

This Week in Washington

Pombo responds to Pledge of Allegiance decision

Congressman Richard Pombo today expressed his outrage over the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling that found the Pledge of Allegiance unconstitutional:

"I wonder what else the 9th Circuit Court will try to ban? Our money, that plainly reads 'In God We Trust,' or Congress, which begins every session with a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance?"

The fact that this absurd decision has happened at a time when our country has come together as one, and right before our Nation's birthday, is a slap in the face to everyone who has waved an American Flag, sung God Bless America or performed some other patriotic act since September 11.

This country was founded as One Nation Under God. The separation of church and state is in place to keep the government out of religion, not the other way around."

Senate and House pass defense bills

The House on Thursday passed a \$355 billion defense spending bill by a 413-18 vote. The bill includes a pay raise for military personnel and some of the biggest funding increases for the military in decades.

Minutes later across the Capitol, the Senate approved a \$393 billion bill by a 97-2 vote.

The Democratic-controlled Senate cut more than \$800 million from the president's \$7.6 billion request for development of a national missile defense system. Seeking to remove a veto threat, the Senate on Wednesday agreed to language stating that — in the event extra money becomes available to the Pentagon — the Senate believes that money should go to fighting terrorism but would give the president the option to use it for missile defense.

The House bill approves the pay raise and contains \$7.4 billion for continuing work on missile defense, \$74 million less than Bush proposed.

It includes \$4.7 billion to buy 23 F-22s and continue developing the stealth fighter which is slated to replace aging F-15s. The Joint Strike Fighter, a high-tech aircraft that Lockheed Martin is developing with U.S. allies, gets \$3.5 billion.

Reprinted from the Associated Press

GOP bill to reform ESA gains momentum

Endangered Species Act reform has become a hot topic on Capitol Hill this year. The House Resources Committee has held a number of hearings detailing shortfalls in the act and questioning federal researchers' scientific methods. Most recently, the chairman introduced a bill to fortify the peer review process and give greater weight to empirical, field-tested or peer-reviewed information when making decisions to protect endangered species.

The bill, the Sound Science for Endangered Species Act Planning Act of 2002, includes a number of provisions, some of which, on their own, might gain approval by all sides. But when taken in its entirety, the bill is weathering unwavering opposition from conservation groups.

Both conservation groups and the regulated community are scrambling for votes from both sides of the aisle, and the margin will likely be tight. Most onlookers felt confident that the bill could pass committee, but would see considerably stepped-up opposition on the floor.

Reprinted from the Land Letter

Take Congressman Pombo's new online poll regarding the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals decision that the Pledge of Allegiance is unconstitutional:
<http://www.house.gov/pombo/contact/commentsform.htm>

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Today in History

1776 - American Colonists repulsed a British sea attack on Charleston, SC.

1894 - The U.S. Congress made Labor Day a U.S. national holiday.

1911 - Samuel J. Battle became the first African-American policeman in New York City.

1914 - Archduke Francis Ferdinand was assassinated by Serb nationalist. Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia, beginning of WWI.

1919 - The Treaty of Versailles was signed ending World War I.

1926 - Mel Brooks was born.

1938 - The U.S. Congress created the Federal Housing Administration.

1967 - Fourteen people were shot in race riots in Buffalo, New York.

1972 - U.S. President Nixon announced that no new draftees would be sent to Vietnam.

1976 - The first women entered the U.S. Air Force Academy.

1978 - Members of the group Kansas were named Deputy Ambassadors of Goodwill by Unicef.

1996 - The Citadel voted to admit women.

2001 - Slobodan Milosevic was taken into custody and was handed over to the U.N. war crimes tribunal.

2001 - The U.S. Court of Appeals set aside an order to break up Microsoft for antitrust violations.

From www.on-this-day.com

Pledge of Allegiance History

- Francis Bellamy, a Baptist minister, wrote the original Pledge in August 1892.
- The Pledge was published in the Sept. 8th issue of The Youth's Companion.
- The original Pledge read as follows: 'I pledge allegiance to my Flag and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.'
- In 1923 and 1924 the National Flag Conference, under the 'leadership of the American Legion and the Daughters of the American Revolution, changed the Pledge's words, 'my Flag,' to 'the Flag of the United States of America.'
- In 1954, Congress after a campaign by the Knights of Columbus, added the words, 'under God,' to the Pledge.
- The true reason for allegiance to the Flag is the 'republic for which it stands.' And what does that vast thing, the Republic mean? It is the concise political word for the Nation - the One Nation which the Civil War was fought to prove. To make that One Nation idea clear, we must specify that it is indivisible, as Webster and Lincoln used to repeat in their great speeches. And its future?
Reprinted from Dr. John W. Baer's "The Pledge of Allegiance, A Short History"

By the Numbers

Davis Job At 39%; Job On The Environment At 35%

A Public Policy Institute Of CA poll; conducted 5/28-6/4; surveyed 2,029 adults; margin of error +/- 2% (release, 6/27).

Davis job as governor	Davis job on the environment
Approve 39%	Approve 35%
Disapprove 52	Disapprove 47

How important will enviro issues be in deciding your CA GOV vote?	Which candidate would do a better job on CA enviro issues?
Very important 39%	Davis 43%
Somewhat important 49	Simon 31
Not important 11	Undec. 22

Comments from the District

"It would be in the best interests of the flying public to arm all cockpit crews who wish to be so." - **Michael Horn** - 6/19/02

"The Republican House is voting to cut your taxes. Tom Daschle wants to raise them." - **Linton Park** - 6/17/02

"If you are truly serious about investigating the facts that led to the September 11th attack, you will have to investigate the shortfalls of the Clinton Administration." - **Larry Parker** - 6/10/02

"It is called 'Inclusion,' and the gist of it is inserting elementary children with 'special needs' back into the general classroom." - **J. Paul Belleci** - 6/17/02

"I count you being my Congressman as one of my 'blessings'." - **Mary Canniff** - 6/17/02

You can view more comments on Congressman Pombo's web site bulletin board at the link here: <http://www.house.gov/pombo/board/board2002/board2002.htm>

Weekly Quotes

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

- **First Amendment of the United States Constitution**

"Since I was a small boy, two states have been added to our country, and two words have been added to the Pledge of Allegiance - "under God." Wouldn't it be a pity if someone said, "That is a prayer," and that would be eliminated from schools, too?"

- **Red Skelton - From THE RED SKELTON HOUR, CBS TV, January 14, 1969**

Wordsmith

al·le·giance

Pronunciation: &'lE-j&n(t)s

Function: noun

Etymology: Middle English allegeaunce, modification of Middle French ligeance, from Old French, from lige liege

Date: 14th century

1 a : the obligation of a feudal vassal to his liege lord
b (1) : the fidelity owed by a subject or citizen to a sovereign or government (2) : the obligation of an alien to the government under which the alien resides

2 : devotion or loyalty to a person, group, or cause
synonym see FIDELITY

- al·le·giant /-j&n(t)/ adjective

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