



Congress Responds to the Terrorist Attacks

****FINAL UPDATE: January 16, 2003****

Items Passed by the House on Which the Senate Did Not Act before the Expiration of the 107th Congress:

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- **Use of Force Against Iraq.** The President signed into law a resolution authorizing the President to use the Armed Forces “as he determines to be necessary and appropriate” to:
 - “defend the national security of the United States against the continuing threat posed by Iraq; and
 - “enforce all relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions regarding Iraq.”Within 48 hours of authorizing force, the President would have to convey to Congress his determination that:
 - reliance by the United States on further diplomatic or other peaceful means alone either—
 - will not adequately protect the national security of the United States against the continuing threat posed by Iraq, or
 - is not likely to lead to enforcement of all relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions regarding Iraq; and
 - acting pursuant to this joint resolution is consistent with the United States and other countries continuing to take the necessary actions against international terrorists and terrorist organizations, including those nations, organizations, or persons who planned, authorized, committed or aided the terrorist attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001.

At least once every 60 days, the President would have to report to Congress on actions taken pursuant to the exercise of authority granted by this resolution and on the status of planning for efforts that are expected to be required after such actions are completed.

H.J.Res. 114 makes explicit that nothing in this resolution should be interpreted to supersede the War Powers Resolution (Public Law 93-148). Rather, this resolution's authorization of force is intended to constitute specific statutory authority under the War Powers Resolution. The War Powers Resolution was passed to ensure that the collective judgment of both the Congress and the President will apply to the introduction of United States Armed Forces into hostilities (or into situations where imminent involvement in hostilities is clearly indicated by the circumstances) and to the continued use of such forces in hostilities or in such situations.

(H.J.Res. 114, Public Law 107-243)

- **Department of Homeland Security.** The President signed into law a bill to create the Department of Homeland Security as a Cabinet-level department. The law transfers the following existing agencies and functions (among others) to the new Department:

--Coast Guard

--Customs Service

--The INS (split into two distinct divisions within the new Department)

--FEMA

--TSA

--Secret Service

For a comprehensive summary of the legislation as it passed the House, please visit these websites:

<http://www.house.gov/burton/RSC/HSecurityDept72302.PDF> and

<http://www.house.gov/burton/RSC/Lb72602.pdf>

For a comprehensive summary of the new law (identical to H.R. 5710, as it passed the House), please visit this website:

<http://www.house.gov/burton/RSC/HomelandFinal.PDF>

(H.R. 5005; Public Law 107-296)

- **Arming Pilots.** As part of the legislation creating a Department of Homeland Security, the President signed into law provisions establishing (within the Transportation Security Administration) a test "Federal Flight Deck Officer Program," in which pilots of air carriers will volunteer to be deputized as federal law enforcement officers to "defend the flight decks of aircraft of such air carriers against acts of criminal violence or air piracy." Participating pilots will be authorized to carry and use firearms in the course of their duties as federal flight deck officers.

For a complete summary of the stand-alone bill as it passed the House, please visit this website:

<http://www.house.gov/burton/RSC/Lb71002.pdf>

(H.R. 4635; H.R. 5005; Public Law 107-296)

- **FY2002 Supplemental Appropriations Package.** The President signed into law a \$28.91 billion supplemental appropriations bill for fiscal year 2002. Major funding areas include:
 - \$14.84 billion for defense (aimed primarily at fighting the war against terrorism overseas)
 - \$3.85 billion for the new Transportation Security Administration
 - \$5.47 billion for New York

The President has pledged not to spend \$5.1 billion in “contingent emergency spending.” If the President sticks to this pledge, the total cost for the bill would then be \$23.81 billion. For a detailed breakdown of the package, please visit this website:

<http://www.house.gov/burton/RSC/Supplemental02CRPB.PDF>

(H.R. 4775, Public Law 107-206)

- **Homeland Security Information Sharing**. As part of the legislation creating a Department of Homeland Security, the President signed into law procedures to facilitate homeland security information sharing. Specifically, the new law directs the President to prescribe procedures for federal agencies to share homeland security information with state and local personnel and for declassifying such information (if determined necessary). The information-sharing procedures will have to limit the redistribution of information for unauthorized use, protect the constitutional and statutory rights of any individuals who are subjects of such information, and ensure the security, confidentiality, and data integrity of such information.

