

## Legislative Bulletin.....February 25, 2009

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### **H.Res. 47—Supporting the goals and ideals of Peace Officers Memorial Day (Poe, R-TX)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, February 25, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.Res. 47 would express that the House of Representatives:

- “Supports the goals and ideals of Peace Officers Memorial Day to honor Federal, State, and local peace officers killed or disabled in the line of duty; and
- “Calls upon the people of the United States to observe such a day with appropriate ceremonies and respect.”

The resolution lists a number of findings including:

- “There are more than 900,000 sworn law enforcement officers now serving in the United States;
- “Law enforcement officers selflessly protect the people of the United States and communities throughout the country from harm;
- “Law enforcement officers serve the country regardless of the peril to themselves;
- “More than 18,340 law enforcement officers have been killed in the line of duty since the first recorded police death in 1792;
- “September 11, 2001, was the deadliest day in law enforcement history with 72 officers killed while responding to the terrorist attacks;
- “140 law enforcement officers were killed in 2008;
- “Public Law 87-726 designates May 15th of each year as Peace Officers Memorial Day, and Police Week is commemorated during the calendar week containing May 15;

- “Section 7(m) of title 4, United States Code, requires that the United States flag on all government buildings be displayed at half-staff on May 15, Peace Officers Memorial Day; and
- “Law enforcement officers deserve the gratitude of the people of the United States for their service:”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 47 was introduced on January 9, 2009 and referred to the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. The committee held a mark-up and ordered the bill to be reported by unanimous consent on February 11, 2009.

**Administration Position:** No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution would not authorize any additional expenditures.

**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.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there’s no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

**RSC Staff Contact:** Bruce F. Miller, [bruce.miller@mail.house.gov](mailto:bruce.miller@mail.house.gov), (202)-226-9720.

## **H.Res.180—Supporting the goals and ideals of the third annual America Saves Week (*Rep. Hinojosa, D - TX*)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, February 25, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.Res. 180 would express that the House of Representatives:

- “Recognizes the importance of savings to financial security;
- “Supports the goals and ideals of ‘America Saves Week’
- “Acknowledges the tireless efforts of the late Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones to eliminate predatory lending, increase the nation's savings rate, and improve the overall economic situation of all those residing in the United States; and
- “Requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on the Federal Government, States, localities, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, other entities, and the people of the United States to observe the week with appropriate

programs and activities with the goal of increasing the savings rates for individuals of all ages and walks of life.”

The resolution lists a number of findings including:

- “Financial security is one of the most important issues for most Americans whether it involves saving enough for their children's college education, saving for an unforeseen emergency, a house, or their retirement;
- “Personal savings as a percentage of disposable income has been low, reaching a 12-month average of 0.6 percent in 2007 before rebounding to a 12-month average of 1.7 percent in 2008, according to Bureau of Economic Analysis data;
- “43.5 percent of American families reported they did not save in 2007, according to the 2007 Federal Reserve Board's Survey of Consumer Finances, which also found that less than half of the population has a savings account, one month of savings or liquid assets, much less the recommended 6 to 12 months worth of emergency savings they might need for an incident such as unexpected unemployment, a medical crisis, rent or a mortgage payment adjustment enabling them to avoid foreclosure;
- “A 2008 Survey by the Employee Benefit Research Institute found that there are `savers' and `spenders' in all income classes and almost all have the ability to build wealth through contributions to a workplace retirement program, building home equity, and other savings;
- “Older Americans are more likely to live within 200 percent of poverty than any other age group, according to the 2009 Employee Benefit Research Institute's Databook, and more than 60 percent of the current elderly population relies on Social Security for over three-fourths of their annual income according to a 2009 Social Security Administration report on Income of the Elderly over Age 55, 2006, and the average savings of retirees remains at \$50,000 according to the Federal Reserve Board's Survey of Consumer Finances for 2007, and the current financial crisis is draining those funds;
- “America Saves, managed by the Consumer Federation of America, was established 8 years ago as an annual nationwide campaign that encourages consumers, especially lower-income households, to enroll as American Savers and establish a personal savings goal in an effort to build personal wealth and enhance financial security;
- “America Saves now has 53 local, State and national campaigns working with over 500 mainstream financial institutions which provide no-fee or low-fee, low-opening-balance savings accounts that allow small savers to achieve success;
- “Government and non-government entities at the local, State and national levels organize America Saves campaigns to encourage individuals to open a savings account, participate in workplace retirement programs, and devise a savings plan;
- “Over 1,000 local, State, and national organizations have motivated more than 145,000 people to enroll as American Savers; and
- “Establishing automatic and habitual savings is a primary focus for this year's America Saves Week, a theme reflected in the work of the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus, Federal agencies, non-profits, community-based

