

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM
TOM DAVIS, CHAIRMAN



MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release
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Government Reform Committee to Consider
D.C. Retirement Improvement, TSP Bills

What: Government Reform Committee Business Meeting

When: WEDNESDAY, JULY 21, 2004, 10:00 a.m.

Where: ROOM 2154, RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

Background:

The Government Reform Committee will hold a business meeting to mark up the following legislation:

H.R. 2449, a bill to establish a commission to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War. This legislation establishes a Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission to plan, develop, and carry out programs and activities in order to facilitate a national remembrance of the sesquicentennial of the Civil War.

H.R. 2528, a bill to establish the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain 400th Commemoration Commission, and for other purposes. H.R. 2528 establishes the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain 400th Commemoration Commission to observe the 400th anniversary of the voyage of Henry Hudson (the first European to sail up the Hudson River), the 200th anniversary of the voyage of Robert Fulton (the first person to use steam navigation on a commercial basis), and the 400th anniversary of the voyage of Samuel de Champlain (the first European to discover and explore Lake Champlain).

H.R. 4324, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to eliminate the provisions limiting certain election opportunities available to individuals participating in the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP), and for other purposes. Federal employees who participate in the TSP are afforded two annual periods (open seasons) every 6 months to elect to make contributions and to modify the amount being contributed. This legislation eliminates

these open seasons and allows participants to make or modify employee contributions at any time. In addition, H.R. 4324 provides immediate employer contributions for new participants.

H.R. 4556, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1115 South Clinton Avenue in Dunn, North Carolina, as the “General William Carey Lee Post Office Building.” General Lee was the founder and original commander of the 101st Airborne Division, the elite paratrooper company hailed for its heroic participation in the D-Day invasion that has been commemorated in the television series *Band of Brothers*.

H.R. 4618, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10 West Prospect Street in Nanuet, New York, as the “Anthony I. Lombardi Memorial Post Office Building.” A dauntless Army Sergeant who served during World War II, Anthony Lombardi spent his entire adult life as a respected postal worker and Sunday school teacher in his hometown of Nanuet, New York.

H.R. 4632, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 19504 Linden Boulevard in St. Albans, New York, as the “Archie Spigner Post Office Building.” During his twenty-seven year tenure on the New York City Council, Archie Spigner helped elect the first African-American Supreme Court Justice, Assembly Member, State Senator, and Member of Congress in the Borough of Queens, New York.

H.R. 4657, the District of Columbia Retirement Protection Improvement Act of 2004. Under Title XI of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (the Act), the U.S. Department of the Treasury is responsible for asset management and the payment of benefits under the defined benefit retirement plans for certain District of Columbia teachers, police officers, and firefighters and all District judges. As a result of subsequent amendments to the Act and District law, the passage of this proposal will make these retirement plans easier to administer. This legislation merges the two federal funds created to make federal benefit payments to covered retired teachers, police officers, and firefighters and their survivors. In addition, H.R. 4657 extends to retired judges the same rights of review of benefit denials, with the same standards of review for factual determinations and interpretations and construction of benefits provisions, that currently apply to retired teachers, police officers, and firefighters who are or may be eligible for federal benefit payments.

S. 2415, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4141 Postmark Drive, Anchorage, Alaska, as the “Robert J. Opinsky Post Office Building.” Robert Opinsky devoted 41 years of leadership to the Postal Service in Anchorage and earned the Green Star award for outstanding achievement in environmental responsibility.

H. Res. 695, a resolution expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives to the family and friends of Mattie Stepanek on his passing, and honoring the life of Mattie Stepanek for his braveness, generosity of spirit, and efforts to raise awareness of muscular dystrophy. Before losing his 14-year battle with the disease on June 22, 2004, Mattie Stepanek was a nationally recognized spokesperson for muscular dystrophy.

H. Res. 717, a resolution honoring former President William Jefferson Clinton on the occasion of his 58th birthday. President Clinton presided over the nation during the prosperous 1990s and became the first Democratic president since Franklin Delano Roosevelt to earn two terms in the White House.

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