The bill requires each intelligence community element, under procedures prescribed by the Director of Central Intelligence and the Attorney General, to share homeland security information (including credibility assessments) with state and local personnel.

Further, these provisions direct the President to prescribe procedures (such as security clearance investigations and non-disclosure agreements) under which federal agencies could share **classified** homeland security information with appropriate state and local personnel. The law grants authority to share (with local, state, federal, or foreign law enforcement or investigative authority) grand jury information, foreign intelligence, information gathered from a physical search, and electronic, wire, and oral interception information when relevant to homeland security.

(H.R. 4598; H.R. 5005; Public Law 107-296)

- **Wastewater Treatment Works Security**. The House passed a bill to enhance the security of wastewater treatment works. Specifically, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) would be authorized to make \$200 million in grants to the states, localities, or interstate agencies for the purpose of assessing the vulnerability of public wastewater works, reducing any such vulnerabilities, and enhancing security at public wastewater works. The EPA Administrator would also be able to give (or award grants to nonprofits to give) up to \$15 million worth of technical assistance to small, publicly owned wastewater treatment works for assessing vulnerabilities, reducing such vulnerabilities, and enhancing security at their facilities.

The Senate did not act on the legislation before the expiration of the 107th Congress.

(H.R. 5169)

- **Extended Public Safety Officers Benefits**. The President signed into law a bill to amend the Public Safety Officers Benefits program to (retroactive to September 11, 2001):
 - include the family or life insurance beneficiary of chaplains who die in the line of duty within law enforcement and firefighting units as eligible to receive a \$250,000 federal payment; and

--grant the \$250,000 federal payment to the living life insurance policy beneficiary of any public safety officer who dies in the line of duty without a surviving spouse or child.

(S. 2431, Public Law 107-196)

- **Medical Emergency Centers.** The President signed into law a bill to authorize \$20 million for each of fiscal years 2003-2007 for the Department of Veterans Affairs to establish at least four medical emergency preparedness centers within VA medical centers and using VA staff. The mission of the centers will be to:
 - “carry out research on and develop methods of detection, diagnosis, vaccination, protection, and treatment for chemical, biological, and radiological threats to the public health and safety;
 - “provide education, training, and advice to health-care professionals, including healthcare professionals outside the Veterans Health Administration; and
 - “provide contingent rapid response laboratory assistance and other assistance to local health care authorities in the event of a national emergency.”

The new law directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense to establish a joint program to develop and disseminate a series of model education and training programs on the medical responses to the consequences of terrorist activities. This joint program is to include, at a minimum, training for health care professionals and students at various levels in the following:

- Recognition of chemical, biological, and radiological agents that may be used in terrorist activities;
- Identification of the potential symptoms of those agents;
- Understanding of the potential long-term health consequences, including psychological effects, resulting from exposure to those agents;
- Emergency treatment for exposure to those agents;
- An appropriate course of follow-up treatment, supportive care, and referral;
- Actions that can be taken while providing care for exposure to those agents to protect against contamination; and
- Information on how to seek consultative support and to report suspected or actual use of those agents.

(H.R. 3253; Public Law 107-287)

- **Extending Unemployment Assistance.** The President signed into law a bill extending by 13 weeks (from 26 to 39 weeks) the length of time an individual who is receiving unemployment assistance as a result of the September 11th terrorist attacks may claim unemployment under the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) unemployment assistance program. FEMA provides unemployment assistance for those who lose their jobs as a result of a disaster, but who do not otherwise qualify for unemployment assistance.

