



Washington Weekly

Week Ending 3/17/06



U.S. Congresswoman

CAROLYN CHEEKS

KILPATRICK

13TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
OF MICHIGAN

This E-Newsletter is a weekly summary of the events taking place in the United States Congress that affect the State of Michigan and primarily Michigan's 13th Congressional District.

Legislative Action From the Week Of 3/17/06

H.R. 4939 Providing War and Hurricane Supplemental Appropriations

H. Res. 698 Designating National Support the Troops Day

H.R. 1606 Establishing the Online Freedom of Speech Act

H. Con. Res. 350 Approving Use of the Rotunda for Holocaust Victims Days of Remembrance Commemoration

S. 1184 Waiving Passport Fees for Attending Funerals

Hill Highlights

Legislative Action From the Week Ending 3/17/2006

H.R. 4939 Providing War and Hurricane Supplemental Appropriations

This bill appropriates \$91.1 billion in emergency supplemental funds to cover costs relating to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the larger war on terrorism, and the continued recovery from Hurricane Katrina and other 2005 hurricanes. The measure fully funds last year's increases in the military death gratuity from \$12,000 to \$100,000, and subsidized life insurance benefits that were increased from \$250,000 to \$400,000, for families of soldiers who died or were killed in combat from Oct. 7, 2001. The bill includes a provision that blocks DP World, owned by the government of the United Arab Emirates, from taking over operations at six U.S. ports. It also includes language to shift \$750 million in funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) from FY 2007 to FY 2006. I supported this measure, which passed the House by a vote of 348 to 71. You can view my statement about the passage of this bill by clicking on this link: ["Kilpatrick's Statement on the Emergency War and Hurricane Supplemental."](#)

H. Res. 698 Designating National Support the Troops Day

There are more than 1.3 million active and 1.1 million reserve members of the U.S. armed forces. There are officially designated times to honor veterans and patriots, but no such day for active members of the military. March 26, 2006, was designated as "National Support the Troops Day." This resolution calls on U.S. citizens to observe a moment of silence to reflect upon the service of members of the armed forces. This measure was agreed to by a voice vote.

H.R. 1606 Establishing the Online Freedom of Speech Act

Current federal election law requires full reporting of campaign contributions and expenditures, and also limits spending on media advertisements. However,

campaign contributions and expenditures, and also limits spending on media advertisements. However, the Internet is currently not regulated by campaign finance laws. With the widespread use of the Internet as a means for politicians and political groups to communicate with the public, the Federal Election Commission (FEC) debated how, and if, to regulate this new medium. This bill exempts the Internet from being considered as a form of public communication that is subject to FEC regulation and disclosure requirements. I voted against this measure, which did not pass the House by a vote of 225 to 182.

Official Statements for the Record

[Kilpatrick's Statement on the Emergency War and Hurricane Supplemental](#)

In the District

Congresswoman Kilpatrick Participates in TechTown Kick-Off

Congresswoman Kilpatrick Celebrates with New Citizens

This Month Is

Poison Prevention Month

Upcoming Town Hall Events

Kilpatrick to Host Medicare Drug Plan Town Hall April 11th
[View Announcement](#)

Helpful Resources

H. Con. Res. 350 Approving Use of the Rotunda for Holocaust Victims Days of Remembrance Commemoration

In 1980, Congress enacted legislation creating the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, which is responsible for overseeing the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and for organizing annual "Days of Remembrance" events to commemorate the victims of the Holocaust. The first ceremony of remembrance was held in the Capitol Rotunda in 1979, and an event has been held there every year since then, except for periods when the Rotunda has been closed for renovations. This resolution authorizes the use of the Capitol Rotunda on April 27 for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust. This measure passed the House by a voice vote.

S. 1184 Waiving Passport Fees for Attending Funerals

Current law provides for a passport fee waiver for family members of deceased military service people to visit official gravesites located overseas. The waiver does not, however, apply to family members traveling abroad to attend a memorial or funeral service of a deceased member of the armed forces. This bill amends the passport law to allow for passport fee waivers for family of deceased members of the armed services traveling abroad to attend a funeral or memorial service. This measure passed the House by a voice vote.

To read more about these measures, or any other legislation, please visit the Library of Congress' legislative information site at <http://thomas.loc.gov/>.

In the District

Congresswoman Kilpatrick Participates in TechTown Kick-Off

Congresswoman Kilpatrick attended TechTown's community kick-off to launch a unique collaboration to overhaul its 12-block community. The master site development plan, which includes input from architecture and urban design students from Cass Techni-

Helpful Resources

[Directory of Homeownership Assistance in the Detroit Area](#)

Printable booklet of homeownership resources.

[Medicare's New Prescription Drug Plans](#)

Printable handout with important facts to help you understand the program.

[Energy Saving](#)

Brief compilation of tips and tricks to help your energy efficiency in both your home and on the road.

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development plan, which includes input from architecture and urban design students from Cass Technical High School and the University of Michigan, will incorporate business, residential, and entertainment development. "This innovative partnership will help develop new markets that lead to the creation of jobs. It will also help diminish the digital divide by expanding access to technology in our community. Both are crucial elements in helping ensure that Detroit and the surrounding region can stay ahead of technological advancements and maintain a presence in our increasingly global economy," said Congresswoman Kilpatrick. "I applaud the initiative and foresight of Mayor Kilpatrick and the businesses and organizations that are a part of TechTown's community development project." For more information about TechTown, visit www.TechTownWSU.org.

Congresswoman Kilpatrick Celebrates with New Citizens

Congresswoman Kilpatrick celebrated with more than 100 new American citizens and their families during a Naturalization Ceremony held at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History. She congratulated the participants on their accomplishment and encouraged them to become engaged in the political process and in their communities. "The people of America are our greatest strength," said Congresswoman Kilpatrick. "We must embrace and celebrate the diversity that generates the new ideas and creativity that will help us maintain our competitive advantage."

March Is...

Poison Prevention Month

Home Safety Council research shows that poisonings are the second leading cause of home-injury related death. Additional research finds the majority of American families are not taking steps to reduce their risk, nor are they properly prepared if a poison exposure happens at home.

The Home Safety Council encourages parents to take proper steps to reduce the risk of poisoning exposures:



exposures.

- Read warning labels carefully.
- Store potentially dangerous items in a safe place.
- Locking cabinets or keeping items on high shelves is a good idea.
- Wear gloves and follow manufacturer's instructions when using harsh chemicals or cleaners.
- Post the Poison Control Hotline number (1-800-222-1222) next to phone in your home.



For more tips to keep your family safe, visit the Home Safety Council website at www.homesafetycouncil.com or call (202) 330-4900.

By subscribing to Congresswoman Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick's e-mail newsletter, you are authorizing me to send regular e-mail updates from my office to your e-mail account. If you do not want to receive this e-mail, or if you have received this e-mail in error, please accept my apologies and click the link below and you will not be contacted



Michigan's 13th
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