Wednesday, July 18, 2012

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S5093–S5167

Measures Introduced: Seven bills were introduced, as follows: S. 3396–3402. **Pages S5133–34**

Measures Reported:

H.R. 4240, to reauthorize the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004.

S. 3326, to amend the African Growth and Opportunity Act to extend the third-country fabric program and to add South Sudan to the list of countries eligible for designation under that Act, to make technical corrections to the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States relating to the textile and apparel rules of origin for the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement, to approve the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003. **Page S5133**

Measures Passed:

Honoring American Veterans Act: Committee on Veterans' Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1627, to amend title 38, United States Code, to furnish hospital care and medical services to veterans who were stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, while the water was contaminated at Camp Lejeune, to improve the provision of housing assistance to veterans and their families, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S5154–67**

Reid (for Murray) Amendment No. 2559, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S5166**

Reid (for Murray) Amendment No. 2560, to amend the title. **Page S5167**

Measures Considered:

Bring Jobs Home Act—Agreement: Senate continued consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 3364, to provide an incentive for businesses to bring jobs back to America. **Pages S5093–S5130**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at 2:15 p.m., on Thursday, July 19, 2012, Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. **Page S5167**

Message from the President: Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the continuation of the national emergency with respect to significant transnational criminal organizations that was established in Executive Order 13581 on July 24, 2011; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM–57) **Page S5132**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

James B. Cunningham, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

Richard G. Olson, of New Mexico, to be Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. **Page S5167**

Messages from the House: **Pages S5132–33**

Measures Referred: **Page S5133**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Page S5133**

Measures Read the First Time: **Page S5133, S5167**

Executive Communications: **Page S5133**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S5134–35**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S5135–39**

Additional Statements: **Page S5132**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S5139–54**

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: **Page S5154**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S5154**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S5154**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 7:14 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 19, 2012. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S5167.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

U.S. AVIATION INDUSTRY

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security concluded a hearing to examine the global competitiveness of the United States Aviation Industry, focusing on addressing competition issues to maintain United States leadership in the aerospace market, after receiving testimony from John Tracy, The Boeing Company, and Dan Elwell, Aerospace Industries Association of America, both of Arlington, Virginia; Stanley Sorscher, Society of Professional Engineering Employees in Aerospace, Seattle, Washington; and Pete Bunce, General Aviation Manufacturers Association, and Nicholas E. Calio, Airlines for America, both of Washington, DC.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Finance: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

An original bill entitled ''Enforcing Orders and Reducing Customs Evasion (ENFORCE) Act'';

An original bill entitled ''Citrus, Cotton, and Wool Trust Funds'';

An original bill entitled ''African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA)'';

An original bill entitled ''Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA–DR) technical corrections, and Burma sanctions''; and

An original bill entitled ''Russia Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR) and Moldova PNTR''.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Marcie B. Ries, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Bulgaria, John M. Koenig, of Washington, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Cyprus, Michael David Kirby, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Serbia, Thomas Hart Armbruster, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Greta Christine Holtz, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman, all of the Department of State, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

IMPROVING THE TRANSPARENCY OF FEDERAL SPENDING

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine improving the transparency of Federal spending, after receiving testimony from Senator Warner; Gene L. Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States, Government Accountability Office; Daniel I. Werfel, Controller, Office of Management and Budget; and Richard L. Gregg, Fiscal Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

2020 CENSUS PREPARATION

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security concluded a hearing to examine the census, focusing on planning ahead for 2020, and how sustaining current reform efforts will be key to a more cost-effective enumeration, after receiving testimony from Robert M. Groves, Director, U.S. Census Bureau, and Todd J. Zinser, Inspector General, both of the Department of Commerce; Robert Goldenkoff, Director, Strategic Issues, Government Accountability Office; Jason Providakes, The MITRE Corporation, Baltimore, Maryland; Jack Baker, University of New Mexico, Phoenix, Arizona, on behalf of the National Research Council Panel to Review the 2010 Census; and Andrew Reamer, George Washington University Institute of Public Policy, Arlington, Virginia.

IMPROVING FORENSIC SCIENCE

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine improving forensic science in the criminal justice system, after receiving testimony from Jill Spriggs, State of California Crime Lab, Sacramento, on behalf of the Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations; Stephanie Stoiloff, Miami-Dade Police Department Forensic Services Bureau, Miami, Florida, on behalf of the International Association of Chiefs of Police Forensic Science Committee; Peter Neufeld, The Innocence Project, New York, New York; and Scott Burns, National District Attorneys Association, Alexandria, Virginia.

