteen people died in campus-related fires during the 2007-2008 academic year. This is the second-highest total since 2000.

[U.S. Fire Administration – College Fire Safety](#)

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### COST

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has not produced a cost estimate for H.R. 642 as of September 19, 2008.

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### STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Adam Hepburn at 6-2302.



## H.R. 6370 – Oregon Surplus Federal Land Act of 2008

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### FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 6370 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 Peter DeFazio (D-OR) on June 25, 2008. The resolution was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure ordered the bill to be reported by voice vote on July 31, 2008.

H.R. 6370 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 22, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

H.R. 6370 requires the Coast Guard to transfer to the Department of the Interior (DOI) about 24 acres of Federal land in Coos County, Oregon, within five years. This land includes the Cape Arago Light Station. The Department would be required to hold the land in trust for the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians of Oregon.

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### BACKGROUND

Coos County is located in western Oregon along the Pacific coast. The Cape Arago Light Station was the first lighthouse built after Oregon became a State in 1859. The lighthouse is now decommissioned and is listed on the National Inventory of Historic Lighthouses. The Cape Arago Light Station is located on an island known as "Chief's Island". During operation, the lighthouse had one official staff member and relied upon volunteers to assist with any necessary rescue efforts.

[National Park Service – Cape Arago Light Station](#)

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### COST

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that implementing H.R. 6370 "would have no significant effect on the federal budget." [Full CBO Cost Estimate](#)

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### STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Adam Hepburn at 6-2302.



## **H.R. 6524 – To authorize the Administrator of General Services to take certain actions with respect to parcels of real property located in Eastlake, Ohio, and Koochiching County, Minnesota**

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### FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 6524 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 Steven LaTourette (R-OH) and Representative James Oberstar (D-MN) on July 16, 2008. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Armed Services, but was never considered.

H.R. 6524 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 22, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

Eastlake, Ohio: The bill releases the restrictions in the deed of conveyance to the City of East Lake, Ohio, for the 10.873 acre site of the John F. Kennedy Senior Center. The bill requires the city to pay \$30,000 to the General Services Administrator for executing the release.

Koochiching County, Minnesota: The bill requires the Administrator to convey a 5.84 acre parcel of land in International Falls, Minnesota, which is the former site of the Koochiching Army Reserve Training Center, to the county. The county is required to pay the Administrator \$30,000 as consideration for a conveyance of real property. The conveyance must take place within 90 days of enactment.

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### BACKGROUND

Eastlake, Ohio, purchased the 10.837 acre property from the General Services Administration (GSA) in 1964 with the restriction that the land be used for recreational purposes. The City of Eastlake has used the land for recreational purposes for more than forty years, but now wants to use the land to spur economic growth in the area. In order to lift the deed restriction, the GSA wanted the city to pay a \$300,000 fee. This legislation would enable them to pay \$30,000 to have the deed restriction lifted and would apply the same fee for release of a GSA deed restriction in Koochiching County, Minnesota.

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### COST

According to the Congressional Budget Office, "CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 6524 would have a negligible impact on the federal budget. The two conveyances would generate offsetting receipts of \$60,000, but DoD has permanent authority to spend its share of such proceeds under existing appropriation acts. Thus, CBO estimates that enacting the bill would reduce net direct spending by \$30,000. According to GSA, neither property currently generates any offsetting receipts. Enacting this bill would not affect revenues." ([CBO Cost Estimate](#))

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### STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Brianne Miller at 6-2302.



## H.Res. 1466– Honoring Dr. Guion S. "Guy" Bluford, Jr., and the 25th anniversary of his historic flight as the first African-American in space

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### FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 1466 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 Donna Edwards (D-MD) on September 18, 2008. The resolution was referred to the Committee on Science and Technology, but was never considered.

H.Res. 1466 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 22, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

H.Res. 1466 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- Salutes the 25th anniversary of the pioneering accomplishments of Dr. Guion `Guy' S. Bluford, Jr. as the first African-American in space; and
- Extends its gratitude and deep appreciation for Dr. Bluford's dedication, commitment, and excellence as an astronaut and a leader in support of the Nation's space program.

