

Roll Call Report

Here's how Observer & Eccentric-area members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes in the week ending Sept. 15.

HOUSE
FLAG DESECRATION BILL: By a vote of 389 for and 33 against, the House passed a bill (HR 2787) setting criminal penalties for "whoever knowingly mutilates, defaces, burns or tramples upon any flag of the United States..." The bill outlawed the physical abuse of the American flag but not political condemnation of it. It applies to the actual flag, not to representations of the national symbol.

The measure, which was sent to the Senate, is a response to the U.S. Supreme Court ruling last June that desecration of the flag is a form of dissent protected by the Constitution. Both the House and Senate also plan to vote this year on whether to protect the integrity of the flag by constitutional amendment instead of statute.

Supporter Mike Synar, D-Okla., said he supported the statute approach because "the vast majority of Americans always will respect the flag and do not need a constitutional amendment to teach them that respect."

Members voting yes supported the Flag Protection Act of 1989.

Members voting yes: Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth, Dennis Hertel, D-Harper Woods, Sander Levin, D-Southfield and William Broomfield, R-Lake Orion, William Ford, D-Taylor.

ARTS FUNDING DEBATE: By a vote of 264 for and 153 against, the House took a procedural step against lawmakers wanting a sweeping reduction in federal support of art they deem offensive. This occurred as the House debated positions it should take in an upcoming House-Senate conference on an appropriations bill (HR 2788) covering the National Endowment for the Arts and other agencies.

The vote prevented a direct House vote on whether to go along with tough Senate language on federal funding of art that some see as morally offensive. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., authored the Senate measure in response to the endowment's funding of projects that yielded photography of homosexual acts, naked children and a crucifix immersed in urine.

The Helms amendment sought to ban federal funding to promote or produce art judged to be obscene, indecent or blasphemous.

Members voting yes wanted to block a direct vote on the merits of the Senate-passed Helms amendment.

Members voting yes: Hertel, Ford, Levin, D-Southfield. Voting no, Pursell. Not voting, Broomfield.

TO CONFIRM DONALD GREGG: By a vote of 86 for and 33 against, the Senate confirmed Donald P. Gregg as U.S. Ambassador to South Korea.

In dispute was whether Gregg was directly involved in illegal Contra supply operations while serving as then-Vice President Bush's national security adviser. During confirmation hearings Gregg denied links imputed to him in testimony by former White House aide Oliver North. Democratic critics questioned his truthfulness.

Supporter Charles Robb, D-Va., said he believes that "Donald Gregg... is telling the truth."

Opponent Al Gore, D-Tenn., said "a number of senators are morally certain that he has... lied to this body in explaining the nature of his activities" regarding the Contras.

Senators voting yes wanted to confirm Gregg.

Michigan Senators Carl Levin and Donald Riegle, both Democrats, voted no.

FSX VETO VOTE: The Senate upheld President Bush's veto of legislation (S.J. Res 113) restricting the Administration's plan to help Japan develop an advanced warplane based on American technology. The tally was 66 for and 34 against, one vote short of the two-thirds majority needed to override the veto.

Under a U.S.-Japanese agreement, Japan would upgrade the General Dynamics F-16 into an FSX fighter aircraft to be added to its arsenal in the mid-1990s. At least \$2 billion of Japan's expenditure would end up in America.

The vetoed legislation approved the sale with so many conditions that Bush denounced it as congressional interference in his constitutional authority to negotiate with foreign governments. For example, Congress sought to specify the technology to be shared with Japan and to limit Japan's ability to sell the completed FSX and products that derive from it.

Senators voting yes wanted to override the presidential veto and thus place strict congressional limits on the FSX deal with Japan.

Levin and Riegle voted yes.

FLIGHT SMOKING BAN: By a vote of 77 for and 21 against, the Senate ended a filibuster aimed at blocking a proposed ban on smoking on all domestic flights. This permitted the Senate to later approve the prohibition, which would expand current law that bans smoking on flights of two hours or less. The vote occurred during debate on the fiscal 1990 Department of Transportation appropriations bill (HR 3015).