FACIAL RECOGNITION TECHNOLOGY

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Privacy, Technology and the Law concluded a hearing to examine what facial recognition technology means for privacy and civil liberties, after receiving testimony from Jerome M. Pender, Deputy Assistant Director, Criminal Justice Information Services Division, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice; Maneesha Mithal, Associate Director, Division of Privacy and Identity Protection, Federal Trade Commission; Alessandro Acquisti, Carnegie Mellon University Heinz College and CyLab, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Larry Amerson, Calhoun County Sheriff, Anniston, Alabama, on behalf of the National Sheriffs' Association; Nita Farahany, Duke Law School, Durham, North Carolina; Jennifer Lynch, Electronic Frontier Foundation, San Francisco, California; Brian

Martin, MorphoTrust USA, Jersey City, New Jersey; and Robert Sherman, Facebook, Washington, DC.

NOMINATION

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Thomas Skerik Sowers II, of Missouri, to be Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Public and Intergovernmental Affairs, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senator McCaskill, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

MEDICARE AND MEDICAID COORDINATION FOR DUAL-ELIGIBLES

Special Committee on Aging: Committee concluded a hearing to examine Medicare and Medicaid coordination for dual-eligibles, after receiving testimony from Melanie Bella, Director of the Medicare-Medicaid Coordination Office, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services; Jason A. Helgerson, New York State Department of Health Medicaid Director, Albany; Thomas J. Betlach, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), Phoenix; Robert A. Berenson, Urban Institute, Washington, DC.; Shawn Morris, HealthSpring, Nashville, Tennessee; and Dory Funk, Senior CommUnity Care, Eckert, Colorado.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE

United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control: Caucus concluded a hearing to examine prescription drug abuse, after receiving testimony from Representative Bono Mack; R. Gil Kerlikowske, Director of National Drug Control Policy, Office of National Drug Control Policy, Executive Office of the President; Joseph T. Rannazzisi, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice; John L. Eadie, Brandeis University Heller School for Social Policy and Management Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Center of Excellence, Waltham, Massachusetts; Joe Harmison, Harmison Pharmacies, Arlington, Texas, on behalf of the National Community Pharmacists Association; Avi Israel, Buffalo, New York; and Vernon Porter, Orange County, California.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 13 public bills, H.R. 6137–6149; and 2 resolutions, H. Res. 733–734 were introduced. **Pages H5008–09**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H5009–10**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Schmidt to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H4911**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:43 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H4915**

Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the guest chaplain, Reverend Dr. Stan Ballard, Nettleton Baptist Church, Jonesboro, Arkansas. **Page H4915**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure:

Sequestration Transparency Act of 2012: H.R. 5872, amended, to require the President to provide a report detailing the sequester required by the Budget Control Act of 2011 on January 2, 2013, by a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote of 414 yeas to 2 nays, Roll No. 471. **Pages H4920–25**

Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2013: The House began consideration of H.R. 5856, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013. Further proceedings were postponed. **Pages H4926–H5006**

Agreed to:

Gallegly amendment that increases funding, by offset, for Operation and Maintenance, Air National Guard by $8,000,000 and Aircraft Procurement, Air Force by $16,000,000 for firefighting equipment; **Page H4953**

Kucinich amendment that increases funding, by offset, for the Defense Health Program by $10,000,000 for Gulf War Illness research; **Pages H4954–55**

Langevin amendment (No. 6 printed in the Congressional Record of July 17, 2012) that increases funding, by offset, for the Defense Health Program by $15,000,000 for spinal cord injury research; **Pages H4956–57**

Sessions amendment that increases funding, by offset, for the Defense Health Program by $10,000,000 for traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder research; **Pages H4857–58**

Walz (MN) amendment that increases funding, by offset, for the Defense Health Program by $5,000,000 for vision and eye research; **Pages H4958–59**

Bonamici amendment that redirects funding within the account for Other Procurement, Army in order to assess the type of medical equipment needed for emergency missions of the National Guard; **Pages H4960–61**

Jones amendment that increases funding for Overseas Deployments and Other Activities, Military Personnel by $148,462,000 and reduces funding for the Afghanistan Security Forces Fund by $412,287,000; **Pages H4978–79**