(H.R. 3986, Public Law 107-154)

- **Enhancing Border Security.** The President signed into law a bill enhancing border and immigration security and otherwise making certain reforms at the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). The bill:
 - Strengthens the foreign student tracking system by requiring that it track: 1) the acceptance of aliens by educational institutions; 2) the issuance of visas to the aliens; 3) the admission

- into the U.S. of the aliens and the notification of these educational institutions of the admittance of these aliens; and 5) the enrollment of the aliens at the institutions
- Requires the State Department by October 26, 2004 to only issue to aliens visas and other travel documents that are tamper-resistant and machine-readable using standardized biometric identifiers. By the same date the INS must install scanners to read the biometric documents at all ports of entry.
 - Requires U.S. embassies and consulates to use terrorist-lookout committees in order to ensure that the names of known terrorists are routinely and consistently brought to the attention of consular officials
 - Bars nationals of countries that are state-sponsors of terrorism from receiving temporary visas unless it has been determined that the aliens do not pose a national security threat
 - Provides for an electronic data system that allows current and immediate access for consular officers and INS officials to information in databases of U.S. law enforcement agencies and the intelligence community
 - Authorizes an additional 200 INS inspectors and 200 INS investigative personnel for each of the fiscal years 2002 through 2006
 - Increases the pay and training of INS personnel, including Border Patrol agents, and beefs up consular offices at U.S. embassies
 - Authorizes \$150 million for the INS to improving technology at the border

(H.R. 3525, Public Law 107-173)

- **Implementing Anti-Terrorist Conventions.** The President signed into law legislation implementing two international conventions designed to fight terrorism internationally (once the convention treaties are ratified by the Senate).
 - The first convention, the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, requires nations to extradite or submit for prosecution persons accused of committing or aiding the unlawful and intentional use of explosives and other lethal devices at public places with the intent to kill or cause serious bodily injury, or with intent to cause the extensive destruction of the public place itself. Forty-six nations are currently party to this Convention.
 - The second convention, the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, requires nations either to submit for prosecution or to extradite any person within their jurisdiction who unlawfully and willfully provides or collects funds with the intention that they be used to carry out terrorist activities. Nations also are required to take appropriate steps for the detection, freezing, seizure or forfeiture of any funds used or allocated for the purposes of committing terrorist acts.

(H.R. 3275, Public Law 107-197)

- **Bioterrorism Preparation and Response.** The President signed into law a bill aimed at preparing for a bioterrorist attack. The major provisions of the new law are as follows:
 - Requires the establishment of a National Disaster Medical System, overseen by the newly created Assistant Secretary for Emergency Preparedness within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
 - Authorizes the creation of a national coordinated network of public health laboratories and of integrated public health communications and surveillance networks.
 - Authorizes \$1.15 billion in fiscal year 2002 and “such sums as may be necessary” thereafter to maintain stockpiles of drugs, vaccines (including smallpox), etc for responding

- to public health emergencies
- Permits the fast-tracking of the approval of drugs to treat, identify, or prevent infection by a biological agent or toxin.
- Authorizes “such sums as may be necessary” for the Secretary of Energy to conduct research related to pathogens that might be used in a biological attack
- Requires the establishment of a list of each biological agent and toxin that has the potential to pose a severe threat to public health and safety; directs HHS to issue regulations establishing standards governing the possession, use, and transfer of items on this list; requires the registration with HHS of those individuals and entities possessing and using biological toxins and agents
- Permits the FDA to detain food that it believes may present a threat of serious adverse health consequences to humans or animals
- Requires each community water system serving a population greater than 3,300 to conduct a vulnerability assessment related to intentional acts designed to disrupt the supply of safe water; authorizes funds to help communities develop emergency action plans for water systems

(H.R. 3448, Public Law 107-188)

- **Punishing Terrorist Hoaxes.** The House passed a bill to create criminal and civil penalties for whoever engages in conduct to convey false or misleading (yet reasonably believable) information concerning an activity that would constitute a violation of existing laws relating to: (1) biological weapons attacks, (2) chemical weapons attacks, (3) nuclear attacks, or (4) weapons of mass destruction. Criminal penalties would include fines and /or imprisonment for up to 5 years and reimbursement to any party incurring expenses related to any emergency or investigative response to the conduct. Such parties could also sue violators for civil damages.

The Senate did not act on the legislation before the expiration of the 107th Congress.

