



Legislative Bulletin.....June 21, 2011

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H.R. 1632 - To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5014 Gary Avenue in Lubbock, Texas, as the “Sergeant Chris Davis Post Office” (Neugebauer, R-TX)

Order of Business: The legislation is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, June 21, 2011, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 1632 would designate the United States courthouse located at 5014 Gary Avenue in Lubbock, Texas as the “Sergeant Chris Davis Post Office.”

Additional Information: Sergeant Chris Davis was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team; 3rd Infantry Division, at Fort Benning, GA. He was killed June 23, 2007 in Baghdad from wounds sustained when his unit was attacked by insurgents using an improvised explosive device and small-arms fire.

Committee Action: H.R. 1632 was introduced on April 15, 2011, and was referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which took no public action.

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

Cost to Taxpayers: No CBO score was available at press time, but the only costs associated with naming U.S. federal buildings and post offices 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.

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.

Constitutional Authority: Rep. Neugebauer's statement of constitutional authority, found in the Congressional Record, states "Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8, Clause 7. The Congress shall have Power to establish Post Offices and post roads."

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S. 349 - A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4865 Tallmadge Road in Rootstown, Ohio, as the "Marine Sgt. Jeremy E. Murray Post Office" (*Brown, D-OH*)

Order of Business: The legislation is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, June 21, 2011, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: S. 349 would designate the United States post office located at 4865 Tallmadge Road in Rootstown, Ohio, at the "Marine Sgt. Jeremy E. Murray Post Office."

Additional Information: Marine Sgt. Jeremy E. Murray was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Marine Expeditionary Force at Camp Pendleton, California. He was killed on November 16, 2005 by an improvised explosive device while conducting combat operations against enemy forces near Hadithah, Iraq.

Committee Action: S. 349 was introduced on February 15, 2011, and referred to the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services and International Security. On May 12, 2011, a full committee markup was held and the legislation was approved without amendment. This legislation passed the Senate on May 16, 2011, by unanimous consent. It was then referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which took no public action

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

Cost to Taxpayers: No CBO score was available at press time, but the only costs associated with naming U.S. federal buildings and post offices 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.

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.

Constitutional Authority: Senate Rules do not require a statement of constitutional authority to be submitted to the Congressional Record.

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S. 655 - A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 95 Dogwood Street in Cary, Mississippi, as the “Spencer Byrd Powers, Jr. Post Office” (Cochran, R-MS)

Order of Business: The legislation is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, June 21, 2011, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: S. 655 would designate the United States post office located at 95 Dogwood Street in Cary, Mississippi, as the “Spencer Byrd Powers, Jr. Post Office.”

Additional Information: Spencer Byrd Powers, Jr was a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army. He was killed on February 8, 1968 in Quang Nam in South Vietnam.

Committee Action: H.R. 655 was introduced on March 28, 2011, and referred to the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security. A full committee markup was held on May 12, 2011, and the legislation was approved without amendment. The legislation passed the Senate on May 16, 2011, by unanimous consent. The legislation was then referred to the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, which took no public action.

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

Cost to Taxpayers: No CBO score was available at press time, but the only costs associated with naming U.S. federal buildings and post offices 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.

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.

Constitutional Authority: Senate Rules do not require a statement of constitutional authority to be submitted to the Congressional Record.

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H.R. 771 - To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1081 Elbel Road in Schertz, Texas, as the "Schertz Veterans Post Office" (Cuellar, D-TX)

Order of Business: The legislation is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, June 21, 2011, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 771 would designate the United States post office at 1081 Elbel Road in Schertz, Texas as the "Schertz Veterans Post Office."

Committee Action: H.R. 771 was introduced on February 17, 2011, and referred to the House Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, U.S. Postal Service and Labor Policy, which took no public action.

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

Cost to Taxpayers: No CBO score was available at press time, but the only costs associated with naming U.S. federal buildings and post offices 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.

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.

Constitutional Authority: Rep. Cuellar's statement of constitutional authority, found in the Congressional Record, states "Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: The Constitution including Article I, Section 8."

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H.R. 672 — Election Support Consolidation and Efficiency Act (Harper, R-MS)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, June 21, 2011, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 672 eliminates the U.S. Election Assistance Commission ([EAC](#)) within 60 days of enactment and transfers some of its functions to the Federal Election Commission (FEC). The Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA) established the EAC to principally administer the distribution of federal money to the states to assist in upgrading their voting systems. According to the committee report, the EAC sent \$3.1 billion in federal grant money to the states for this purpose. Additionally, EAC's other functions include operating a federal voting system testing and certification program, maintaining a clearinghouse of election administration information, and performing a series of research studies mandated by HAVA.

Additional Background: Congress originally intended to sunset the EAC in 2005 and only authorized appropriations for the EAC of up to \$10 million for fiscal years 2003, 2004, and 2005. However, according to the most recent full-year enacted appropriation, the EAC received almost \$18 million in fiscal year 2010. Since 2005, the agency has more than doubled in size while its principal functions have decreased.

In its relatively short tenure, the agency has been subject to [well documented controversies](#) involving management and partisanship controversies, employee hostile work environment allegations, politicized hiring decisions, and discrimination charges based on partisan affiliation and military service. Also, the National Association of Secretaries of State, in recognizing the EAC's tasks as limited in duration and scope, has called upon Congress to not reauthorize or fund the EAC since 2005.

RSC Bonus Fact: Eliminating the EAC has been an *RSC Sunset Caucus* priority this Congress. You can read the announcement calling for its elimination [here](#).

Committee Action: H.R. 672 was introduced by Representative Greg Harper (R-MS) on February 11, 2011 and referred to the Committee on House Administration (CHA) with an additional referral to the Committee on Science, Space and Technology. The CHA Subcommittee on Elections held two hearings on the bill and related matters on March 17th and April 14th this year. On May 25, 2011, the full committee marked up the bill and reported it out of committee favorably by voice vote.

Administration Position: The Administration has not released a Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) on this bill as of press time.

Cost to Taxpayers: The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has not released a cost estimate for this bill. However, according to the CHA, eliminating the EAC will save taxpayers \$14 million annually.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No. It reduces the size of the federal government by eliminating a federal agency.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: The committee report does not include reference as to whether H.R. 672 includes any new mandates.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: According to the committee report, H.R. 672 does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(e), 9(f), or 9(g) of rule XXI.

Constitutional Authority: The committee [report](#) cites that “Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 4 of the U.S. Constitution. Section 4 grants Congress the authority make laws governing the time, place, and manner of holding Federal elections.”

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