Altmire amendment that increases funding, by offset, for Operation and Maintenance, Army Reserve by $5,500,000 and Operation and Maintenance, Army National Guard by $10,000,000 for the Yellow Ribbon program; **Pages H4980–81**

Boswell amendment that increases funding, by offset, for the Defense Health Program by $10,000,000 for suicide prevention; **Pages H4983–85**

LoBiondo amendment that prohibits funds from being used to operate an unmanned aircraft system except in accordance with the Fourth Amendment of the Constitution; **Pages H4990–91**

Flake amendment that prohibits funds from being used to enter into a contract for UH–60 Leak Proof Drip Pans using procedures other than competitive procedures; **Page H4991**

Wittman amendment that prohibits funds from being used to propose, plan for, or execute an additional Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) round; **Page H4992**

Poe (TX) amendment that revises funds made available for "Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide" and the amount under that heading for payments to reimburse key cooperating nations for logistical, military and other support by $650,000,000, respectively; **Page H4995**

Bilbray amendment that prohibits funds from being used to remove any portion of the Mount Soledad Veterans Memorial in San Diego, California; and **Pages H4993–94**

Cohen amendment that reduces funding for the Afghanistan Infrastructure Fund by $175,000,000 and applies the savings to the spending reduction account (by a recorded vote of 228 ayes to 191 noes, Roll No. 479). **Pages H4982–83, H5001–02**

Rejected:

Blumenauer amendment (No. 8 printed in the Congressional Record of July 17, 2012) that sought to increase funding, by offset, for Environmental Restoration, Formerly Used Defense Sites by $88,952,000; **Pages H4953–54**

Hanna amendment that sought to increase funding, by offset, for Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Air Force by $30,000,000; **Page H4956**

Higgins amendment that sought to increase funding, by offset, for Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Defense-Wide by $10,000,000; **Pages H4959–60**

Baca amendment that sought to increase funding, by offset, for Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Defense-Wide by $10,000,000; **Pages H4971–78**

Speier amendment that sought to reduce funding for the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Fund by $120,500,000 and apply the savings to the spending reduction account; **Pages H4985–88**

McCollum amendment (No. 4 printed in the Congressional Record of July 17, 2012) that sought to reduce funding in various Military Personnel and Operation and Maintenance accounts by $187,770,000 and apply the savings to the spending reduction account (by a recorded vote of 166 ayes to 250 noes, Roll No. 472); **Pages H4939–42, H4996–97**

Kingston amendment (No. 2 printed in the Congressional Record of July 17, 2012) that sought to reduce funding in various Operation and Maintenance accounts by $72,300,000 and apply the savings to the spending reduction account (by a recorded vote of 202 ayes to 216 noes, Roll No. 473); **Pages H4947–53, H4997–98**

Quigley amendment that sought to reduce funding for the DDG–51 Destroyer by $988,000,000 and apply the savings to the spending reduction account (by a recorded vote of 60 ayes to 359 noes, Roll No. 474); **Pages H4961–62, H4998**

Cohen amendment that sought to increase funding, by offset, for the Defense Health Program by $235,000,000 for cancer research (by a recorded vote of 145 ayes to 273 noes, Roll No. 475); **Pages H4962–64, H4998–99**

Pompeo amendment that sought to eliminate funding for the Defense Rapid Innovation Program and apply the $250,000,000 in savings to the spending reduction account (by a recorded vote of 137 ayes to 282 noes, Roll No. 476); **Pages H4964–65, H4999–H5000**

Markey amendment that sought to reduce funding for Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Defense-Wide for ground-based missile defense by $75,000,000 and apply the savings to the spending reduction account (by a recorded vote of 150 ayes to 268 noes, Roll No. 477); **Pages H4965–70, H5000**

Amash amendment that sought to strike section 8039 (by a recorded vote of 186 ayes to 233 noes, Roll No. 478) (agreed by unanimous consent that a

recorded vote be taken on the Amash amendment which had been disposed of earlier by a voice vote); **Pages H4970–71, H5000–01**

Cicilline amendment that sought to eliminate funding for the Afghanistan Infrastructure Fund by and apply the $375,000,000 in savings to the spending reduction account (by a recorded vote of 149 ayes to 270 noes, Roll No. 480); **Pages H4981–82, H5002**