(H.R. 3209)

- **Aviation Security.** The President signed into law a bill aimed at improving the security of the nation’s air transportation system. The major provisions are as follows:
 - Creates the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) within the Department of Transportation and puts the head of the TSA, the Under Secretary of Transportation Security, in charge of directing and coordinating aviation security and the standards for such security nationwide
 - Requires that baggage screeners be **federal employees** within one year and remain that way for two years
 - Allows airports to opt-out of the federal system after three years and use baggage screeners of their choosing (including private contractors), subject to federal supervision
 - Provides for a five-airport test program for the use of private screening firms
 - Permits federal baggage screeners to join unions but NOT to strike
 - Requires that screeners be U.S. citizens who are proficient in English
 - Requires on-site federal supervision of passenger and baggage screening
 - Provides for the establishment of airport perimeter security measures (including a 20-airport test program)
 - Directs the Under Secretary to provide law enforcement officers at every existing airport

- checkpoint
- Prohibits cockpit access by any person other than a flight deck crew member and authorizes grants to reinforce cockpit doors.
 - Authorizes, after a study, the Under Secretary to permit flight deck crews to carry less-than-lethal weapons
 - Permits a pilot to carry a firearm into a cockpit if the Under Secretary approves, the air carrier approves, and the pilot has received proper training
 - Provides for the deployment of federal marshals on selected domestic commercial air passenger flights and all international flights on U.S. carriers into or out of the U.S.
 - Authorizes grants to provide video monitors in planes and ensure the use of transponders in emergencies
 - Requires the full implementation by January 19, 2002, of a system at all airports to screen all checked baggage
 - Requires background checks for current employees with unescorted access to aircraft or secured areas
 - Creates a database for cross-checking of passenger lists with federal lists of suspected national security risks and requires airlines to provide passenger and crew lists to the Customs Service for each flight
 - Requires notice to the Attorney General of heavy-plane flight-training applicants who are aliens or otherwise designated by the Under Secretary of Transportation Security
 - Authorizes the training of flight crews in anti-hijacking procedures
 - Exempts airline employees from liability for reporting suspicious activities regarding a “reasonably believed” threat
 - Requires air carriers to honor passenger tickets of other carriers that file for bankruptcy
 - Caps passenger fees for new security costs at \$5.00 per one-way trip (\$2.50 per enplanement)
 - Authorizes the Department of Transportation to reimburse airports for costs up to \$1.5 billion in fiscal year 2002 associated with new security measures
 - Authorizes \$500 million for grants to improve aircraft security and \$50 million a year for four years to develop aviation security technology.

(S. 1447, Public Law 107-71)

- **Expansion of Anti-Terrorism Powers.** The President signed into law an anti-terrorism package, popularly known as the USA PATRIOT (Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism) Act. The Act included the following *major* provisions:
 - Expands the definition of and increases the penalties for various aspects of terrorism.
 - Establishes a new crime for harboring terrorists.
 - Permits prosecutors and investigators to go to the judge in the district overseeing an investigation to issue a warrant for electronic evidence and, in the case of search warrants for terrorism offenses, in *any* district in which activities related to terrorism occurred (as opposed to the current requirement that they go to the judicial district in which the property to be searched is located).
 - Permits the delay of the notice of execution of a warrant under certain circumstances.
 - Clarifies that trap-and-trace authority applies to internet and e-mail communications while continuing to prohibit the capturing of content.
 - Allows courts to authorize roving taps of any phones that the target may use.
 - Broadens the authorities for gathering foreign intelligence.

- Permits officials to provide criminal information (including grand jury information) to the intelligence community when it is “foreign intelligence information.” Provides for after-the-fact judicial notice of the sharing of grand jury information with other government officials.
- Permits investigators to gain access to education records of aliens in the U.S. under certain circumstances if the investigation involves an act of terrorism. Expands the Foreign Student VISA Monitoring Program.
- Permits detention for up to 7 days and then requires the commencement of proceedings related to removal or criminal prosecution. Permits an additional detention for up to 6 months if the removal of the alien cannot be accomplished (i.e. no country will accept the alien).
- Provides for access by the Department of State and INS to Justice Department records of VISA applicants.
- Triples the number of INS and of Customs Service personnel on the border with Canada and provides \$100 million for technology improvements for monitoring this border.
- Authorizes a \$150-million expansion of the regional information-sharing system to facilitate federal-state-local law enforcement response to terrorist attacks.
- Authorizes the Attorney General and the Secretary of State to pay rewards to combat terrorism.
- Most of the provisions altering Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) authority, wire taps, etc. are sunset on December 31, 2005.

