

## This Week in Washington

### House unanimously approves Pombo resolution

#### *Calls for sound policies to combat wildfires*

The House of Representatives this week approved a resolution introduced by Congressman Richard Pombo. H.Con.Res. 352, a resolution in support of the Western Governors' Association (WGA) strategy for reducing wildfire risks, was unanimously approved.

Upon completion of the 2001 wildfire season, 81,681 fires burned 3,555,138 acres, which threatened rural communities nationwide and killed 15 firefighters. More than 7.4 million acres burned during the 2000 wildfire season - equivalent to a six-mile-wide swath from Washington, D.C. to Los Angeles, California and back - destroying 861 structures, killing 16 firefighters and costing the federal government \$1.3 billion in suppression costs.

"Now, more than ever, is the time to put sound policy above election year politics and support effective and efficient ways to combat wildfires," Pombo stated. "We must make the tough decisions necessary to end catastrophic losses of wildlife habitat, forest resources and most importantly, human lives on our lands. I commend the Western Governors' Association for working with me to aggressively respond to these catastrophic events."

### Deal reached on business fraud bill

Key lawmakers reached agreement Wednesday on legislation to crack down on corporate fraud and stiffen penalties for wrongdoers, and officials said the measure could be on President Bush desk within days. "The president looks forward to signing this into law," White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said.

The legislation creates new criminal penalties and jail terms for company fraud and document shredding and an independent, private-sector board to oversee the accounting industry. It also will include Senate provisions for an accounting oversight board with subpoena power and restrictions on accounting firms doing consulting services for corporate clients whose books they audit.

The SEC already has ordered the 1,000 largest corporations to provide sworn statements from their chief executive officers vouching for the accuracy of financial reports. On Wednesday, the agency was proposing requiring financial analysts to certify that their recommendations for a stock aren't influenced by their firms' investment business for that company.

*Reprinted from the Associated Press*

### Pombo steps up in flag flap

When Linden resident David Knickerbocker received a letter from the US Forest Service telling him that he would have to take down his flagpole at his cabin in Eldorado National Forest, he couldn't believe it. He had been on that property for 17 years, and the flagpole was standing when he first arrived. He decided to contact Congressman Richard Pombo and tell him about it. Pombo quickly went to work, informing the Forest Service, as well as Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman, of his outrage that a bureaucrat would try to take down the American flag on federal land. The story quickly spread, causing much embarrassment for the Forest Service. Within days, Secretary Veneman wrote to Congressman Pombo apologizing and stating that the flagpole would remain. In addition, she was sending Mr. Knickerbocker an American flag that had flown over the Department of Agriculture as a goodwill gesture. Said Knickerbocker, "I'm happy that somebody understood the problem and took care of it."

Congressman Richard W. Pombo  
11th District, California  
2411 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-1947  
[www.pombo.house.gov](http://www.pombo.house.gov)

### Today in History

**1861** - The Crittenden Resolution, which called for the American Civil War to be fought to preserve the Union and not for slavery, was passed by Congress.

**1866** - Ulysses S. Grant was named General of the Army. He was the first American officer to hold the rank.

**1868** - The U.S. Congress passed an act creating the Wyoming Territory.

**1943** - Italian Fascist dictator Benito Mussolini was overthrown in a coup.

**1971** - The Beach Boys released the album *Surf's Up*.

**1978** - Pete Rose of the Cincinnati Reds broke the National League record for consecutive base hits as he got a hit in 38 straight games.

**1990** - Rosanne Barr sang the National Anthem in San Diego before a Padres baseball game. She was booed for her performance.

**1998** - The USS Harry S. Truman was commissioned and put into service by the U.S. Navy.

**1998** - U.S. President Clinton was subpoenaed to appear before a federal grand jury regarding the Monica Lewinsky case.

**1999** - Lance Armstrong won the Tour de France. He was only the second American to win the race. He won the race again in 2000.

**2000** - A supersonic Concorde crashed outside Paris killing all 109 people aboard and 5 on the ground.

*From [www.on-this-day.com](http://www.on-this-day.com)*

## This Week in Washington cont.

### Red-legged frog still testing law

The California red-legged frog once abundant in the Sierra Nevada attracts vivid but conflicting sentiments.

Just ask Central Valley lawmakers, who last week began trying again to revise the Endangered Species Act that protects the amphibian. Showcasing how the law currently works, a sweeping 4.1 million acres in California was originally designated as critical habitat for the threatened frog. "The size of this designation doesn't concern me," said Rep. Richard Pombo. "What does concern me is that subdivisions, and entire cities, were included in the designation as critical habitat."

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in a lawsuit settlement signed earlier this month, has since agreed to reconsider how much land the California red-legged frog needs to survive. Lawmakers, too, want changes.

On Capitol Hill, Pombo is one of the chief authors of an Endangered Species Act revision that won approval last week from the House Resources Committee. Well-stocked with Westerners, the committee approved the legislation 23-18.

The legislation backed by Pombo and colleagues including Rep. George Radanovich, would require new independent scientific panels to evaluate listing decisions.

*Reprinted from the Sacramento Bee*

### Weekly Quote

"We've got to stop planning events that just have folk singing"

- Green Party delegate

### Wordsmith

#### an·nex

**Pronunciation:** &-'neks, 'a-'neks

**Function:** transitive verb

**Etymology:** Middle English, from Middle French annexer, from Old French, from annexe joined, from Latin annexus

**Date:** 14th century

1 : to attach as a quality, consequence, or condition

2 archaic : to join together materially : UNITE

3 : to add to something earlier, larger, or more important

4 : to incorporate (a country or other territory) within the domain of a state

5 : to obtain or take for oneself

- an·nex·ation /'a-'nek-'sA-sh&n/ noun

- an·nex·ation·ist /-sh(&-)nist/ noun

*Reprinted from m-w.com*

## By the Numbers

### President Bush's job approval rating

The Ipsos-Reid tracking poll released Tuesday interviewed 2000 adults in July and has an error margin of plus or minus 2.2 percentage points. The Newsweek poll of 1,004 people was taken July 19-20 and has an error margin of plus or minus 3 points. The NBC-Wall Street Journal poll of 1,014 adults was taken July 19-21 and has an error margin of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

- Bush's job approval rating in the Ipsos-Reid poll was 67 percent, with disapproval at 30 percent.
- His rating in the Newsweek poll released last weekend was 65 percent with 25 percent disapproving.
- His rating in the NBC-Wall Street Journal poll released Monday was 67 percent, with 27 percent disapproving.

*Reprinted from the Associated Press*

## Comments from the District

"Are we some day going to be forced to burn the Bible and all other religious writings?" - **Ken Bateman, Sr.** - 7/1/02

"I want you to know that as your constituent in your district, I support your entire agenda and I believe that as a Veteran and a responsible United States patriot, I must stand and be counted for what is right in America." - **William Chapman** - 7/2/02

"Please stay firm in your convictions and be confident in speaking your truth...even when unpopular. Political correctness was the biggest lie our society told itself." - **Louise Cooke** - 7/3/02

"Neither party seems to represent the American middle class." - **Gary Dawson** - 7/8/02

"Separation of church and state was only to keep the government from regulating our choice of religion, not to keep God out of our lives." - **Kathy Meadows** - 7/2/02

*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>