Senators voting yes wanted to move toward approval of expanded flight smoking ban.

Democrats Sander Levin and Donald Riegle voted yes.

Feet as well as hearts must be healthy

Dear Jo:
Would you please discuss foot odor — my husband has this problem, and it just won't go away.

Mrs. G. S.
Senior from Detroit

Dear Mrs. S.:
Since foot odor (bromidrosis pedalis) is not considered to be a serious health problem, it often goes untreated.

The practical solution is to keep the feet dry. Daily washing and the use of a foot powder along with wearing cotton socks and shoes made of natural products (leather, cotton, etc.) should help. To prevent excessive sweating in hot weather, light sandals can be worn.

If this is unsuccessful, your husband should consult a foot specialist (a chiropodist or podiatrist) for professional advice.

Dear Jo:
What are the major risk factors for coronary heart disease?

Mr. K. C.
Younger Retiree

County auction's Saturday

Some good bargains are available for the wise shopper Saturday, Oct. 7, at the annual fall auction of surplus county equipment or recovered, but unclaimed, stolen property.

The sale begins at 10 a.m. behind the Oakland County Central Garage at the service center, 1200 N. Telegraph, Pontiac.

Among the items to be auctioned to the highest bidder are 45 late-model General Motors vehicles, including Chevrolet patrol cars, Pontiac J-2000s, trucks and vans.

The vehicles can be inspected between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Thursday and Friday.

Other sale items — including bicycles, electronic equipment and jewelry — can be inspected beginning at 8:30 a.m. Saturday at the central garage.

Additional information is available from the auctioneer, the Robert Williams Co., at 559-5551.

OCC slates blood banks

Four blood banks, open to the public, have been scheduled for October on the campuses of Oakland Community College.

No appointments are necessary during the 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. schedule on the dates and locations identified:

- Tuesday, Oct. 3, at the Orchard Ridge Campus, 27055 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills.
- Wednesday, Oct. 4, at the Highland Lakes Campus, 7350 Cooley Lake Road, Union Lake.
- Tuesday, Oct. 10 at the Auburn Hills Campus, 2900 Featherstone Road, Auburn Hills.
- Thursday, Oct. 12 at the Royal Oak Campus, 739 S. Washington, Royal Oak.

More information about the Blood Banks may be obtained by phoning Sylvia Berggruen at 967-5757.

Wanted: crisis help

Common Ground, Oakland County's 24-hour crisis center, will hold an orientation session at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 6, for volunteers interested answering their hot line or doing face-to-face crisis intervention.

No experience is necessary, but applicants will be screened and subsequently trained.

The orientation session will be at Common Ground headquarters at 751 Hendrie Blvd., Royal Oak. Additional information can be obtained by calling 545-3050 during business hours.

gerontology
A. Jolayne Farrell

Dear Mr. C.:
Risk factors for coronary heart disease can be grouped into two categories — those that nothing can be done about and those that can be modified.

In the first category, medical science has statistically associated the risk factors with:

