

NEWS/OBITUARIES

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Democrats face Iraq agenda in new Congress

War to be at forefront of 2007

By ANNE FLAHERTY
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON

Now the majority party, Democrats will inherit an agenda dominated by the war in Iraq when the new Congress convenes Thursday, increasing their exposure to what has mostly been a politically damaging issue for Republicans.

In the weeks ahead, the new Democratic Congress will be confronted with President Bush's new plan for Iraq and a White House request that lawmakers authorize an estimated additional \$100 billion to pay for the war.

Democrats also may be asked to support a plan lifting restrictions on reserve deployments to ease the strain on active-duty troops.

While Democrats may try to deflect as much attention as they can toward Bush — citing the president's ownership of the war and congressional limitations on foreign policy — they no doubt will find themselves playing a starring role in a debate that cost Republicans votes in the midterm elections last fall.

"They'll have to show they can govern and govern in a way that will help the executive branch resolve this," said James Thurber, director of American University's Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies.

But resolving Iraq won't be easy, and Democrats run the risk of going too far in criticizing the president. Recent polls show Americans remain frustrated with Bush's handling of the war but don't think Democrats have offered much of an alternative.

"They will be in the majority, and they will be blamed if they try to block the president from implementing an exit strategy," Thurber said.

The president is thought to be considering a plan to increase the number of forces in Iraq. But the specifics of how many troops will be added to the existing 140,000 force and for how long are not known.

Bush said last week he planned to engage lawmakers before making his announcement later this month. Congressional leaders planned to attend a White House reception expected at midweek.

Foreshadowing the debate to come, Democrats swiftly rallied against the notion of sending more troops, saying Iraqis must take a stronger role in security matters.

"The Iraqis need to understand that the responsibility for the future of that country is theirs," Rep.-elect Jerry McNeerney, D-Calif., said Saturday in the Democrats' weekly radio address.

"I have not heard from our military, clamoring for additional soldiers," Rep. Jim Marshall, D-Ga., said upon returning from a trip to Iraq with Gen. Peter Schoemaker,

D.C. residents might get a vote in Congress

WASHINGTON — After more than 200 years of paying taxes, fighting in the nation's wars and abiding by sometimes arbitrary acts of Congress, Washington residents are close to getting a full-fledged representative in the House.

The new Democratic majority, in the first months of the new Congress, is expected to take up a bill that would increase the voting membership of the House from 435 to 437, giving a new vote each to Utah, a Republican stronghold, and the District of Columbia, dominated by Democrats.

The bill is backed by incoming Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich., the next chairman of the House Judiciary Committee that will be responsible for moving it.

Prospects are also good in the Senate. Connecticut Sen. Joe Lieberman, who calls himself an independent Democrat, will chair the committee of jurisdiction there. Lieberman is a leading supporter of the measure, and Utah's two Republican senators have endorsed it as well.

Senate action is needed because Congress in 1929 enacted a law fixing House membership at 435 seats. The number was increased to 437 in 1959 after Alaska and Hawaii became states, but reverted to 435 after the 1960 census. The legislation that would add new seats for D.C. and Utah would keep the House at 437 members.

the Army chief of staff.

Marshall and Rep. Ike Skelton, D-Mo., who also visited Iraq during the Christmas holiday, reported that some progress was being made in Anbar province where Iraqi security forces and local leaders were collaborating to push out al-Qaida fighters. But, Skelton said, violence in Baghdad has accelerated and additional U.S. troops might not help.

"I will look carefully and with an open mind at any proposal the president may make, but my view remains that removing some number of American troops — however small — would send a more powerful message to our Iraqi partners than raising force levels," Skelton said.

The debate will play out in hearing rooms this month. Skelton and Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., who will head the Senate Armed Services Committee, have invited Defense Secretary Robert Gates to testify. Levin said he would like that hearing to take place Jan. 11.

Sen. Joseph Biden, D-Del., incoming chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has promised to testify before his committee after Bush makes his announcement.

INDIANAPOLIS

Harlene Baker

Harlene Baker, 72, died Monday, Jan. 1, 2007. She was a resident of Indianapolis.

