

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
National Committee on Legislation

Daniel R. Earl (PCC), Chairman
 3012 Lake Estates Court, San Jose, CA 95135-1366 • 408-531-9549
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25 October 2008

Brother David V. Medert, PDC
 Commander-in-Chief
 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Dear C-in-C Medert:

The National Committee on Legislation respectfully submits this report covering legislation for the period commencing with the first session of the 110th Congress through 24 October 2008 (inclusive of H.R. 7261, H.Con.Res. 444, H.J.Res. 100, H.Res. 1528, S. 3682, S.Con.Res. 105, S.J.Res. 45, and S.Res. 705).

There remains no changes to the status of S. 70, the Senate Bill introduced by Senator Inouye on 4 January 2007, which, if signed into law, would restore Memorial Day to May 30th. No action has been taken and no senators have added their name as a co-sponsor to the bill.

Other federal legislation of interest to the Order include the following bills (bills highlighted are new or have received legislative action since the 2007-2008 final report to the 128th National Encampment at Peabody, MA):

<i>Pending Legislation (by Bill number)</i>	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Date Introduced</i>	<i>Status</i>
S. 70 , A bill to restore the traditional day of observance of Memorial Day.	Sen. Daniel Inouye [HI]	1/4/2007	1/4/2007: Referred to the Senate Comm. on the Judiciary.
H.R. 145 , to extend Federal jurisdiction over destruction of veterans' memorials on state or local government property.	Rep. Gene Green [TX-29]	1/4/2007	2/2/2007: Ref'd to the House Subcomm. on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security.
H.R. 390 , to require the establishment of a national database in the National Archives to preserve records of servitude, emancipation, and post-Civil War reconstruction and to provide grants to state and local entities to establish similar local databases.	Rep. Tom Lantos [CA-12]	1/10/2007	1/22/2007: Passed the House by vote of 414-1. 9/23/2008: Reported favorably by the Senate Comm. on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; placed on Senate Legislative Calendar.

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<i>Pending Legislation (by Bill number)</i>	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Date Introduced</i>	<i>Status</i>
H.R. 699 , to alter the jurisdiction of Federal courts over the Pledge of Allegiance.	Rep. W. Todd Akin [MO-2]	1/29/2007	3/1/2007: Ref'd to the House Subcomm. on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties of the Comm. on the Judiciary.
H.R. 1131 , to establish a commission to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War.	Rep. Richard Baker [LA-6]	2/16/2007	3/27/2007: Ref'd to the House Subcomm. on Federal Workforce, Post Office, and the District of Columbia.
H.R. 1625 , to establish the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area.	Rep. Ray LaHood [IL-18]	3/21/2007	3/27/2007: Ref'd to the House Subcomm. on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands. 6/14/2007: Subcommittee Hearings Held.
H.R. 2933 , to amend the American Battlefield Protection Act of 1996 to extend the authorization for that Act.	Rep. Gary G. Miller [CA-42]	6/28/2007	9/24/2008: Passed the House on voice vote. 10/2/2008: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar.
H.R. 3480 , The Let Our Veterans Rest in Peace Act of 2007 would direct the U.S. Sentencing Commission to assure appropriate enhancements of those involved in receiving stolen property where that property consists of grave markers of veterans.	Rep. Christopher Carney [PA-10]	9/6/2007	5/21/2008: Passed the House on voice vote. 10/2/2008: Passed Senate by unanimous consent.
H.R. 3659 , To prohibit a school from receiving Federal funds if the school prevents a student from displaying or wearing in a respectful manner a representation of the flag of the United States.	Rep. Walter Jones, Jr. [NC-3]	9/25/2007	9/25/2007: Ref'd to the House Comm. on Education and Labor.
H.R. 3908 , "Loyalty to Our Legacy Act" to direct the Architect of the Capitol to ensure that the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and the national motto "In God We Trust" are each displayed prominently in the Capitol Visitor Center.	Rep. Marilyn Musgrave [CO-4]	10/18/2007	10/28/2007: Ref'd to the House Comm. on Administration. [Companion bill S. 2409 introduced in the Senate on 12/5/2007 by Sen. Demint of SC.]
H.R. 6783 , To withhold Federal funds from schools that permit or require the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance or the national anthem in a language other than English.	Rep. Paul Broun [GA-10]	8/1/2008	8/1/2008: Ref'd to the House Comm. on Education and Labor.