Woolsey amendment that sought to reduce the total amount of appropriations made available by the bill by $181,000,000 (by a recorded vote of 114 ayes to 302 noes, Roll No. 481); **Pages H4988–89, H5002–03**

Markey amendment that sought to prohibit funds from being used to operate or maintain more than 300 land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles (by a recorded vote of 136 ayes to 283 noes, Roll No. 482); **Pages H4989–90, H5003–04**

Woolsey amendment that sought to reduce the total amount of appropriations made available by the bill by $293,900,000 (by a recorded vote of 106 ayes to 311 noes, Roll No. 483); **Pages H4990, HH5004**

Woolsey amendment that sought to reduce the total amount of appropriations made available by the bill by $1,700,000,000 (by a recorded vote of 91 ayes to 328 noes, Roll No. 484); **Pages H4992–93, H5004–05**

Lee amendment that sought to reduce appropriations in title IX of the bill by $20,843,869,000, except as provided in subsection (b) of the amendment (by a recorded vote of 107 ayes to 312 noes, Roll No. 485); and **Pages H4994–95, H5005–06**

King (IA) amendment that sought to prohibit funds from being used to administer the wage-rate requirements of subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code, with respect to any project or program funded by this bill (by a recorded vote of 182 ayes to 235 noes, Roll No. 486). **Pages H4993, H5006**

Withdrawn:

Kucinich amendment that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have increased funding, by offset, for the Defense Health Program by $6,000,000 for suicide prevention research and **Pages H4955–56**

Poe (TX) amendment (No. 3 printed in the Congressional Record of July 17, 2012) that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have reduced coalition support funds for Pakistan by $1,300,000,000 and applied the savings to the spending reduction account. **Pages H4979–80**

Point of Order sustained against:

Mulvaney amendment that sought to transfer $5,557,306,000 in funding from Overseas Deployments and Other Activities accounts to Military Personnel accounts for the Army and Marine Corps; **Pages H4942–47**

Section 8121 of the bill; and **Pages H4977–78**

Lee amendment that sought to prohibit funds from being used for any account of the Department of Defense (other than accounts excluded by subsection (b)) in excess of the amount made available for such account for fiscal year 2008, unless the financial statements of the Department for fiscal year 2013 are validated as ready for audit within 180 days after the date of the enactment of this act. **Pages H4991–92**

H. Res. 717, the rule providing for consideration of the bill, was agreed to on June 29th.

Presidential Message: Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13581 with respect to significant transnational criminal organizations is to continue in effect beyond July 24, 2012—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 112–125). **Page H4920**

Quorum Calls—Votes: One yea-and-nay vote and 15 recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H4925–26, H4996–97, H4997–98, H4998, H4998–99, H4999–H5000, H5000, H5000–01, H5001–02, H5002, H5002–03, H5003–04, H5004, H5004–05, H5005–06 and H5006. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 10:32 p.m.

Committee Meetings

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education held a markup of the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Bill, FY 2013. The bill was forwarded without amendment.

NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION AND IMPACT ON MILITARY OPERATIONS

Committee on Armed Services: Full Committee began a hearing on disclosures of national security information and impact on military operations. No testimony was heard.

SEQUESTRATION IMPLEMENTATION OPTIONS AND THE EFFECTS ON NATIONAL DEFENSE

Committee on Armed Services: Full Committee held a hearing on Sequestration Implementation Options

and the Effects on National Defense: Industry Perspectives. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

WITHDRAWAL FROM AFGHANISTAN

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing on Withdrawal from Afghanistan: Historical Lessons. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

KEEPING COLLEGE WITHIN REACH

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training held a hearing entitled ''Keeping College Within Reach: Exploring State Efforts to Curb Costs''. Testimony was heard from Teresa Lubbers, Commissioner for Higher Education, Indiana; and public witnesses.

USING INNOVATION TO REFORM MEDICARE PHYSICIAN PAYMENT

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled ''Using Innovation to Reform Medicare Physician Payment''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Energy and Power held a hearing on the discussion draft of the ''U.S. Agricultural Sector Relief Act of 2012''; and the ''Asthma Inhalers Relief Act of 2012''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Energy and Power began a markup of the following: the ''U.S. Agricultural Sector Relief Act of 2012''; the ''Asthma Inhalers Relief Act of 2012''; and the ''No More Solyndras Act''.

