



Legislative Bulletin.....November 16, 2004

Contents:

- H.Res. 641**—Supporting the goals and ideals of Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month
- S. 2640**—Guardians of Freedom Memorial Post Office Building Designation Act
- S. 2214**—Mike Mansfield Post Office Designation Act
- S. 2693**—Lieutenant John F. Finn Post Office Designation Act
- H.Res. 750**—Recognizing the 130th anniversary of the creation of lifesaving stations on the Great Lakes, which became part of the United States Life-Saving Service
- H.J.Res. 110** — Recognizing the 60th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge during World War II

Summary of the Bills Under Consideration Today:

Total Number of New Government Programs: 0

Total Cost of Discretionary Authorizations: \$0

Effect on Revenue: \$0

Total Change in Mandatory Spending: \$0

Total New State & Local Government Mandates: 0

Total New Private Sector Mandates: 0

Number of Bills Without Committee Reports: 3

Number of Reported Bills that Don't Cite Specific Clauses of Constitutional Authority: 0

H.Res. 641—Supporting the goals and ideals of Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month (Platts)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, November 16th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill. The House passed a nearly identical resolution (H.Res. 262) by voice vote on October 8, 2003.

Summary: H.Res. 641 would resolve that the House “supports the goals and ideals of Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month.” The resolution notes that the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (PanCAN) has requested that the Congress designate November as Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month, in order to educate communities across the nation about pancreatic cancer and the need for research funding, early detection methods, effective treatments, and prevention programs.

Additional Background: According to the resolution, over 31,860 people will be diagnosed with pancreatic cancer this year in the United States, and 96% of those people will die within five years. Most will die within just three to six months of diagnosis, since there are no early detection methods and minimal treatment options for this cancer. The mortality rate for pancreatic cancer is 99%, the highest of any cancer.

According to GuideStar, PanCAN receives no government funds. PanCAN’s homepage is: <http://www.pancan.org/>

Committee Action: On September 15, 2004, the Government Reform Committee marked up and by unanimous consent ordered the resolution reported to the full House.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution would authorize no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

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S. 2640—Guardians of Freedom Memorial Post Office Building Designation Act (Senator Ensign)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, November 16th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill. The House passed a nearly identical bill (H.R. 4442) by voice vote on September 7, 2004.

Summary: S. 2640 would designate the U.S. postal facility located at 1050 North Hills Boulevard in Reno, Nevada, as the “Guardians of Freedom Memorial Post Office Building” and would authorize the Postmaster General to enter into an agreement with the Office of Veterans' Services of the State of Nevada to install, maintain, and update a plaque honoring Nevada’s members of the Armed Forces who were killed in the war on terrorism. The plaque, which would be paid for exclusively by the State of Nevada, would have to include the following inscription: “This post office building is dedicated in the memory of those men and women of the State of Nevada who have lost their lives while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States in the Global War on Terrorism and in Operation Iraqi Freedom.” Further,

the plaque would have to feature inscriptions containing the names, ranks, branches of service, hometowns, and dates of death of such men and women.

Committee Action: The Senate-passed bill has been held at the desk since September 7, 2004.

Cost to Taxpayers: The only costs associated with a postal facility renaming are those for sign and map changes, none of which significantly affect the federal budget. The State of Nevada would be responsible for the costs of producing, installing, maintaining, and updating the memorial plaque at the post office.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Constitutional Authority: Although no committee report citing constitutional authority is available, Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution grants Congress the authority to establish Post Offices and post Roads.

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S. 2214—Mike Mansfield Post Office Designation Act (Sen. Burns)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, November 16th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The Senate passed S. 2214 by unanimous consent on June 9, 2004.

Summary: S. 2214 would designate the post office located at 3150 Great Northern Avenue in Missoula, Montana, as the “Mike Mansfield Post Office.”

Additional Background: Mike Mansfield served in the U.S. House of Representatives as a Democrat from Montana from 1943-1953 and in the Senate from 1953-1977, where he also served as Majority Leader. He passed away in 2001 at the age of 98.