Arrangements are pending at G.H. Herrmann Greenwood Funeral Home.

EDINBURGH

Carl D. Chandler Sr.

Carl D. Chandler Sr., 57, died Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2007, at Columbus Health and Rehabilitation Center. He was a resident of Edinburg.

He was born Dec. 26, 1949, in Salisbury. His parents were Otto Chandler and Lillian J. (Jarboe) Barnett.

Survivors include two sons, Carl D. (Barbara) Chandler Jr. of Edinburg and Joey Jon Chandler of Nashville; a stepson, Russell Martin of California; two daughters, Daphne (Daniel) Smith of Edinburg and Stacie (David) Weaver of Carmel; two stepdaughters, Jessica (Jeff) Wilson of Modesto, Calif., and Misty Bryant of Columbus; a brother, Joseph R. (Debra) Chandler of Edinburg; three half brothers, Paul (Gladys) Stiltner of Edinburg, Dale (Dorothy) Barnett of North Vernon and Tony (Beverly) Barnett of Taylorsville; a half sister, Elizabeth Jean Fugate of Taylorsville; and six grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a grandson, Brayton Smith.

He was a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps.

He was of the Catholic faith. He worked as a production worker for Cummins Engine Co., retiring after 31 years of service.

He liked muscle cars and drawing.

The Rev. Tom Schliessmann will conduct a service at 11 a.m. Friday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, 100 Keeley St. in Edinburg. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. Thursday at Eskew-Eaton Funeral Home, 302 E. Main Cross St. in Edinburg, with a prayer service to be conducted at 7:30 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home. Burial will be at Rest Haven Cemetery in Edinburg.

GREENWOOD

David M. Costantino

David M. Costantino, 66, passed away Sunday, Dec. 31, 2006. He was a resident of Greenwood.



COSTANTINO

The son of Margherita (Pizzo) Costantino and the late Silvio Costantino, he was born May 8, 1940, in Indianapolis. He is survived by his mother; a son, Tony Costantino (fiancée Sarah Hill, son Marquise Griffin) of Greenwood; a daughter, Angela (Demetrius) Costantino-Hardrick of Greenwood; sister, Angela (John) Keith of Greenwood; two grandchildren, Angelo Costantino-Brown and Demi Hardrick; a niece, Marie (Jason) Smith, and a nephew, David McCarthy, both of Indianapolis; a great-nephew, Julian Smith of Indianapolis; and DeAnn Costantino of Greenwood.

He was a 1958 graduate of Seccina Memorial High School in Indianapolis.

He earned a bachelor of science degree in economics in 1962 and a law degree in 1965, both from the University of Notre Dame.

Following his graduation from

Edinburgh

Carl D. Chandler Sr., 57
Janet A. Meek, 66

Franklin

Conner D. McCain, 80

Greenwood

David M. Costantino, 66

Morgantown

Phyllis J. Swopes, 72

Indianapolis

Harlene Baker, 72
Phyllis M. Oliver, 91

Elsewhere

Flora "Flossie" Kasowski, 85

law school, he entered the U.S. Marine Corps and eventually attained the rank of captain. He served two tours in the Vietnam War and was wounded in action. He was awarded the Purple Heart and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with a Combat "V" for valor in battle.

David left the Marine Corps in pursuit of a civilian career in 1968 and found his niche with Vanguard Services, a national truck driver leasing corporation based in Indianapolis. He was with the company for 35 years, rising to the position of chief operating officer and general counsel. He retired in May 2006.

David had a lifelong love of the Marine Corps and Notre Dame football. He was an avid fisherman and made regular trips to Canada. He had a passion for history and collected military memorabilia. Christmas was his favorite holiday, and he had more Christmas decorations than he knew what to do with.

In later years, his favorite pastime was to spend time with his family, especially his grandchildren. He had a big heart and a generous spirit and will be missed by all who knew him.

He was a member of Our Lady of the Greenwood Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus.

David was a member of the Indiana Bar Association and the American Legion Post 252 in Greenwood.

