

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

# National Committee on Legislation

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Brother James B. Pahl, PDC  
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Dear C-in-C Pahl and Brothers of the National Council of Administration:

This report concludes the research and analysis conducted by the National Committee on Legislation during the 2006-2007 administrative year.

January of this year brought us the beginning of the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress. With this first session came a change in the balance of political power in both the Senate and House of Representatives. Generally this would indicate a shift in legislative priorities. Although this may be true, there has been little impact, thus far, with any legislative based changes in Congress that affect the Order. Nevertheless, there were several proposals in Congress that may be of interest to the membership.

Federal legislation reviewed and analyzed by the Committee covers the time period from the beginning of the 1<sup>st</sup> Session of the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress (January 2007) through 15 July 2007, which is inclusive of: H.R. 3043, H.Con.Res. 184, H.J.Res. 46, H.Res. 544, S. 1764, S.Con.Res.40, S.J.Res. 16, and S.Res. 100.

## I

Of particular interest is the continued examination of 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). This legislation has been proposed in the U.S. Senate by Senator Daniel K. Inouye (D-HI) for the past several sessions of Congress. Currently it is designated as S. 70. It was introduced on 4 January 2007 and assigned to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary where it remains today without any action having been taken on it. Moreover, there are no co-sponsors (which is necessary for any legislation to be successful) to this bill. Based on the inactivity of this bill, and the results of prior versions over the past two decades, it is the Committee's analysis that, although the author purports to be actively pursuing this legislation, the contrary is more likely and the bill's probability of success during this or future sessions of Congress are dubious at best.

## II

The Committee also reviewed many other pieces of applicable legislation having an impact on the Order, including, among other things, issues relative to patriotism and pro-American activities. A highlight of the important legislation is included herein (other legislation from throughout the year may be found in previous reports during this term).

### Noteworthy Legislation of Interest to the Order

<i>Legislation (by Bill number)</i>	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Date Introduced</i>	<i>Status</i>
<b><i>H.R. 145</i></b> , 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.
<b><i>H.R. 390</i></b> , 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.
<b><i>H.R. 699</i></b> , 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.
<b><i>H.R. 1131</i></b> , 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>Legislation (by Bill number)</i>	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Date Introduced</i>	<i>Status</i>
<b>H.R. 1625</b> , 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.
<b>H.R. 2933</b> , 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.
<b>H. Con. Res. 155</b> , 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.
<b>H. Res. 529</b> , 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.
<b>S. 955</b> , 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.

### III

Committee Member Brother Paul Ellis-Graham submitted the following addition to the Committee's Report:

Proposals that would increase criminal penalties for anyone who desecrates or disturbs the remains of any veteran (Assembly 2459 and Senate 6332) had passed both houses of the New York State Legislature and are being sent to the Governor's Office for approval. Other legislation being supported in New York would prohibit the unlawful sale of Civil War monuments, artillery, etc., however, it did not make it out of the Assembly's Veterans' Committee.

## IV

Every effort has been made to compile a thorough and accurate report of legislation analyzed by the Committee. However, as with any similar report compiled and submitted by this Committee, there are likely to be oversights and inadvertent omissions. The Committee asks that items overlooked in this report or those for which further analysis is desired, be referred to the next appointed National Committee on Legislation.

Respectfully submitted in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

*Daniel R. Earl*

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

cc: Donald D. Palmer, Jr. (PDC), National Chief of Staff  
Andrew M. Johnson (PCinC), Committee Member *ex officio*  
Jerry R. Sayre, DC, Department of California and Pacific  
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