MONETARY POLICY AND THE STATE OF THE ECONOMY

Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Monetary Policy and the State of the Economy''. Testimony was heard from Ben Bernanke, Chairman, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific held a markup of H.R. 6040, to approve the Agreement providing terms for a continuation of the free association between the United States and Palau, and for other purposes. The bill was forwarded, as amended.

A DECADE AFTER 9/11 COULD AMERICAN FLIGHT SCHOOLS STILL UNKNOWINGLY BE TRAINING TERRORISTS?

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Transportation Security held a hearing entitled ''A Decade After 9/11 Could American Flight Schools Still Unknowingly Be Training Terrorists?'' Testimony was heard from Kerwin Wilson, General Manager for General Aviation, Office of Security Policy and Industry Engagement, Transportation Security Administration, Department of Homeland Security; John Woods, Assistant Director, National Security Investigations, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security; Stephen Lord, Director, Homeland Security and Justice Issues, Government Accountability Office; and public witnesses.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION AND PATENT DISPUTES

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Intellectual Property, Competition and the Internet held a hearing entitled ''The International Trade Commission and Patent Disputes''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on the Constitution held a hearing on H.J. Res. 110, an Amendment to the Constitution Concerning Parental Rights and Education. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee held a markup of the following: H.R. 6062, the ''Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program Reauthorization Act of 2012''; H.R. 3796, the ''Adam Walsh Reauthorization Act of 2012''; and H.R. 3803, the ''District of Columbia Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act''. H.R. 6062 was ordered reported without amendment. H.R. 3796 and H.R. 3803 were ordered reported, as amended.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 6082, the ''Congressional Replacement of President Obama's Energy-Restricting and Job-Limiting Offshore Drilling Plan''. The bill was ordered reported, as amended.

ADMINISTRATION'S BET OF ABOUND SOLAR

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs, Stimulus Oversight and Government Spending held a hearing entitled ''The Administration's Bet of Abound Solar: Assessing the Costs to the American Taxpayers''. Testimony was heard from David G. Frantz, Acting Executive Director, Loan Programs Office, Department of Energy; Jonathan Silver, former Executive Director, Loan Program Office, Department of Energy; and public witnesses.

TAKING CARE OF OUR VETERANS: WHAT IS THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS DOING TO ELIMINATE THE CLAIMS BACKLOG?

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on National Security, Homeland Defense and Foreign Operations held a hearing entitled ''Taking Care of Our Veterans: What is the Department of Veterans Affairs Doing to Eliminate the Claims Backlog?'' Testimony was heard from Allison Hickey, Under Secretary for Benefits, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

EXPANDING BROADBAND ACCESS TO SMALL BUSINESSES

Committee on Small Business: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Digital Divide: Expanding Broadband Access to Small Businesses''. Testimony was heard from Julius Genachowski, Chairman, Federal Communications Commission, Jonathan Adelstein, Administrator, Rural Utility Service, Department of Agriculture; and Lawrence E. Strickling, Assistant Secretary, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, Department of Commerce.

FAA'S CONTRACT TOWER PROGRAM

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Aviation held a hearing entitled ''A Review of the FAA's Contract Tower Program''. Testimony was heard from Calvin L. Scovel, Inspector General, Department of Transportation; David Grizzle, Chief Operating Officer, Air Traffic Organization, FAA; and Julie Oettinger, Assistant Administrator for Policy, International Affairs and Environment, FAA.

DISABILITY COMPENSATION BENEFITS PROCESS FOR VICTIMS OF MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs held a hearing entitled ''Invisible Wounds: Examining the Disability Compensation Benefits Process for Victims of Military Sexual Trauma''. Testimony was heard from Col. Alan Metzler, Deputy Director, Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office, Department of Defense; Thomas Murphy, Director of Compensation and Pension Service, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

VIOLENCE AGAINST COPTIC WOMEN AND GIRLS IN EGYPT

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Commission concluded a hearing to examine the escalation of violence against Coptic women and girls in Egypt, after receiving testimony from Michele Clark, George Washington University Elliott School of International Affairs, Medford, Massachusetts; and Walid Phares, Transatlantic Legislative Group on Counterterrorism, and Katrina Lantos Swett, United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, both of Washington, DC.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, JULY 19, 2012

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of General Mark A. Welsh III, USAF for reappointment to the grade of general and to be Chief of Staff, United States Air Force, Lieutenant General John F. Kelly, USMC to be general and Commander, United States Southern Command, and Lieutenant General Frank J. Grass, ARNG to be general and Chief, National Guard Bureau, 9:30 a.m., SH–216.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: to hold hearings to examine making college affordability a priority, focusing on promising practices and strategies, 10 a.m., SD–430.

