

The Ehlers e-Newsletter

Monday, March 24, 2003

Last Week in the U.S. House of Representatives

HOUSE, EHLERS VOTE TO SUPPORT TROOPS IN IRAQ – With the beginning of military action in Iraq, the U.S. House of Representatives early Friday morning passed a resolution in support of President George W. Bush as commander-in-chief, for the members of the U.S. armed forces serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom and for the families of the military. Congressman Ehlers, who joined the 392-11 majority, released a statement earlier in the week that said, in part: “My wife and I pray for the safety of our troops stationed in the Persian Gulf area, as well as the many innocents who may be placed in harm’s way by Saddam Hussein’s actions. I sincerely hope that we will be able to minimize bloodshed on both sides in the event that military action becomes a reality.” For a complete text of Congressman Ehlers’ statement, please visit our website at: http://www.house.gov/ehlers/press_releases/EhlersOnPresidentBushSpeech.htm.

HOUSE APPROVES BUDGET PLAN FOR FY 2004 – After much debate, the House of Representatives early Friday morning approved a budget resolution for Fiscal Year 2004, which provides a blueprint for House spending decisions over the next year. Congressman Ehlers supported the plan sponsored by House Budget Committee Chairman Nussle, which was approved 215-212.

TAX BENEFITS FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL OK’D BY HOUSE – House members Wednesday unanimously approved a set of tax law changes aimed at assisting members of the U.S. armed forces. Congressman Ehlers supported the legislation, which includes a capital gain exclusion on home sales, tax-free treatment of death gratuity benefits, tax-free treatment of Homeowners Assistance Program (HAP) benefits, extends filing deadlines for individuals serving in combat zones, and other benefits. The bill was approved 422-0.

HOUSE VOTES TO UPHOLD PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Responding to a recent federal circuit court ruling that the phrase “one Nation, under God” should be removed from the Pledge of Allegiance, Congressman Ehlers joined with his colleagues in the House of Representatives to approve a resolution urging the U.S. Attorney General to appeal the ruling and is a patriotic act, not an act or statement of religious faith or belief and should be found consistent with the First Amendment to the Constitution. The bill was approved by a vote of 400-7, with 15 members voting “present.”

THIS WEEK IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 24 – 28, 2003

Monday, March 24, 2003

The House will meet in a Pro Forma Session. There will be no votes.

Tuesday, March 25, 2003

The House will meet at 12:30 p.m. for morning hour and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

Suspensions (5 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. 84** - A bill to replace the Kansas statue in the Capitol – to provide for the placement of a statue of President Dwight D. Eisenhower in the Capitol building. *(Sponsored by Rep. Tiahrt/House Administration Committee).*
- 2) **H.Res. 134** - Electing Members to the Joint Committee on Printing and the Joint Committee on the Library *(Sponsored by Rep. Ney/House Administration Committee).*
- 3) **H.R. 620** - To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide supplemental funding and other services that are necessary to assist the State of California or local educational agencies in California in providing educational services for students attending schools located within Yosemite National Park *(Sponsored by Rep. Radanovich/Resources Committee).*
- 4) **H.R. 788** - To revise the boundary of the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area in the States of Utah and Arizona *(Sponsored by Rep. Cannon/Resources Committee).*
- 5) **H.R. 961** - To promote Department of the Interior efforts to provide a scientific basis for the management of sediment and nutrient loss in the Upper Mississippi River Basin *(Sponsored by Rep. Kind/Resources Committee).*

Wednesday and Thursday, March 26 and 27, 2003

The House will meet at 10 a.m. for legislative business.

Suspensions (6 bills):

- 1) **H.Res. 113** - Recognizing the social problem of child abuse and neglect, and supporting efforts to enhance public awareness of the problem *(Sponsored by Rep. Hayworth/Education and the Workforce Committee)*
- 2) **H.Res. 57** - Recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of “National Runaway Prevention Month” during the month of November *(Sponsored by Rep. Israel/Government Reform Committee)*
- 3) **H.Con.Res. 44** - To express support for the celebration in 2004 of the 150th anniversary of the Grand Excursion of 1854 *(Sponsored by Rep. Leach/Government Reform Committee)*
- 4) **H.R. 825** - To redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7401 West 100th Place in Bridgeview, Illinois, as the “Michael J. Healy Post Office Building” *(Sponsored by Rep. Lipinski/Government Reform Committee)*
- 5) **H.R. 917** - To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1830 South Lake Drive in Lexington, South Carolina, as the “Floyd Spence Post Office Building” *(Sponsored by Rep. Wilson (SC)/Government Reform Committee)*
- 6) **H.R. 981** - To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 141 Erie Street in Linesville, Pennsylvania, as the “James R. Merry Post Office” *(Sponsored by Rep. English/Government Reform Committee)*

H.R. XXXX - Small Pox Vaccination Compensation Fund Act – Information not available at time of publication. *(Energy and Commerce Committee)*

H.R. 14 - Keeping Children and Families Safe Act of 2003 – To amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to make improvements to and reauthorize programs under that Act. *(Sponsored by Rep. Hoekstra/Education and the Workforce Committee)*

H.R. 1104 - Child Abduction Prevention Act of 2003 – To prevent and combat child abduction. *(Sponsored by Rep. Sensenbrenner/Judiciary Committee)*

Friday, March 28, 2003

There are no scheduled votes in the House.

Historical Tidbits

On March 24 ...

1947 – The United States Congress proposes limiting the presidency to two terms.