Money Laundering Provisions of USA PATRIOT (divided into four sections based on for what or whom each provision is intended: 1) individuals, 2) foreign countries and immigration, 3) financial institutions, and 4) other):

Individuals

- Makes it illegal to smuggle more than \$10,000 into or out of the U.S. and to provide false information to a financial institution regarding the identity of a customer
- Makes it easier to prosecute an individual for operating an unlicensed money transmitting business
- Expands the list of unlawful activities that are predicates for money laundering prosecutions to include terrorism, among other offenses
- Establishes the authority to order convicted criminals to return property located abroad and provides for the forfeiture of substitute property when the defendant has either by act or omission prevented the court from seizing property

Foreign Countries & Immigration

- Establishes U.S. jurisdiction over foreign money launderers and institutions
- Gives the Secretary of the Treasury discretionary authority to impose several new special measures (such as additional reporting requirements) against foreign jurisdictions, financial institutions operating outside the United States, and international transactions that are determined to be of primary money laundering concern
- Provides for the exclusion from entrance into the U.S. of aliens who are believed to be involved or related to individuals (spouse, son, or daughter) involved in money laundering

Financial Institutions

- Permits the imposition of penalties for financial institutions that fail to comply with reporting orders issued by the Secretary of the Treasury under the current Geographic Targeting Orders authority
- Establishes standing to seize funds in a U.S. account when criminal proceeds are deposited into the corresponding account of foreign banks held overseas
- Authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to establish standards for financial institutions

- regarding the identification and verification of account-holders
- Requires the issuance of regulations for the reporting of suspicious activity by registered brokers and dealers of securities and commodities.
- Provides civil liability immunity for financial institutions that disclose possible violations of law or regulation and expressly prohibits such institutions from notifying any individual involved in the transaction that they are reporting to the government as a possible violation of law or regulation
- Establishes standards for due diligence for accounts corresponding to accounts overseas and for private banking accounts
- Prohibits the establishment in the U.S. of a corresponding account for an account held by a bank without a physical presence in any country
- Requires financial institutions to establish anti-money-laundering programs that include internal policies, designation of an officer responsible for compliance, employee training, and independent audits

Other

- Provides statutory authorization for the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network established over ten years ago by an order of the Treasury Secretary
- Creates a public-private task force on terrorist financing issues
- Updates counterfeiting statutes to include analog, digital, and electronic images and increases penalties from 15 to 20 years

(H.R. 3162, Public Law 107-56)

- **Terrorism Reinsurance.** The President signed into law a bill to ensure the continued financial abilities of insurers to provide terrorism insurance. The major provisions of the new law are as follows:
 - Directs the Secretary of the Treasury to provide up to **\$100 billion in financial assistance** to commercial property and casualty insurers for losses incurred as a result of terrorist acts committed after this law's enactment and prior to December 31, 2005
 - Authorizes the Secretary to provide such assistance only after insured losses related to terrorism exceed **\$1 billion for the entire industry**
 - After the appropriate threshold is met and companies absorb a **\$5 million deductible** per company per terrorist event, the Secretary would pay insurance companies **90%** of subsequent covered losses.
 - Authorizes the Secretary to **recoup this assistance** provided by **assessing charges** on the insurance industry and its customers (up to \$20 billion total—up to \$10 billion in year one and increasing to up to \$15 billion annually)
 - Subjects insurers who fail to pay assessed amounts or who submit false data regarding their repayment would be **subject to civil penalties**
 - Preempts state law** in most cases
- LIABILITY PROVISIONS:**
 - Creates an exclusive **federal cause of action** triggered for lawsuits relating to acts of terrorism
 - Allows **punitive damages** but prohibits payment thereof by the federal government
 - Allows **consolidation** at trial
 - NO caps on attorneys' fees**

(H.R. 3210; Public Law 107-297)

- **Bioterrorism Enforcement.** The House passed a bill to enhance the enforcement of and increase the penalties for unsafe and illegal possession or transfer of biological agents and toxins. The bill also requires the Department of Health and Human Services to promulgate new regulations governing the possession, use, and transfer of biological agents and toxins. Violators of such regulations would be subject to increased civil penalties.