groups, private sector organizations, and the Employee Benefit Research Institute and its America Savings Education Councils Choose-to-Save Campaign:

### ***Democrat Inconsistency Alert!***

**Hypocrisy:** Even as Democrats are encouraging hard working Americans to save more of their income, today we are voting on legislation to increase spending by another \$410 billion. This comes less than two weeks after Congress passed the largest single spending bill of all-time the “stimulus”. To **put this in perspective, the increase to the national debt over just the past two years is larger than the total amount of debt accumulated by the federal government from 1789 to 1985. The national debt may increase by another \$2 trillion [this year](#).** To accommodate this additional debt burden, the Congress has passed legislation to increase the national debt four times in the last 17 months. Congress may want to take some free advice regarding spending and saving from [this guy](#).

**Committee Action:** None. H.Res. 180 was introduced on February 23, 2009 and referred to the House Financial Services Committee, which took no subsequent action.

**Administration Position:** No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution would not authorize any additional expenditures.

**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.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there’s no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

**RSC Staff Contact:** Bruce F. Miller, [bruce.miller@mail.house.gov](mailto:bruce.miller@mail.house.gov), (202)-226-9720.

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### **H.Res.183—Expressing condolences to the families, friends, and loved ones of the victims of the crash of Continental Connection Flight 3407 (Rep. Lee –NY)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, February 25, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.Res. 183 would express that the House of Representatives:

- “Expresses condolences to the families, friends, and loved ones of the victims of the crash of Continental Connection Flight 3407;
- “Honors those who lost their lives, including David Borner, Linda Davidson, Ronald Davidson, Alison Des Forges, Beverly Eckert, John J. Fiore, Ronald Gonzalez, Brad S. Green, Sr., Zhaofang Guo, Kevin Johnston, Ellyce Kausner, Goerges Karm, Nicole Korczykowski, Jerome Krasuski, Brian Kuklewicz, Beth Kushner, Madeline Loftus, Lorin Maurer, Donald McDonald, Coleman Mellett, Dawn Monachino, Jennifer Neill, Gerry Niewood, Johnathan Perry, Mary E. Pettys, Donna Prisco, Matilda Quintero, Marvin Renslow, Julie M. Ries, John G. Roberts III, Kristin Safran, Rebecca Shaw, Ms. Jean Marie Srnech, Darren Tolsma, Susan Wehle, Ernest W. West, Douglas Wielinski, Shibin Yao, Clay Yarber, and Joseph Zuffoletto, as well as 10 others;
- “Expresses sympathies to the people of Clarence Center, the entire State of New York, and the Nation who grieve for the victims;
- “Commends the heroic actions of the first responders, emergency services personnel, and air traffic controllers; and
- “Commends the hundreds of volunteers who worked together to respond to the tragedy with tremendous courage.”

The resolution lists a number of findings including:

- “The people of New York have experienced a terrible tragedy with the loss of 50 lives in the crash of Continental Connection Flight 3407 in Clarence Center, New York, on February 12, 2009;
- “Many of the victims of the crash were residents of New York, particularly of the close-knit Western New York community; and
- “Federal, State, and local officials have cooperated to respond to the emergency, investigate the accident, and provide assistance to families devastated by the loss of loved ones”

**Committee Action:** None. H.Res. 183 was introduced on February 23, 2009 and referred to the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, which took no subsequent public action.

**Administration Position:** No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution would not authorize any additional expenditures.

**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.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there’s no

accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

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