

This Week in Washington

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AMBER Alert

The House is scheduled to consider the **Child Abduction Prevention Act, H.R. 1104**, this week in Congress.

Highlights of H.R. 1104 include...

- Enhancing the operation of the AMBER Alert communications network to facilitate the recovery of abducted children.
- Denying pretrial release for child rapists or child abductors.
- Eliminating the statute of limitations for child abductions and sex crimes.
- Reauthorizing and doubling the annual grant to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to \$20 million each year through 2005.
- Mandating a minimum 20-year prison sentence for kidnapping or abducting a person under 18 by a non-family member.
- Providing a judge with the discretion to extend the term for supervision of released sex offenders up to a maximum of life. (Similar to H.R. 4679 - passed the House 409 - 3 on June 25, 2002).
- Requiring a mandatory sentence of life imprisonment for twice-convicted child sex offenders. (Similar to H.R. 2146 - passed the House 382 - 34 on March 14, 2002).
- Authorizing COPS funding for a Sex Offender Apprehension Program. This would allow money to be used by local law enforcement to track sex offenders that violate terms of their release.
- Punishing persons who travel to foreign countries to engage in illicit sexual relations with minors and criminalizes the actions of sex tour operators. (Similar to H.R. 4477 - passed the House 418 - 8 on June 26, 2002).

Every day, children are abducted-abruptly and unfairly taken from their families. **AMBER, America's Missing Broadcast Emergency Response Plan**, is a voluntary partnership between law-enforcement agencies and broadcasters to activate an urgent bulletin in the most serious child-abduction cases. Currently, there are 87 AMBER Plans across the country; 38 of those plans are statewide. 47 children have been recovered as a direct result of AMBER plan implementation-a tremendous success rate that illustrates America's need for a nation-wide AMBER Alert System.

For more background on H.R. 1104, please visit <http://www.gop.gov/committeecentral/docs/bills/108/1/bill.asp?bill=hr1104>

Today in History

1827 - The Louisiana Purchase was divided into the Territory of Orleans and the District of Louisiana.

1910 - The U.S. Congress passed an amendment to the 1907 Immigration Act that barred criminals, paupers, anarchists and carriers of disease from settling in U.S.

1945 - The battle of Iwo Jima ended.

1951 - The U.S. Air Force flag was approved. The flag included the coat of arms, 13 white stars and the Air Force seal on a blue background.

1962 - The U.S. Supreme Court supported the 1-man-1-vote apportionment of seats in the State Legislature.

1979 - The Camp David treaty was signed by Israel and Egypt that ended the 31-year state of war between the countries.

1982 - Ground breaking ceremonies were held in Washington, DC, for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

1991 - The presidents of Argentina, Paraguay, Brazil and Uruguay signed an agreement that established the Southern Cone Common Market, a free-trade zone, by January 1, 1995.

1995 - Seven of the 15 European Union states abolished border controls.

1996 - The International Monetary Fund approved a \$10.2 billion loan for Russia to help the country transform its economy.

From www.on-this-day.com

This Week in Washington cont.

Pombo Pushes for Vietnam Visitor's Center Bipartisan bill for Veteran's Memorial, visited by 4.4 million annually

Chairman Richard Pombo of the House Resources Committee today announced a bipartisan bill for the construction of a visitor's center on or adjacent to the grounds of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Co-sponsored by Resources Vice Chairman Jim Gibbons (R-NV) and Ranking Member Nick Rahall (D-WV) with John Murtha (D-PA), the bill would allow more than 4.4 million annual visitors to learn more about the memorial, as well as encourage young people to gain insight into the Vietnam War in America's history.

Dedicated in 1982, the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial is now older than many of the people who visit it annually. The memorial offers young people the opportunity to learn the lessons of the Vietnam War and develop a better understanding of character, service, sacrifice, and patriotism. As proposed, the new visitor center would facilitate self-guided tours for small groups of students and tourists. It would also serve as a facility to collect remembrances of individuals' names that are inscribed on the memorial, creating a unique historical record for future generations. One planned exhibit would display photographs of the over 65,000 items left at the wall since its construction.

Importantly, the visitor's center would be built at no cost to American taxpayers. The Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Fund, the nonprofit organization authorized by the U.S. Congress in 1980 to build the Memorial, would provide the funds for the center.

Statement from Chairman Richard Pombo: "I am pleased that we can work in a bi-partisan manner on this important issue. The Vietnam Veteran's Memorial should not be a political issue. At this crucial time in our nation's history, it is important that we treat our veterans with the respect and dignity they deserve. Improving the Memorial is one small step to repaying a debt that can never be fully repaid."

Statement from Congressman Nick Rahall (D-WV): "The Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Visitor's Center would be a wonderful way to further educate school children and the American public as a whole about the tremendous sacrifices made by the men and women whose names are engraved at the Memorial. Just as our soldiers are today fighting for freedom and democracy, the soldiers who served during the Vietnam War answered their nation's call to duty and, as a country, we mustn't forget, or take for granted, their selfless contribution."

Pombo Reintroduces Bill Honoring Former Congressman Norman Shumway

The bill, H.R. 1368, would rename the post office located at 7554 Pacific Avenue in Stockton, California as the "Norman Shumway Post Office Building." Because the legislation is co-sponsored by the entire California delegation, it is expected to be placed on the House Suspension calendar and quickly approved by the full House of Representatives.

"Naming a post office after Congressman Shumway is a small way to say thank you for all he has done for San Joaquin County and all of California," said Pombo. "He was always keenly aware of the needs of San Joaquin County, and made time to meet with as many people from San Joaquin County as he could. He was a great a leader for California."

Elected to Congress in 1978, Congressman Shumway was overwhelmingly re-elected to each succeeding Congress until his retirement in January 1991. Before his election to Congress, Norm served on the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors for four years which gave him a special understanding of local government challenges.

Pledge of Allegiance

On March 20, 2003 by a vote of 400-7 with 15 present, the house passed **H Res 132** expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruling in *Newdow v. United States Congress* is inconsistent with the Supreme Court's interpretation of the first amendment and should be overturned.

Reprinted from <http://www.congress.gov/cgi-lis/bdquery/z?d108:H.RES.132>:

Vally Rally

This Saturday, March 29th, 2002, there will be a candlelight walk to support the U.S. troops from 7pm-9pm. Meet at the community center across from the Danville Veteran's Hall at 6:30pm. Please join in to show your support for our troops. For more information, contact Adm. Gorman at 925-837-7178.

Support the Troops Rally in Stockton

Please join the Karl Ross Post Saturday, April 12th, 2002, for a support the troops rally at the Target Parking Lot on Pacific Ave. from 11am—2pm. For more information contact Tino Adame, Post Commander at 209-463-7982.