The Senate did not act on the legislation before the expiration of the 107th Congress.

(H.R. 3160)

- **Airline Assistance and Victim Compensation.** The President signed into law a bill providing aid and loans to the airline industry and compensation for families directly victimized by the attacks. Major provisions of the bill include:

--Airline Compensation:

1. \$5 billion in direct compensation for losses sustained during the ground-stop order and incremental losses through December 31, 2001.
2. \$10 billion in guaranteed loans (to airlines agreeing not to increase for two years the salaries of executives paid more than \$300,000 a year) provided by a Board consisting of the Secretary of the Treasury, Secretary of Transportation, and the Chairman of the Federal Reserve.
3. The Secretary of Transportation is authorized to require any air carrier receiving compensation to maintain air service to any point served by that carrier prior to the attacks.

--Aviation Insurance:

1. Authorizes for 6 months the Secretary of Transportation to reimburse from a revolving fund an air carrier (and vendors or subcontractors of air carriers) for the increased cost of insurance (compared to September 4 through 10).
2. Authorizes the Secretary for the next 6 months to cap the liability of an air carrier (and vendors or subcontractors of air carriers) for losses suffered by a third party resulting from a future terrorist act at \$100 million. The federal government would be responsible for any liability above that amount, and punitive damages would be prohibited.

--Tax Provisions:

Extends the due date for excise tax deposits due between September 10th and November 15th to November 15th and authorizes the Secretary of Treasury to further extend the deadline to January 15, 2002.

--Victim Compensation:

1. Claimants may elect to file **either** a claim with a “special master” (appointed by the Attorney General) **or** a civil action against an air carrier.
2. **If the claimant files a claim with the “special master,”** the claimant is entitled to economic (lost wages, medical expenses, loss due to death, etc) **and** non-economic (pain and suffering, etc) damages in an amount to be determined by the “special master.” The “special master” will then provide federal compensation to the claimant in an amount equal to the difference between the total amount due the claimant and the amount of money the claimant is entitled to receive from collateral sources (life insurance, pension funds, death benefit programs, and payments by federal, state or local governments).
3. Punitive damages are not available under a “special master” claim.

4. If the claimant chooses to file a civil action against an air carrier, the claim must be filed in the U.S. Federal Court for the Southern District of New York, and the liability for all claims against a carrier (whether for compensation or punitive damages) is limited to the amount of liability coverage maintained by the air carrier.

--Air Safety:

Affirms the President's decision to spend \$3 billion (out of the \$40 billion emergency supplemental explained below) for airline safety and security.

(H.R. 2926, Public Law 107-42)

- **Use of Force**. The President signed into law a resolution authorizing the President to use "all necessary and appropriate force against those nations, organizations, or persons he determines planned, authorized, committed, or aided the terrorist attacks that occurred on Sept. 11, 2001, or harbored such organizations or persons, in order to prevent any future acts of international terrorism against the United States by such nations, organizations or persons."

(S.J.Res. 23, Public Law 107-40)

- **\$40 Billion Supplemental Appropriations Package**. The President signed into law a supplemental appropriations bill distributing \$40 billion for relief in the wake of the terrorist attacks as follows:

--\$10 billion immediately available for the following five purposes:

1. providing federal, state and local preparedness for mitigating and responding to the attacks
2. providing support to counter, investigate, or prosecute domestic or international terrorism
3. providing increased transit security
4. repairing public facilities and transit systems damaged by the explosions
5. supporting national security

--\$10 billion available 15 days after the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) informs Congress how the money will be spent

--\$20 billion set aside pending further legislative action from Congress

The bill also contains a requirement that at least \$20 billion of the \$40 billion be spent on "disaster recovery activities and assistance related to the terrorist acts in New York, Virginia, and Pennsylvania."

(H.R. 2888, Public Law 107-38)

- **Expedited Payments to Law Enforcement**. The President signed into law a bill expediting payment of benefits under the Public Safety Officer Benefit program to the public safety officers who were killed or suffered a catastrophic injury in the line of duty in connection with the terrorist attacks of September 11. Payment to the officer or the officer's family will be sent no later than 30 days after a determination of eligibility.

