



## The Ehlers e-Newsletter

For the Week of February 28, 2005

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### THIS WEEK IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

#### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2005

*On Monday, the House is not in session.*

#### TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2005

*On Tuesday, the House will meet at 2 p.m. for legislative business. Votes will be postponed until 6:30 p.m.*

##### **Suspensions (3 bills):**

*(Bills on suspension are generally considered non-controversial and have reduced debate time, but require a two-thirds majority vote to be passed.)*

- 1) **H.Con.Res. 45 - Recognizing the benefits and importance of school-based music education:** Resolves by Congress, that (1) it is the sense of the Congress that music education grounded in rigorous instruction is an important component of a well-rounded academic curriculum and should be available to every student in every school; and (2) the Congress recognizes NAMM, the International Music Products Association, for its efforts to emphasize the importance of school music programs in the academic and social development of children.
- 2) **H.Con.Res. 5 - Providing for the acceptance of a statue of Sarah Winnemucca, presented by the people of Nevada, for placement in National Statuary Hall**
- 3) **H.Con.Res. 63 - Permitting the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust**

#### WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY, MARCH 2 AND 3, 2005

*On Wednesday and Thursday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. for legislative business.*

##### **Suspensions (2 bills):**

- 1) **S.Con.Res. 13 - Congratulating American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) on their 125th anniversary, celebrating the achievements of ASME members, and expressing the gratitude of the American people for ASME's contributions:** Resolves that Congress: (1) congratulates ASME on its 125th anniversary; (2) recognizes and celebrates the achievements of all ASME members; (3) expresses the gratitude of the people of the United States for

ASME's contributions to the health, safety, and economic well-being of the citizenry; and (4) directs the Secretary of the Senate to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the president of ASME.

- 2) **H.R. 912** - To ensure the protection of beneficiaries of United States humanitarian assistance

**H.R. 27 - Job Training Improvement Act of 2005:** includes amendments to title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA), which provides for the nation's One-Stop workforce development system. The bill also contains the Adult Basic Education Skills Act, which reauthorizes State programs for adult education, and the provision reauthorizing the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which provides services to help individuals with disabilities become employable and achieve full integration into society. The bill extends the authorization of these programs, which expired on September 30, 2003, through fiscal year 2011. WIA provides workforce investment services and programs through statewide and local One-Stop Career Center systems. The goals are to provide (1) enhanced employment, retention, and earnings of individuals, (2) increased occupational skills attainment, and (3) improved national economic growth through increased productivity and competitiveness. The bill adds that it is the purpose of WIA to provide workforce investment activities in a manner that promotes the informed choice of participants and actively involves participants in decisions affecting their participation.

**H.R. 841 - The Continuity in Representation Act of 2005:** Requires states to hold special elections to fill vacancies in the House of Representatives not later than 45 days after the vacancy is announced by the Speaker of the House of Representatives in extraordinary circumstances.

#### **FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 2005**

*On Friday, no votes are expected in the House.*

#### **Historical Tidbits**

##### **On Feb. 28 ...**

**1951** - A Senate committee issued a report that stated that there were at least two major crime syndicates in the U.S.

**1974** - The U.S. and Egypt re-established diplomatic relations after a break of seven years.

**1993** - U.S. Federal agents raided the compound of an armed religious cult in Waco, TX. The ATF had planned to arrest the leader of the Branch Davidians, David Koresh, on federal firearms charges. Four agents and six Davidians were killed and a 51-day standoff followed.

##### **On March 1 ...**

**1781** - In America, the Continental Congress adopted the Articles of Confederation.

**1790** - The U.S. Congress authorized the first U.S. census.

**1845** - U.S. President Tyler signed the congressional resolution to annex the Republic of Texas.

**1872** - The U.S. Congress authorized the creation of Yellowstone National Park. It was the world's first national park.

**1954** - Five U.S. congressmen were wounded when four Puerto Rican nationalists opened fire from the gallery of the U.S. House of Representatives.

**1961** - The Peace Corps was established by U.S. President Kennedy.

**1971** - A bomb exploded in a restroom in the Senate wing of the U.S. Capitol. There were no injuries. A U.S. group protesting the Vietnam War claimed responsibility.

**2003** - In the U.S., approximately 180,000 personnel from 22 different organizations around the government became part of the Department of Homeland Security. This completed the largest government reorganization since the beginning of the Cold War.

### **On March 2 ...**

**1807** - The U.S. Congress passed an act to "prohibit the importation of slaves into any port or place within the jurisdiction of the United States... from any foreign kingdom, place, or country."

**1877** - In the U.S., Rutherford B. Hayes was declared the winner of the 1876 presidential election by the U.S. Congress. Samuel J. Tilden, however, had won the popular vote on November 7, 1876.

**1897** - U.S. President Cleveland vetoed legislation that would have required a literacy test for immigrants entering the country.

**1899** - U.S. President McKinley signed a measure that created the rank of Admiral for the U.S. Navy. The first admiral was George Dewey.

**1901** - The U.S. Congress passed the Platt amendment, which limited Cuban autonomy as a condition for withdrawal of U.S. troops.

**1917** - Citizens of Puerto Rico were granted U.S. citizenship with the enactment of the Jones Act.

**1929** - The U.S. Court of Customs & Patent Appeals was created by the U.S. Congress.

### **On March 3 ...**

**1791** - The U.S. Congress passed a resolution that created the U.S. Mint.

**1812** - The U.S. Congress passed the first foreign aid bill.

**1845** - The U.S. Congress passed legislation overriding a U.S. President's veto. It was the first time the Congress had achieved this.

**1849** - The U.S. Department of the Interior was established.

**1849** - The Gold Coinage Act was passed by the U.S. Congress. It allowed the minting of gold coins.

**1908** - The U.S. government declared open war on U.S. anarchists.

### **On March 4 ...**

**1778** - The Continental Congress voted to ratify the Treaty of Amity and Commerce and the Treaty of Alliance. The two treaties were the first entered into by the U.S. government.

**1789** - The first Congress of the United States met in New York and declared that the U.S. Constitution was in effect.

**1917** - Jeanette Rankin of Montana took her seat as the first woman elected to the House of Representatives.

**1997** - U.S. President Clinton barred federal spending on human cloning.

*(Information from <http://www.on-this-day.com>)*