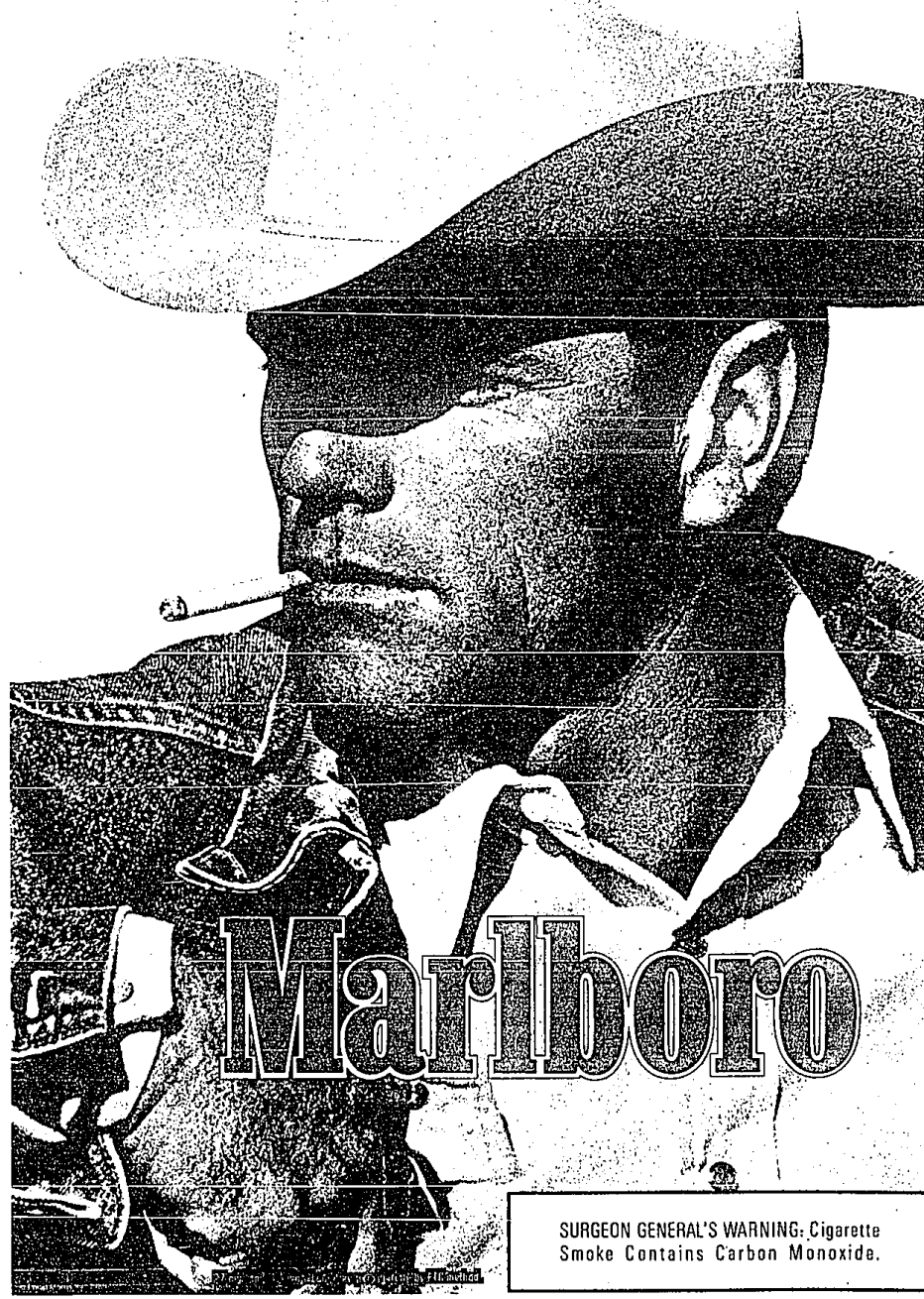
- Age — the older we become, the more likely we are to have a heart attack.
- Sex — women younger than age 50 are protected by their hormones. This results in a far lower incidence of heart attacks than men in the same age group.
- Heredity — a history of heart attacks in family members during their 30s and 40s means an increase in risk compared to a family history of relatives dying of heart disease at a ripe old age.
- The risk factors that can be modified are:

Smoking.
High levels of blood cholesterol.
High blood pressure.

In addition to these "big three" risk factors many others have been identified by some studies as possibly increasing the risk of coronary disease. Among these are personality type, obesity, and excessive use of coffee.

Diabetes, particularly insulin-dependent diabetes, is associated with increased risk for coronary disease. However there is some evidence that reasonable control of blood sugar levels and other risk factors can reduce the additional risk posed by diabetes.

Readers can write to Jolayne Farrell at 11 Cynthia Crescent, Richmond Hill, Ontario, Canada L4E 2P8.



Marlboro

SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: Cigarette Smoke Contains Carbon Monoxide.