(H.R. 2882, Public Law 107-37)

- **War Bonds**. The House passed a bill authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to issue “Freedom Bonds” in support of the response and recovery efforts in the September 11th aftermath.

The Senate did not act on the legislation before the expiration of the 107th Congress.

(H.R. 2899)

- **Victims Tax Relief**. The President signed into law a bill providing the following tax relief for victims of the terrorist attacks:
 1. Estate tax reduction of more than 50% for individuals who were killed in the September 11th terrorist attack or who die as a result of injuries suffered from that attack.
 2. Exemption from federal income tax in the year of death for individuals who died in the September 11th terrorist attack or who die from injuries suffered as a result of that attack.
 3. Exemption from federal income tax for any per-passenger payments made by United Airlines and American Airlines to victims’ families.
 4. Exemption from federal income tax for FEMA assistance payments.

(H.R. 2884, Public Law 107-134)

- **Allowing Entrance of Non-Citizen Informants**. The President signed into law a bill to give the INS *permanent* authorization to grant the admission of "S" visa non-immigrants into the United States. “S” visa non-immigrants are aliens who are admitted into this country solely for the purpose of assisting law enforcement as informants in criminal cases. Such aliens are granted entrance into the U.S. in exchange for their information and can become permanent residents after certain conditions are met. The INS’ authority is only *temporary* in current law; this bill would make the authority permanent.

(S.1424, Public Law 107-45)

- **Condemning the Attack**. The President signed into law a resolution:
 1. condemning “in the strongest possible terms” the terrorists and their sponsors involved in the September 11th attacks
 2. commending the heroic actions of the rescue workers, volunteers, and state and local officials
 3. declaring that the United States is entitled to respond under international law
 4. thanking those foreign leaders and individuals who have expressed solidarity with the United States, and asking them to continue to stand with the United States in the war against international terrorism
 5. committing to support more resources to the war on terrorism
 6. supporting the determination of the President, in close consultation with the Congress, to punish the perpetrators of these attacks, as well as their sponsors.

(S.J.Res. 22, Public Law 107-39)

- **Resolution of American Solidarity**. The House and Senate passed a resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that as a symbol of solidarity following the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001, every United States citizen is encouraged to display

the flag of the United States for the next thirty days. The President does not need to sign this type of resolution.

(H.Con.Res 225)

- **Remembrance Day.** The President signed into law a bill establishing September 11th as a national “Patriot Day.”

(H.J.Res 71, Public Law 107-89)

- **Flags to Victims and Families.** The House passed a resolution providing Capitol-flown flags to each surviving victim and the family of each deceased victim of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. The Senate does not need to pass and the President does not need to sign this type of resolution for it to become effective.

(H.Res. 239)

“God Bless America”. The House passed a resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that public schools may display the words "God Bless America" as an expression of support for the nation. The Senate did not act on the resolution before the expiration of the 107th Congress.

(H.Con.Res 248)

- **Memorializing Fallen Firefighters.** The President signed into law a resolution ordering that each year the American flags on all federal office buildings will be lowered to half-staff in honor of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

(H.J.Res. 42, Public Law 107-51)

- **Sorrow for First Responders.** The House passed a resolution expressing sorrow for the death and injuries suffered by first responders as they endeavored to save innocent people in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Though the Senate has passed a similar resolution, neither body has passed the other body’s resolution.

(H.Con.Res. 233, S.Con.Res. 73)

- **Condemning Bigotry.** The House and Senate passed a resolution condemning bigotry and violence against Arab-Americans, American Muslims, and Americans from South Asia in the wake of the terrorist attacks. The President does not need to sign this type of resolution.

(H.Con.Res.227)

- **Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor.** The House and Senate passed a resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor should be presented to the public safety officers who have perished and other public safety officers who deserve special recognition for valor above and beyond the call of duty in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks. The President does not need to sign this type of resolution.

