

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

Daniel R. Earl (PCC), Chairman
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20 October 2007

Brother Charles E. Kuhn, Jr., PDC
Commander-in-Chief
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
464 Lake Meade Drive
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Dear C-in-C Kuhn and Brothers of the National Council of Administration:

This report covers research conducted by the National Committee on Legislation since the close of the 126th National Encampment in August this year and includes legislation since the start of the first session of the 110th Congress (January 2007) through 19 October 2007 (inclusive of H.R. 3190, H.Con.Res. 239, H.J.Res. 59, H.Res. 761, S. 2206, S.Con.Res. 51, S.J.Res. 21, and S.Res. 351). Not much legislation of specific interest to the Order has been considered by the Congress since August. Those pieces of legislation, and follow-ups to previously reported legislation are included herein.

Of continued interest is legislation relative to the return of Memorial Day to the traditional day of observance (consistent with a Resolution adopted in 2004 as introduced by PDC Al Peterson). At the 126th National Encampment, the National Committee on Legislation reported that the success of this legislation, S. 70, as introduced by U.S. Senate by Senator Daniel K. Inouye (D-HI) on 4 January 2007, being passed by Congress, appears to be very improbably, especially as the first session of Congress is coming to an end. The bill remains assigned to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary where no action has been taken. Likewise, no Senator has added his name as a co-sponsor to the bill.

Other federal legislation of interest to the Order includes (bills highlighted are new or have received legislative action since the last report):

<i>Legislation (by Bill number)</i>	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Date Introduced</i>	<i>Status</i>
<i>S. 70</i> , A bill to restore the traditional day of observance of Memorial Day, and for other purposes.	Sen. Daniel Inouye [HI]	1/4/2007	1/4/2007: Referred to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary.
<i>H.R. 145</i> , 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: Referred to the House Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security of the Committee on the Judiciary.
<i>H.R. 390</i> , 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. 3/30/2007: Referred to Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security Committee of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.
<i>H.R. 699</i> , to alter the jurisdiction of Federal courts over certain cases and controversies involving the Pledge of Allegiance.	Rep. W. Todd Akin [MO-2]	1/29/2007	3/1/2007: Referred to the House Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties of the Committee on the Judiciary.
<i>H.R. 1131</i> , to establish a commission to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War.	Rep. Richard Baker [LA-6]	2/16/2007	3/27/2007: Referred to the House Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, Post Office, and the District of Columbia of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.
<i>H.R. 1625</i> , to establish the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area, and for other purposes.	Rep. Ray LaHood [IL-18]	3/21/2007	3/27/2007: Referred to the House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands of the House Committee on Natural Resources. 6/14/2007: Subcommittee Hearings Held.

<i>Legislation (by Bill number)</i>	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Date Introduced</i>	<i>Status</i>
<i>H.R. 2933</i> , to amend the American Battlefield Protection Act of 1996 to extend the authorization for that Act, and for other purposes	Rep. Gary G. Miller [CA-42]	6/28/2007	7/5/2007: Referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands of the House Committee on Natural Resources.
<i>H.R. 3480</i> , 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, and for other purposes.	Rep. Christopher Carney [PA-10]	9/6/2007	9/6/2007: Referred to House Committee on the Judiciary.
<i>H.R. 3659</i> , 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: Referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor.
<i>H.R. 3908</i> , 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 on a permanent basis and to prohibit the Architect from removing or refusing to include language or other content from exhibits and materials relating to the Capitol Visitor Center on the grounds that the language or content includes a religious reference or Judeo-Christian content.	Rep. Marilyn Musgrave [CO-4]	10/18/2007	10/28/2007: Referred to the House Committee on Administration.

Legislation (by Bill number)	Sponsor	Date Introduced	Status
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 under General Orders. Calendar No. 210.
H.Res. 529 , Commending Brigadier General George Stannard 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. 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. 680 , Condemning the actions of September 7, 2007, resulting in damage to the Vietnam Veterans War Memorial.	Rep. John R. Cater [TX-31]	9/25/2007	9/25/2007: Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.
S. 955 , a bill to establish the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area, and for other purposes.	Sen. Richard Durbin [IL]	3/21/2007	7/12/2007: Referred to the Senate Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Hearings held. 9/17/2007: Committee on Energy and Natural Resources reported favorably with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. Place on the Senate Legislative Calendar No. 375.
S. 1921 , A bill to amend the American Battlefield Protection Act of 1996 to extend the authorization for that Act, and for other purposes.	Sen. Jim Webb [VA]	8/1/2007	8/1/2007: Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

<i>Legislation (by Bill number)</i>	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Date Introduced</i>	<i>Status</i>
<i>S. 2027 (by request)</i> , A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, chapter 5, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish and promote programs and activities honoring veterans and to authorize the next of kin of a deceased veteran to wear the veteran's awards and decorations under certain circumstances.	Sen. Daniel K. Akaka	9/6/2007	9/6/2007: Referred to the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs. NOTE: This bill was introduced "by request" which denotes that the senator has introduced it at the request of someone else, or more likely that he may not support the legislation, but has introduced it as a courtesy.

If there is any specific area or topic of interest the National Council of Administration would like the Committee to focus on, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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: Eugene G. Mortorff, 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
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