

The Ehlers e-Newsletter

Monday, March 10, 2003

Last Week in the U.S. House of Representatives

EHLERS REINTRODUCES LEGISLATION TO COMBAT INVASIVE SPECIES

– Congressman Ehlers Wednesday joined with his colleagues Congressman Wayne Gilchrest of Maryland and Senators Carl Levin of Michigan and Susan Collins of Maine in reintroducing the National Aquatic Invasive Species Act of 2003 and the National Invasive Species Research Act. The legislation is aimed at combating the problem of water-borne invasive species, such as zebra mussels, sea lampreys, Asian carp and future infestations, which cost Americans at least \$135 billion a year in damage and control and eradication efforts.

“If we spend millions preventing aquatic invasive species from entering our waters, we can avoid spending billions trying to control and manage them once they are here,” said Ehlers, a member of the House Science Committee. “The legislation uses three overarching approaches fitting with this theme – dealing with ships, screening and research.”

For more information, please visit our website at:

http://www.house.gov/ehlers/press_releases/pr030503.htm.

HOUSE MEMBERS VOICE SUPPORT FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL –

Congressman Ehlers and the U.S. House of Representatives last Wednesday unanimously approved a resolution in support of all members of the United States Armed Forces. House Joint Resolution 27 commends and expresses the gratitude of the nation to all members of the United States Armed Forces (whether on active duty, in the National Guard, or in the Reserves) who are fighting the Global War on Terrorism, to the employers who, in the spirit of patriotism, maintain the job security of their mobilized National Guard and Reserve employees, and to the families of those service members who have borne the burden of separation from their loved ones and who have staunchly supported them during the conduct of the Global War on Terrorism. The resolution also expresses its condolences to the families of the brave American service members who have lost their lives defending the Nation in the Global War on Terrorism. Finally, it reaffirms that the House of Representatives stands united with the President in the ongoing effort to defeat global terrorism.

HOUSE REMEMBERS MISTER ROGERS – Congressman Ehlers joined with his colleagues Tuesday in remembering Fred Rogers, known to millions as “Mister Rogers” for his eponymous children’s show on PBS, who died Feb. 27. “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood” aired nationwide from 1968 to 2001. The resolution was approved by the House on a unanimous 412-0 vote.

THIS WEEK IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 10-14, 2003

(All schedules are subject to change and amendment)

Monday, March 10, 2003

On Monday, the House will meet at 12:00 p.m. in a Pro Forma Session. There will be no votes.

Tuesday, March 11, 2003

On Tuesday, the House will meet at 12:30 p.m. for morning hour and 2:00 p.m. for legislative business. Votes are postponed until 6:30 p.m.

Suspensions (5 bills):

1) H.Res. 122 – Recognizing the Bicentennial of the admission of Ohio in to the Union and the Contributions of Ohio Residents to the economic, social and cultural development of the United States.

(Sponsored by Rep. Regula/Government Reform Committee)

2) H.Res. XXX *(not yet numbered)* – Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with regard to the need for improved fire safety in nonresidential buildings in the aftermath of the tragic fire on February 20, 2003, at a nightclub in West Warwick, Rhode Island.

(Sponsored by Rep. Langevin/Government Reform Committee)

3) H.R. 441 – To amend Public Law 107-10 to authorize a United States plan to endorse and obtain observer status for Taiwan at the annual summit of the World Health Assembly in May 2003 in Geneva, Switzerland.

(Sponsored by Rep. Brown (OH)/International Relations Committee)

4) H.Con Res. 77 – Commemorating the 60th anniversary of the historic rescue of 50,000 Bulgarian Jews from the Holocaust and commending the Bulgarian people for preserving and continuing their tradition of ethnic and religious tolerance.

(Sponsored by Rep. Wilson (SC)/International Relations Committee)

5) H.Res. 19 – Designating the room numbered H-236 in the House of Representatives wing of the Capitol as the “Richard K. Arney Room.”

(Sponsored by Rep. Nussle/Transportation and Infrastructure Committee)

Wednesday, March 12, 2003

H.R. 659 - Hospital Mortgage Insurance Act of 2003 – Amends the National Housing Act to revise hospital need and feasibility standards for purposes of hospital mortgage insurance eligibility.

(Sponsored by Rep. Ney/Financial Services Committee)

H.R. 389 - Automatic Defibrillation in Adam’s Memory Act – Authorizes the use of certain grant funds to establish an information clearinghouse that provides information to increase public access to defibrillation in schools.

(Sponsored by Rep. Shimkus/Energy and Commerce Committee)

H.R. 399 - Organ Donation Improvement Act – Amends the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants or contracts to

states, transplant centers, qualified organ procurement organizations, or other public or private entities for the purpose of providing payment for: (1) travel and subsistence expenses incurred by individuals toward living donations of their organs; and (2) such incidental non-medical expenses that are so incurred as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(Sponsored by Rep. Bilirakis/Energy and Commerce Committee)

H.R. 342 - Mosquito Abatement for Safety and Health Act – Authorizes grants through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for mosquito control programs to prevent mosquito-borne diseases.

(Sponsored by Rep. John/Energy and Commerce Committee)

H.R. 398 - Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities Prevention Act – Amends Public Health Service Act provisions concerning the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities to add disabilities and health to categories of data with regard to which the Secretary of Health and Human Services is directed to collect, analyze, and make available. Requires the Secretary to conduct research on and promote the prevention of birth defects and disabilities and to support a National Spina Bifida Program to prevent and reduce suffering from the nation's most common permanently disabling birth defect.

(Sponsored by Rep. Ferguson/Energy and Commerce Committee)

H.R. XXX - Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act – Information not available at time of publication.

Thursday, March 13, 2003

On Thursday, no votes are expected past 6:00 p.m.

H.R. 5 - Help Efficient, Accessible, Low-Cost, Timely Healthcare (HEALTH) Act of 2003 (Subject to a Rule) – Makes changes to the health care liability system, including compensation for injured patients and other issues arising out of health care law suits. Requires a suit to be brought within three years of the date of injury or one year after the claimant discovers or should have discovered the injury, whichever occurs first. Specifies exceptions when a suit may be brought later than three years after the date of injury.

(Sponsored by Rep. Greenwood/Judiciary Committee/Energy and Commerce Committee)

Friday, March 7, 2003

On Friday, there will be no votes in the House.

Historical Tidbits

On March 10 ...

1496 – Christopher Columbus concluded his second visit to the Western Hemisphere when he left Hispaniola for Spain.

1785 – Thomas Jefferson was appointed minister to France. He succeeded Benjamin Franklin.

1876 – Alexander Graham Bell made the first successful call with the telephone. He spoke the words “Mr. Watson, come here, I want you.”

1947 – The Big Four met in Moscow to discuss the future of Germany.

1971 – The U.S. Senate approves an amendment to lower the voting age from 21 to 18.

1982 – The United States bans Libyan oil imports due to their continued support of terrorism.