---

### BACKGROUND

Dr. Guion S. 'Guy' Bluford, Jr. was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1942. Dr. Bluford was a trained engineer and Air Force pilot before becoming a NASA astronaut in 1979. On August 30, 1983, Dr. Bluford became the first African-American to enter space, as a member of the STS-8 space shuttle mission crew. This was the first mission to both launch and land at night.

Subsequently, Dr. Bluford flew three additional NASA shuttle missions, his last flight occurring in 1992. In 1993, he left NASA and retired as an Air Force Colonel. Dr. Bluford received his Ph.D. from the Air Force Institute of Technology in 1978. He was inducted into the International Space Hall of Fame in 1997.

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### STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Adam Hepburn at 6-2302.



## S. 2606 – United States Fire Administration Reauthorization Act of 2008

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### FLOOR SITUATION

S. 2606 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 Senator Chris Dodd (D-CT) on February 7, 2008. The Senate passed the bill by unanimous consent on September 18, 2008.

S. 2606 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 22, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

S. 2606 authorizes appropriations for the United States Fire Administration at the following levels:

- \$70 million in fiscal year 2009;
- \$72.1 million in fiscal year 2010;
- \$74.3 million in fiscal year 2011; and
- \$76.5 million in fiscal year 2012.

The bill allows the Administrator of the U.S. Fire Administration to contract for on-site training programs for fire service personnel. S. 2606 also requires the Administrator to provide triennial reports to Congress on the National Fire Academy curriculum and training for fires at ports.

S. 2606 allows \$5 million from amounts authorized under this act to update the National Fire Incident Reporting System to an Internet-based, real-time incident reporting database. In addition, the bill instructs the Administrator to include fire-service based emergency medical services in liaison and coordination activities across all Federal agencies. Finally, the bill allows the Administrator to enter into contracts or provide grants for fire technology research.

---

### BACKGROUND

The United States Fire Administration (USFA) was last authorized by the United States Fire Administration Reauthorization Act of 2003 (P.L. 108-126). The USFA is currently authorized at \$68.8 million for fiscal year 2008.

Congress established the National Fire Prevention and Control Administration in 1974 as a part of the Department of Commerce. The Administration was renamed the United States Fire Administration in 1978, and in 1979, the USFA became a part of the newly created FEMA under President Jimmy Carter's Reorganization Plan No. 3.

The mission of the USFA is "to reduce life and economic losses due to fire and related emergencies, through leadership, advocacy, coordination and support." Although the United States has made great strides in curbing fire losses, our nation continues to have one of the highest fire death rates in the industrialized world.

According to the USFA website, fire killed more Americans than all natural disasters combined during 2006. There were more than 3,245 civilian fire deaths and 16,400 civilian fire injuries, and 106 firefighters lost their lives during that same year. The USFA reports that direct property loss due to fires was estimated at \$11.3 billion for 2006.

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### COST

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that implementing S. 2606 "would cost



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\$291 million over the 2009-2013 period." [Full CBO Cost Estimate](#)

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## STAFF CONTACT

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For questions or further information contact Adam Hepburn at 6-2302.



## H.Res. 1390 – Expressing support for the designation of a 4-H National Youth Science Day

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### FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 1390 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 Dennis Cardoza (D-CA) on July 30, 2008. The resolution was referred to the Committee on Science and Technology, but was never considered.

H.Res. 1390 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 22, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

H.Res. 1390 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- Expresses support for the designation of a 4-H National Youth Science Day;
- Requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe 4-H National Youth Science Day;
- Encourages the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities; and
- Encourages young people of all ages and backgrounds to pursue science studies and enter into science careers.

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### BACKGROUND

October 8, 2008, has been designated as 4-H National Youth Science Day. The day will feature a “National Science Experiment” that focuses on the use of superabsorbent polymers, known as hydrogels. The goal of National Youth Science Day is to engage youth across the country in a science activity.

4-H serves six million young people worldwide and has partnerships with more than 106 land-grant universities to shape programs in the sciences that are important to our nation’s workforce needs. The 4-H curriculum includes hands-on science, engineering, and technology programs.

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### STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Brianne Miller at 6-2302.