A Mass of Christian burial will take place at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at Our Lady of the Greenwood Catholic Church, 335 S. Meridian St. Calling will take place from 3 to 8 p.m. Friday at Wilson St. Pierre Funeral Service & Crematory, Greenwood Chapel, 481 W. Main St. Burial with military honors will be at Calvary Cemetery in Indianapolis.

Memorial contributions may be made in David's memory to the American Cancer Society, 6030 W. 62nd St., Indianapolis, IN 46278.

Online condolences may be made to the Costantino family at www.wilsonstpierre.com.

DERBY, Kan.

Flora Wilhelmina 'Flossie' (Chandler) Kasowski

Flora Wilhelmina "Flossie" (Chandler) Kasowski, was born March 17, 1921, in Indianapolis and passed away Dec. 28, 2006.

She was the daughter of John and Elizabeth (Degener) Chandler. She married John H. Kasowski on Feb. 19, 1945, in Gulfport, Miss.

She is survived by her son, Andrew H. (Phyllis) Kasowski of Derby, Kan.; and grandson, John A. (Cara) Kasowski of Wichita, Kan.

She was preceded in death by

her parents, John and Elizabeth Chandler; her husband, John Henry Kasowski; a brother, Robert Chandler; and two daughters, Nancy Jo and Sharon Elizabeth.

Mrs. Kasowski was a homemaker, loved to sew and had beautiful flower gardens. She worked for Wm. H. Block Co. in Indianapolis and Indiana National Bank. She was a member of St. John's United Church of Christ in Indianapolis.

Following the death of her husband in 2004, Mrs. Kasowski, a lifelong Indiana resident, moved to Derby, Kan., to be close to her son and grandson.

A memorial service will be conducted at 10 a.m. Saturday at St. John's United Church of Christ in Indianapolis. There will be no calling, and the family has requested no flowers. Burial will be at Washington Park East Cemetery in Indianapolis at a private gravesite service Saturday.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. John's United Church of Christ, 7031 S. East St., Indianapolis, IN 46227.

Flanner and Buchanan at Washington Park East in Indianapolis will handle burial arrangements.

Information: www.flanner-buchanan.com

FRANKLIN

Conner D. McCain

Conner D. McCain, 80, died Monday, Jan. 1, 2007, at Select Specialty Hospital in Beech Grove. He was a resident of Franklin.

He was born May 6, 1926, near Bengal. His parents were Paul and Treca (Conner) McCain. He married Reba J. (Haehl) McCain on June 23, 1946. She survives.

Other survivors include two sons, James Paul (Sara) McCain of Franklin and Michael Charles (Dale Ann) McCain of Edinburg; two daughters, Jean Ann (Bob) Edney of Oklahoma City and Laura Joy (Rex) Patterson of Saline, Mich.; 11 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a son, Richard Duane McCain; two sisters, Elnora Lawrence and Waneta Barlow; and an infant sister.

He was a lifelong farmer in Hendricks Township in Shelby County.

After graduating from Franklin High School in 1944, he joined the U.S. Navy, serving for two years during World War II. After the war, he began farming, an occupation he truly enjoyed.

Mr. McCain served on the Second Mount Pleasant Cemetery Board for 36 years and served as a Shelby County Council member. He was a former member of the Honda Gold Wing Club. Mr. McCain was an active member of Bengal Christian Church, where he served as an elder and former treasurer.

He also was a former treasurer of the soil and water conservation district board.

A service will be conducted at 11 a.m. Friday at Bengal Christian Church. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. Thursday at Freeman Family Funeral Homes, Carmony-Ewing Harrison Street Chapel, 819 S. Harrison St. in Shelbyville, and from 10 a.m. until service time Friday at the church. Burial will be at Second Mount Pleasant Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Bengal Christian

Church, 3534 S. Shelby County Road 750W, Franklin, IN 46131.

Online condolences may be sent to www.freemanfamilyfuneralhomes.com.

EDINBURGH

Janet A. Meek

Janet A. Meek, 66, died Monday, Jan. 1, 2007, at her residence in Edinburg.

She was born Feb. 19, 1940, in Johnson County. Her parents were Arthur Oaks and Ruby (Snyder) Oaks Burton. She married Maurice "Mauri" Meek on March 18, 1960. He preceded her in death July 7, 2004.