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<i>Pending Legislation (by Bill number)</i>	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Date Introduced</i>	<i>Status</i>
H. Con. Res. 155 , Recognizing the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day, and expressing the sense of Congress that history should be regarded as a means for understanding the past and more effectively facing the challenges of the future.	Rep. Danny Davis [IL-7]	5/23/2007	6/18/2007: Passed by voice vote in the House. 6/19/2007: Received in the Senate. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar. 1/22/2008: Indefinitely postponed by Senate by Unanimous Consent.
H. Res. 529 , Commending Brigadier General George Standard and the Second Vermont Brigade upon the 144th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg.	Rep. Peter Welch [VT]	6/28/2007	6/28/2007: Referred to the House Committee on Armed Services.
H. Res. 1237 , President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation.	Rep. Danny Davis [IL]	6/4/2008	6/18/2008: Passed and agreed to in the House by voice vote.
H. Res. 1417 , Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that all public elementary and secondary schools should display a copy of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights.	Rep. Christopher Murphy [CT]	9/8/2008	9/8/2008: Ref'd to the House Comm. on Education and Labor.
S. 955 , a bill to establish the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area, and for other purposes.	Sen. Richard Durbin [IL]	3/21/2007	9/17/2007: Placed on the Senate Legislative Calendar. 6/11/2008: Indefinitely postponed. Consolidated with S 2739.
S. 1921 , A bill to amend the American Battlefield Protection Act of 1996.	Sen. Jim Webb [VA]	8/1/2007	4/10/2008: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar.
S. 2027 , A bill to authorize the next of kin of a deceased veteran to wear the veteran's awards and decorations under certain circumstances.	Sen. Daniel Akaka [HI]	9/6/2007	9/6/2007: Referred to the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs.
S. 2739 (see S.955, above)	Sen. Jeff Bingaman [NM]	3/10/2008	4/10/2008: Passed Senate 91-4. 4/29/2008: Passed House 291-117
S. 3477 , Presidential Historical Records Preservation Act of 2008 (would establish a national database for records of servitude, emancipation, and post-civil war reconstruction.)	Sen. John Warner [VA]	9/11/2008	9/25/2008: Reported favorably by the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

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<i>Pending Legislation (by Bill number)</i>	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Date Introduced</i>	<i>Status</i>
S. Con. Res. 65 , Celebrating the birth of Abraham Lincoln.	Sen. Richard Durbin [IL]	2/6/2008	2/6/2008: Referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

<i>Adopted Legislation (by Bill number)</i>	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Date Introduced</i>	<i>Status</i>
H. Res. 605 , Supporting the goals and ideals of Gold Star Mothers Day.	Rep. Peter J. Roskam [IL-6]	8/1/2007	9/24/2007: Agreed to by the House on voice vote.
H. Res. 1237 , President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation.	Rep. Danny Davis [IL]	6/4/2008	6/18/2008: Passed and agreed to in the House by voice vote.
S. 3477 , Presidential Historical Records Preservation Act of 2008 (would establish a national database for records of servitude, emancipation, and post-civil war reconstruction.)	Sen. John Warner [VA]	9/11/2008	9/26/2008: Passed unanimously in the Senate 9/27/2008: Passed by voice vote in the House.
H.R. 3480 , The Let Our Veterans Rest in Peace Act of 2007 would direct the U.S. Sentencing Commission to assure appropriate enhancements of those involved in receiving stolen property where that property consists of grave markers of veterans.	Rep. Christopher Carney [PA-10]	9/6/2007	5/21/2008: Passed the House on voice vote. 10/2/2008: Passed Senate by unanimous consent.
S. 2739 (see S.955, above)	Sen. Jeff Bingaman [NM]	3/10/2008	4/10/2008: Passed Senate 91-4. 4/29/2008: Passed House 291-117

<i>Laws (signed by the President)</i>	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Date Introduced</i>	<i>Status</i>
S. 3477 , Presidential Historical Records Preservation Act of 2008 (would establish a national database for records of servitude, emancipation, and post-civil war reconstruction, etc.)	Sen. John Warner [VA]	9/11/2008	Signed into law by the President 10/13/2008 Public Law No. 110-404

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H.R. 3480 , The Let Our Veterans Rest in Peace Act of 2007 would direct the U.S. Sentencing Commission to assure appropriate enhancements of those involved in receiving stolen property where that property consists of grave markers of veterans.	Rep. Christopher Carney [PA-10]	9/6/2007	Signed into law by the President 10/10/2008 Public Law No. 110-384
S. 2739 (see S.955, above)	Sen. Jeff Bingaman [NM]	3/10/2008	Signed into law by the President 5/8/2008 Public Law No. 110-229

Respectfully submitted in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Daniel R. Earl, PCC

Chair, National Committee on Legislation
 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

- cc: D. Brad Schall (PDC), National Chief of Staff
 Andrew M. Johnson (PCinC), Committee Member *ex officio*
 Jerry R. Sayre (DC), Department of California and Pacific
 Paul E. Lavrischeff, Patriotic Instructor, Department of California and Pacific
 Frank C. Avila, Camp Commander, Phil Sheridan Camp No. 4, Dept. of CA & PAC