

FRIDAY BRIEF

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A Muslim Tribute to the Victims of 9/11

On September 11 and in commemoration of the anniversary of the horrific attacks of September 11, the Islamic Institute will join many national Muslim groups, Muslim Americans and other faith communities for a silent prayer at the Islamic Center at 2:00 p.m. Our hearts, thoughts and prayers go out to the families who have lost loved ones on that terrible day.

At the memory of this national tragedy, the Islamic calls upon the Muslim American community to actively participate in their communities' activities to commemorate the victims of the terror attacks.

For further information on the various 9/11 special events, please email us at general@islamicinstitute.org

May God Bless America

Rep. Sununu leads NH Primary Polls

With just six days to go before the New Hampshire Republican primary, a new poll has Rep. John E. Sununu beating Sen. Robert C. Smith by 22 percentage points.

According to the University of New Hampshire Survey Center poll, Mr. Sununu is leading Mr. Smith by 56 percent to 34 percent.

Mr. Sununu's camp is concerned that such a wide lead could lead to complacency on the part of pro-Sununu voters, who might conclude their candidate won't need their support and stay home on Tuesday.

Many Republicans in New Hampshire are still bitter over Mr. Smith's departure from the Republican Party in 2000 and subsequent independent run for the presidency in 2000, and his criticism of fellow Republicans in Congress.

Various independent polls show Rep. Sununu fairing better against the democratic candidate Jeanne Shaheen in the general elections.

Senate Begins Debate on Homeland Security

The Senate began debate Wednesday on the bill to create a new Department of Homeland Security while the Bush administration warned it would veto legislation that does not give the president more control over the management of the new anti-terrorism force's employees.

There is bipartisan agreement over the need for the proposed department, but neither Democrats nor Republicans seemed likely to yield soon on contentious issues that would affect how the department is run.

The main stumbling block involves Democratic lawmakers' opposition to the White House's request for unprecedented flexibility over managing personnel. The administration's proposal would allow it to move employees out of unions for national security reasons, reorganize the department's operations, and move money from one homeland security account to another. The Senate draft of the bill does not contain these provisions.

The White House also opposes a Senate plan to require Senate confirmation of the homeland security adviser's post.

Republican leaders said they would introduce amendments to the current bill that would bring the proposed legislation closer in line with the White House's proposal for the new department. Sen. Robert C. Smith (R-N.H.) is trying to add a provision that would allow airline pilots to carry guns in cockpits, a proposal that has already passed in the House.