Survivors include a son, Philip Meek of Edinburg; a grandson, Kurtis Meek of Edinburg; and a sister, Ardith Rutherford of Franklin.

She also was preceded in death by a brother, Robert Oaks; and a sister, Velma Callahan.

She graduated from Edinburg High School in 1958.

She was a member of Edinburg United Methodist Church, Red Hat Society and Order of the Eastern Star, Clifford Lodge.

She worked at Salin Bank as a teller, retiring in 2005.

The Rev. Byron Fritz will conduct a service at 7 p.m. Thursday at Edinburg United Methodist Church, 107 W. Campbell St. in Edinburg. Friends may call from 3 p.m. until service time Thursday at the church. A graveside service will be conducted at 1 p.m. Monday at Rest Haven Cemetery in Edinburg. Eskew-Eaton Funeral Home in Edinburg is handling arrangements.

INDIANAPOLIS

Phyllis M. Oliver

Phyllis M. Oliver, 91, died Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2007. She was a resident of Indianapolis.

Survivors include a daughter, Mary Jane Curson of Kenner, La.; two sons, Walter (Evelyn) Oliver of Indianapolis and Richard (Leona) Oliver of Pittsboro; 10 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Charles B. and Mary Martha Peters Dichmann; and her husband, Walter A. Oliver.

A service will be conducted at 11 a.m. Friday at Singleton Community Mortuary and Memorial Center, 7602 Madison Ave. in Indianapolis. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. Thursday at the mortuary. Burial will be at Forest Lawn Memory Gardens in Greenwood.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, 6030 W. 62nd St., Indianapolis, IN 46278.

MORGANTOWN

Phyllis J. (Roberts) Swopes

Phyllis J. (Roberts) Swopes, 72, died Monday, Jan. 1, 2007, at Meadow Lakes Convalescent Center in Mooresville. She was a resident of Morgantown.

Survivors include her husband, Carl D. Swopes.

Arrangements are pending at Meredith-Clark Funeral Home, Cremation & Personalization Center in Morgantown.

Obituary policy

The Daily Journal will publish free death notices for Johnson County area residents, former residents and close relatives of area residents.

A free death notice contains basic information, including details about visitation and services, memorial contributions and some survivors.

Poll: Most side with incoming party's top goals

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON

People overwhelmingly support two of the Democrats' prime goals — increasing minimum wage and making it easier to buy prescription drugs from other countries — as the party takes control of Congress for the first time in a dozen years.

By a smaller margin, the public also favors relaxing restrictions on federal funding of embryonic stem cell research, a third issue Democrats have promised to tackle during their first 100 hours in charge.

The jury is out on incoming House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. Most people say they do not know enough yet to have an opinion about the California Democrat who will be the first woman in that office, an Associated Press-AOL News poll found.

The survey results come as the

POLL

Better access to prescription drugs

An AP-AOL News poll shows that seven in 10 adults favor the government allowing people to buy prescription drugs outside the U.S.

Do you favor or oppose the federal government making it easier for people to buy prescription drugs from other countries?

Yes	No
69%	28

NOTE: Poll of 1,004 adults taken Dec. 19-21, 2006; margin of error ± 3 percentage points; "don't know" and "not sure" were omitted.

AP

110th Congress is set to convene Thursday at noon. Voters in November toppled Republican majorities in both the Senate and House, fed up with investigations into the ethics of GOP lawmakers

and unhappy with the war in Iraq. Democrats will hold a 233-202 edge in the House and will control the Senate by 51-49.

A boost to the \$5.15-an-hour federal minimum wage would be the first since 1997. Democratic leaders have proposed raising it in stages to \$7.25 an hour. President Bush has said he supports the idea, along with help for small businesses.

Fully 80 percent of survey respondents favor an increase, too. Support is strongest among Democrats, 91 percent, while 65 percent of Republicans back the idea. Women, men without college degrees and single women all are especially likely to favor a minimum wage hike.

Nearly seven of 10 adults, 69 percent, favor the government taking steps to make it easier for people to buy prescription drugs from other countries, where some medicines cost significantly less than in the United States.

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