Committee on Indian Affairs: to hold an oversight hearing to examine the impacts of environmental changes on treaty rights, traditional lifestyles, and tribal homelands, 2:15 p.m., SD–628.

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to consider S. 285, for the relief of Sopuruchi Chukwueke, S. 3276, to extend certain amendments made by the FISA Amendments Act of 2008, and the nominations of Frank Paul Geraci, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Western District of New York, Fernando M. Olguin, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California, Malachy Edward Mannion, and Matthew W. Brann, both to be a United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, and Charles R. Breyer, of California, to be a Member of the United States Sentencing Commission, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House

Committee on Armed Services, Full Committee, hearing on disclosures of national security information and impact on military operations, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn. This is a closed hearing.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Energy and Power, continue markup of the following: the ''U.S. Agricultural Sector Relief Act of 2012''; the ''Asthma Inhalers Relief Act of 2012''; and the ''No More Solyndras Act'', 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled ''Who's In Your Wallet? Dodd-Frank's Impact on Families, Communities and Small Businesses'', 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit, hearing entitled ''The Impact of Dodd-Frank on Consumer Choice and Access to Credit'', 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights, hearing entitled ''Poison Harvest: Deadly U.S. Mine Pollution in Peru'', 2 p.m., 2200 Rayburn.

Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Unfair Trading Practices Against the U.S.: Intellectual Property Rights Infringement, Property Expropriation, and Other Barriers'', 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade, hearing entitled ''When Regimes Fall: The Challenge of Securing Lethal Weapons'', 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Management, hearing entitled ''Using Unmanned Aerial Systems Within the Homeland: Security Game Changer?'', 9:30 a.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on House Administration, Full Committee, markup of the following: H.R. 406, to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to permit candidates for election for Federal office to designate an individual who will be authorized to disburse funds of the authorized campaign committees of the candidate in the event of the death of the candidate; H.R. 6122, to revise the authority of the Librarian of Congress to accept gifts and bequests on behalf of the Library, and for other purposes; a concurrent resolution providing funding to ensure the printing and production of the authorized number of copies of the revised and updated version of the House document entitled ''Hispanic Americans in Congress'', and for other purposes; H.R. 1402, to authorize the Architect of the Capitol to establish battery recharging stations for privately owned vehicles in parking areas under the jurisdiction of the House of Representatives at no net cost to the Federal Government; and the ''H.R. 1974, Access to Congressionally Mandated Reports Act'', 10 a.m., 1310 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Oversight, hearing entitled ''Library of Congress: 2012 Inspector General Report on Library-Wide Acquisitions'', 10:30 a.m., 1310 Longworth.

Committee on the Judiciary, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Oversight of the Department of Homeland Security'', 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Full Committee, ''Status of Obama Administration's Rewrite of the Stream Buffer Zone Rule and Compliance with Committee Subpoenas'', 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs, hearing on the following measures: H.R. 3906, to amend the Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act to allow recreational fishing for Atlantic Striped Bass in the Block Island Sound transit zone; H.R. 6007, the ''North Texas Zebra Mussel Barrier Act of 2012''; and H.R. 6096, the ''Atlantic Fisheries Statutes Reauthorization Act of 2012'', 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Continuing Oversight of Regulatory Impediments to Job Creation: Job Creators Still Buried by Red Tape'', 9:30 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Health Care, District of Columbia, Census and the National Archives, hearing entitled ''Changes to the Heights Act: Shaping Washington, D.C., for the Future'', 1:30 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Keeping America Secure: The Science Supporting the Development of Threat Detection Technologies'', 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, Subcommittee on Investigations, Oversight and Regulations, ''Health Care Realignment and Regulation: The Demise of Small and Solo Medical Practices?'' 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Ways and Means, Full Committee, hearing on Tax Reform and the U.S. Manufacturing Sector, 9:30 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

9:30 a.m., Thursday, July 19

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: The Majority Leader will be recognized. At 2:15 p.m., Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 3364, Bring Jobs Home Act.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Thursday, July 19

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Resume consideration of H.R. 5856—Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2013.

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