Committee Action: The bill was referred to the Committee on Government Reform on June 14, 2004. The committee did not take official action on the bill.

Cost to Taxpayers: The only costs associated with a post office renaming are those for sign and map changes, none of which significantly affect the federal budget.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Constitutional Authority: Though no committee report citing constitutional authority is available, Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution grants Congress the authority to establish Post Offices and post Roads.

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S. 2693—Lieutenant John F. Finn Post Office Designation Act (*Sen. Schumer*)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, November 16th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The Senate passed S. 2693 by unanimous consent on October 10, 2004. The House passed an identical bill (H.R. 5053) on October 6, 2004, by voice vote.

Summary: S. 2693 would designate the post office located at 1475 Western Avenue, Suite 45, in Albany, New York, as the “Lieutenant John F. Finn Post Office.”

Additional Background: John F. Finn was a 13-year veteran of the Albany Police Department when he died on February 12, 2004, at the Albany Medical Center as a result of gunshot wounds sustained in the line of duty.

Committee Action: The bill was not referred to a House committee.

Cost to Taxpayers: The only costs associated with a post office renaming are those for sign and map changes, none of which significantly affect the federal budget.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Constitutional Authority: Though no committee report citing constitutional authority is available, Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution grants Congress the authority to establish Post Offices and post Roads.

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H.Res. 750—Recognizing the 130th anniversary of the creation of lifesaving stations on the Great Lakes, which became part of the United States Life-Saving Service (McCotter)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, November 16th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Res. 750 resolves that the House:

- “(1) recognizes the 130th anniversary of the creation of lifesaving stations on the Great Lakes, which became part of the United States Life-Saving Service;
- “(2) commends the personnel of the United States Life-Saving Service whose efforts saved lives and property on the Great Lakes; and
- “(3) acknowledges Sumner Increase Kimball for his foresight in the field of marine safety and commitment to maritime safety on the Great Lakes.”

Additional Background: Congress organized The U.S. Life-Saving Service (USLSS) in 1874, with Sumner I. Kimball as its first and only General Superintendent. The Service consisted of 12 districts, including three on the Great Lakes. In 1915, USLSS was combined with the U.S. Revenue Cutter Service to form the U.S. Coast Guard. According to the resolution, during the years of its operation, the Great Lakes Life-Saving Service contended with 9,763 disasters, saving 55,639 people and \$110,038,860 in property.

Committee Action: The resolution was introduced on July 22, 2004, and referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. The committee did not consider the bill.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution does not authorize any expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

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H.J.Res. 110 — Recognizing the 60th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge during World War II—as introduced (Hastert)

Order of Business: The joint resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, November 16, 2004, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: The resolution has 12 findings regarding the Battle of the Bulge and states that it is resolved:

“That Congress:

- “recognizes the 60th anniversary of the battle in the European theater of operations during World War II known as the Battle of the Bulge, which began with a German surprise attack in the Ardennes forest region of Belgium and Luxembourg and ended with an Allied victory that made possible the defeat of Nazi Germany four months later;
- “honors those who gave their lives during the Battle of the Bulge;
- “authorizes the President to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to honor the veterans of the Battle of the Bulge with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities; and
- “reaffirms the bonds of friendship between the United States and both Belgium and Luxembourg.”

Additional Information: The Battle of the Bulge was fought during World War II from December 16, 1944, to January 25, 1945, and involved 600,000 American troops, with 19,000 Americans killed and 62, 000 wounded, captured, or listed as missing in action. The 60th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge will be held this year and will be marked by commemorative events by citizens of the United States, Belgium, Luxembourg, and many other nations. According to the resolution’s findings, “the success of American, British, Belgian, Canadian, and other forces in defeating the German attack made possible the defeat of Nazi Germany four months later in April 1945.”

Committee Action: The resolution was introduced on October 8, 2004, and referred to the House Committee on International Relations, which did not consider the resolution.

Cost to Taxpayers: None.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

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