## H.R. 6323 – To establish a research, development, demonstration, and commercial application program to promote research of appropriate technologies for heavy duty plug-in hybrid vehicles, and for other purposes

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### FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 6323 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 James Sensenbrenner (R-WI) on June 19, 2008. The Committee on Science and Technology ordered the bill to be reported, as amended, by voice vote on September 16, 2008.

H.R. 6323 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 22, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

H.R. 6323 requires the Secretary of Energy to establish a competitive grant program to carry out demonstration projects to advance the research and development of technologies for heavy duty hybrid vehicles.

*Note: Advanced heavy duty hybrid vehicles weigh between 14,000-33,000 pounds and are fueled in part by a rechargeable energy storage system.*

The program must make between three and seven grants, at least half of which must be for plug-in hybrid technology. Grant funding may not exceed \$3 million per year.

This legislation directs the Secretary to research alternative power train designs for use in advanced heavy duty hybrid vehicles. The Secretary must report to Congress regarding grant-funded programs within 60 days of receiving the information from grant recipients. H.R. 6323 also directs the Secretary to create a pilot program to test the widespread use of plug-in hybrid vehicles on the domestic electric power grid.

The bill authorizes the appropriation of \$16 million for each of the fiscal years 2009-2011.

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### BACKGROUND

High fuel prices have raised interest in the development of new heavy duty hybrid truck systems. The majority of Federal funding for hybrid vehicle research and development is focused on passenger vehicles. However, in the United States there are 90,000 garbage trucks alone which consume as much fuel as 2.5 million passenger vehicles. Such large, heavy duty trucks rely on diesel or gasoline combustion engines and have low fuel efficiency and high emissions.

It has been noted that switching a portion of heavy duty truck power systems from combustion engines to alternative power sources would lead to fuel savings and emissions reductions. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), an average delivery truck using a hybrid power system would save around 1,000 gallons of diesel per year. Although the commercial and defense sectors have invested significantly in heavy duty hybrid trucks, the sale price of such vehicles remains prohibitively high.

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### COST

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that implementing H.R. 6323 “would cost \$41 million over the 2009-2013 period, with additional spending occurring in later years.”

[Full CBO Cost Estimate](#)



# LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

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## H.R. 6897 – Filipino Veterans Equity Act of 2008

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### FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 6897 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 Bob Filner (D-CA) on September 15, 2008. The Committee on Veterans Affairs ordered the bill to be reported, as amended, on September 17, 2008.

H.R. 6897 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 22, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

H.R. 6897 establishes within the U.S. Treasury a Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund, the funds of which will be available to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Within one year of enactment, the Secretary must make a payment to any person who served in the Filipino armed forces under American control before July 1, 1946, or in the Philippine Scouts pursuant to the Armed Forces Voluntary Recruitment Act of 1945. Payments will be in the amount of \$15,000 for U.S. citizens and \$9,000 for eligible non-citizens.

H.R. 6897 provides that if an individual receives payment under this Act, it constitutes a release of any claims against the United States regarding related benefit services. Nothing in the bill prohibits a person from receiving benefits to which they are entitled based on a claim awarded before enactment of this Act.

This bill requires the Secretary to report to Congress annually on the compensation fund. H.R. 6897 also authorizes the appropriation of \$198 million for the purposes of the Act.

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### BACKGROUND

During World War II, Filipinos served in diverse military units, some of which were under the direct control of the U.S. Armed Forces. On July 26, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed an Executive Order which called over 100,000 members of the Philippine Commonwealth Army under direct U.S. military control. The Philippines became a possession of the United States in 1898 as a result of the Spanish-American War.

Under current law, certain Filipino veterans receive reduced benefits and depending on where they reside often are paid benefits at reduced rates. These benefits include service-connected compensation benefits, survivor benefits, and burial benefits. Additionally, dependents' educational assistance is paid at \$.50 per dollar authorized, regardless of the veterans' residency. Since 1993, several bills have been introduced in Congress to restore full benefits for Filipino veterans.

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### COST

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has not produced a cost estimate for this legislation as of September 19, 2008.

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### STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Adam Hepburn at 6-2302.