(H.Con.Res. 243)

- **Awarding Congressional Gold Medals.** The House passed a bill to award congressional gold medals to officials who perished while responding to the September 11th attack on the World Trade Center. The bill:
 - Authorizes the President to strike and present national gold medals to the next of kin (or other appropriate representative) of the officers, emergency workers, employees of state and local government agencies (including the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey) and employees of the federal government who responded to and perished (or presumably perished) in the attacks on the World Trade Center
 - Authorizes the striking of duplicate gold medals to be presented to the Governor of New York, the Mayor of New York City, the Commissioner of the New York Police Department, the Commissioner of the New York Fire Department, the head of emergency medical services for the City of New York, and the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
 - Authorizes a duplicate gold medal could be struck and presented for display at each precinct house, fire house, emergency response station, or other duty station or place of employment to which each individual eligible for a gold medal was assigned
 - Authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to strike and sell (at \$50 per medal) bronze duplicates of the medal described above, with proceeds going to erect a memorial for the fallen emergency responders
 - Authorizes the President to strike and present national gold medals posthumously to any passengers or crew members on board United Airlines Flight 93 (which crashed in Pennsylvania on September 11th, on its way to Washington, DC) who are identified by the Attorney General as having aided in the effort to resist the hijackers on board the plane. Duplicates of this medal could also be struck in bronze and sold at an appropriate price.

The Senate did not act on the legislation before the expiration of the 107th Congress.

(H.R. 3054. The House also passed similar legislation: H.R. 5138.)

- **Honoring the Secret Service.** The House passed a resolution honoring the men and women of the United States Secret Service New York field office for their extraordinary performance and commitment to service during and immediately following the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. This type of resolution does not go to the Senate or the President.

(H.Res. 384)

- **Honoring the Customs Service.** The House passed a resolution honoring the men and women of the United States Customs Service, 6 World Trade Center offices, for their hard work, commitment, and compassion during and immediately following the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. This type of resolution does not go to the Senate or the President.

(H.Res. 385)

- **Honoring the National Guard and Department of Defense.** The House and Senate passed a resolution commending the District of Columbia National Guard, the National Guard Bureau, and the entire Department of Defense for the assistance provided to the United States Capitol Police and the entire Congressional community in response to the terrorist and anthrax attacks of September and October 2001. The President does not need to sign this type of resolution.

(H.Con.Res. 378)

- **Paying Tribute to the Workers at Ground Zero.** The House passed a resolution paying tribute to the workers in New York City for their rescue, recovery, and clean-up efforts at the site of the World Trade Center. This type of resolution does not go to the Senate or the President.

(H.Res. 424)

- **Flight 93 National Memorial.** The President signed into law a bill to authorize a national memorial to commemorate the passengers and crew of United Airlines Flight 93, which crashed in Somerset County, Pennsylvania, on September 11, 2001.

(H.R. 3917; Public Law 107-226)

- **Victims of Terrorism Memorial.** The House passed a bill to authorize the establishment of a memorial in Washington, DC, or its immediate surroundings, to victims who died as a result of terrorist acts against the United States or its people, at home or abroad (except those individuals identified by the Attorney General as participating or conspiring in terrorist-related activities). The bill would establish the Victims of Terrorism Memorial Advisory Board to raise the necessary funds to establish, design, construct, and maintain the Memorial.

The Senate did not act on the legislation before the expiration of the 107th Congress.

(H.R. 2982)

- **Expressing Gratitude for Cleanup Efforts.** The House passed a resolution that “thanks and pays tribute to all those whose 10 months of efforts at Fresh Kills Landfill on Staten Island, New York, to clean up the debris from the site of the World Trade Center, and to recover the remains and effects of the victims, following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, helped to bring healing and closure to the victims' families and loved ones, to New York, and to the Nation.” The clean-up efforts have ended. This type of resolution does not go to the Senate or the President.

(H.Res. 492)

- **Special Meeting of Congress in New York.** The House and Senate passed a resolution providing for a special meeting of Congress in New York, New York, on September 6, 2002. The President does not need to sign this type of resolution.

(H.Con.Res. 378)

- **Appreciation for the British Prime Minister.** The House passed a resolution expressing “sincere appreciation” for Prime Minister Tony Blair for his leadership in the war on terrorism. The resolution also expresses deep sympathy to British victims of terrorism and their families, including the 67 British citizens who were victims of the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001; commends the efforts of British intelligence and defense agencies for their continued efforts in the war on terrorism; and reaffirms the “strong and special” relationship between the people of the United States and Great Britain. This type of resolution does not go to the Senate or the President.

(H.Res. 549)

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