



The Daily Whip

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THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2005

House Meets At...	Last Vote Predicted At...
10:00 a.m.: Legislative Business Ten "One Minutes" Per Side	4:00 p.m. ?

**** DEMOCRATS ARE URGED TO SIGN THE MARSHALL DISCHARGE PETITION (No. 2) TO ELIMINATE THE DISABLED VETERANS TAX (CONCURRENT RECEIPT). THIS DISCHARGE PETITION WOULD FORCE ACTION ON H.R. 303 -- A BILL TO PROVIDE FULL RETIREMENT PAY AND DISABILITY PAY TO DISABLED MILITARY RETIREES.**

FLOOR SCHEDULE AND BILL SUMMARY

H.Res. 298 – Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 2528 – Military Quality and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act for FY06 (Rules). The Rules Committee has recommended an open Rule that provides one hour of general debate and one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Amendments that do not require waivers of points of order will be considered under the five-minute rule. Unfortunately, the Rule does not make in order an important amendment by Rep. Obey that would have provided an additional \$2.6 billion for VA health care --- this increase is paid for by reducing the size of the tax cut for those individuals who earn more than a million dollars a year.

H.R. 2528 – Military Quality of Life Appropriations Act for FY06 (Rep. Walsh/ Appropriations) (Subject to a Rule). This bill provides \$121.8 billion for certain Department of Defense programs, the Veterans Affairs Department, and related agencies. Funding in this bill includes: \$53.51 billion for Defense Department programs (\$5.84 billion for military construction; \$4.2 billion for family housing; \$1.94 billion for Base Realignment and Closure; \$13.27 billion for Basic Allowance for Housing; \$6.62 billion for facilities upkeep; and \$19.98 billion for Defense Health programs); \$68.11 billion for the Veterans Affairs Department (\$36.78 billion for the Veterans' Benefits Administration; \$28.82 for the Veterans' Health Administration; and \$2.51 billion for Departmental Administration); and \$157 million for related agencies. This bill includes \$1 billion more than the President requested for VA health care, however, it falls short of what is needed to keep the promise of quality health care to all America's veterans.

Possible consideration of a Motion to go to Conference and Appoint Conferees on the Transportation Bill.

TOMORROW'S OUTLOOK

The GOP Leadership has announced the following schedule: on Friday, no votes are expected in the House.

Daily Quote...

"Even if they claim to be unconcerned about their own poll numbers, Bush's aides are troubled by the plunging poll numbers on Capitol Hill. The GOP-controlled Congress is running on disapproval ratings well above 50 percent (according to a recent CBS News poll, the disapproval number is 55 percent, including 51 percent of Republican voters)—a level that many observers have compared to the Democratic-controlled Congress of a decade ago, just before the Republican revolution led by Newt Gingrich."

- By Richard Wolffe and Holly Bailey, Newsweek, May 25, 2005