

John A. Bradley, USAF, U.S. Air Force Reserves; LTG John W. Bergman, USMC, U.S. Marine Corps Reserves; MG Ronald Young, USA, Acting Director, U.S. National Guard Bureau Joint Staff; RADM Craig McDonald, USN, U.S. Navy Reserves; and RADM Sally Brice-O'Hara, USCG, U.S. Coast Guard Reserves, Department of Homeland Security.

LONG-TERM ACUTE CARE HOSPITALS

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing on Long-Term Acute Care Hospitals. Testimony was heard from Herb B. Kuhn, Director, Center for Medicare Management, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services; Mark E. Miller, Executive Director, Medicare Payment Advisory Commission; and public witnesses.

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT OVERSIGHT

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Human Resources held a hearing Regarding New Research on Unemployment Benefit Recipients. Testimony was heard from Sigurd Nilsen, Director, Education, Workforce, and Income Security Issues, GAO.

Joint Meetings

TAX RELIEF EXTENSION RECONCILIATION ACT

Conferees met to resolve the differences between the Senate and House passed versions of H.R. 4297, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 201(b) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006, but did not complete action thereon, and recessed subject to the call.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D225)

H.R. 4515, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4422 West Sciota Street in Scio, New York, as the "Corporal Jason L. Dunham Post Office". Signed on March 14, 2006. (Public Law 109-180)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2006

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2007 for the Forest Service, 9:30 a.m., SD-124.

Subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury, the Judiciary, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2007 for the Department of Transportation and Amtrak, 9:30 a.m., SD-138.

Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, to hold hearings to examine an overview of democracy programs, 2 p.m., SD-138.

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine military strategy and operational requirements in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2007 and the future years defense program; to be followed by a closed session in SH-219, 8:30 a.m., SH-216.

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, to hold hearings to examine Global Strike Plans and programs in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2007, 3:30 p.m., SR-222.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Disaster Prevention and Prediction, to hold hearings to examine impacts on aviation regarding volcanic hazards, 10:30 a.m., SD-562.

Full Committee, business meeting to consider pending calendar business, 3 p.m., S-128, Capitol.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: to hold hearings to examine the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration's strategy to restore and protect the Great Lakes, 10 a.m., SD-628.

Committee on Finance: Subcommittee on International Trade, to hold hearings to examine Cuno and competitiveness, 9:30 a.m., SD-215.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: to hold hearings to examine reauthorization of Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act relating to enhancing public health and medical preparedness, 10:30 a.m., SD-430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, and International Security, to hold hearings to examine understanding the obligation of Funds Transparency Act, focusing on the need for earmark reform and legislation that would be an important step toward achieving such reform, 9:30 a.m., SD-342.

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to consider the nominations of Patrick Joseph Schiltz, to be United States District Judge for the District of Minnesota, Norman Randy Smith, of Idaho, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, Steven G. Bradbury, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Attorney General, and John F. Clark, of Virginia, to be Director of the United States Marshals Service, both of the Department of Justice, David F. Kustoff, of Tennessee, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Tennessee, proposed comprehensive immigration reform, S. 1768, to permit the televising of Supreme Court proceedings, S. 829, to allow media coverage of court proceedings, S. 489, to amend chapter 111 of title 28, United States Code, to limit the duration of Federal consent decrees to which State and local governments are a party, S. 2039, to provide for loan repayment for prosecutors and public defenders, S. 2292, to provide relief for the Federal judiciary from excessive rent charges, S.J. Res. 1, proposing an