



The Ehlers e-Newsletter

For the Week of April 19, 2004

Visit our website at <http://www.house.gov/ehlers>

News from Congressman Ehlers ...

EHLERS ANNOUNCES TOWN MEETING SCHEDULE – Congressman Ehlers will meet with his constituents at a series of three town meetings to listen to their concerns and to report on his activities in Washington. The meetings will take place on April 24 in Ionia and Hastings and on May 1 in Grand Rapids.

For more information, please read the press release on our website:

http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/041404TownMtgsADV.html

EPA RULING MEANS NO AUTO TESTING IN GR, EHLERS SAYS –

Congressman Ehlers said he was “encouraged” by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) announcement Thursday that Kent and Ottawa counties have been classified as a “basic nonattainment” area under the federal Clean Air Act, but said more work must be done to address wind-blown pollution from cities on the western side of Lake Michigan.

For more information, please read the press release on our website:

http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/041504EPAair.html

THIS WEEK IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES MONDAY, APRIL 19, 2004

On Monday, no votes are expected in the House.

TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 2004

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

Suspensions (4 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.R. 4037 - Richard G. Wilson Processing and Distribution Facility Designation Act (Cape Girardeau, Missouri)

2) H.R. 3855 - General John J. Pershing Post Office Designation Act (Laclede, Missouri)

3) H.R. 1822 - Dosan Ahn Chang Ho Post Office Designation Act (Los Angeles, California)

4) S.Con.Res. 97 - A concurrent resolution recognizing the 91st annual meeting of The Garden Club of America

WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY, APRIL 21 AND 22, 2004

On Wednesday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. On Thursday, the House will meet at 9: a.m.

Suspensions (5 bills):

1) H.R. 3970 - Green Chemistry Research and Development Act of 2004: Directs the President to establish a Green Chemistry Research and Development Program to promote and coordinate federal research, development, demonstration, education, and technology transfer activities related to green chemistry and chemical engineering to design chemical products and processes that reduce or eliminate the use or generation of hazardous substances.

2) H.R. 4030 - Congressional Medal for Outstanding Contributions in Math and Science Education Act of 2004: To establish the Congressional Medal for Outstanding Contributions in Math and Science Education program to recognize private entities for their outstanding contributions to elementary and secondary science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education.

3) H.R. 3713 - Senator Paul Simon Federal Building Designation Act (*Carbondale, Illinois*)

4) H.R. 3147 - James V. Hansen Federal Building Designation Act (*Ogden, Utah*)

5) H.R. 4019 - To address the participation of Taiwan in the World Health Organization

6) H.R. 1779 - Guardsmen and Reservists Financial Relief Act of 2003: To allow guardsmen or reservists who are activated for more than 179 days, to make penalty-free early withdrawals from their IRA or pension fund. This bill will be retroactive to cover those called to service since September 11, 2001, and extends for those who may continue to be called to active duty through September 12, 2005. In addition, to ensure their future retirement financial security, this legislation also encourages repayment of the withdrawn funds to the IRA/pension account within two years of ending this active duty, and temporarily lifts the contribution cap up to the amount of the withdrawn funds to allow the repayment.

H.R. 2844 - Continuity in Representation Act of 2003 – To require states to hold special elections to fill vacancies in the House of Representatives not later than 21 days after the vacancy is announced by the Speaker of the House of Representatives in extraordinary circumstances, which are defined as occurring when the Speaker of the House of Representatives announces that vacancies in the representation from the states in the House exceed 100. Nominations would be made by the state's political parties not later than 10 days after the vacancy is declared and elections would be held no later than 45 days from the declaration of vacancy, unless a regularly scheduled general election would be held within 75 days of the vacancy declaration.

*** Possible Motions to go to Conference**

*** Possible Motions to Instruct Conferees**

FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 2004

On Friday, no votes are expected in the House.

Historical Tidbits

On April 19 ...

1775 - The American Revolution began as fighting broke out at Lexington, MA.

1782 - The Netherlands recognized the new United States.

1933 - U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued a proclamation that removed the U.S. from the gold standard.

1951 - General Douglas MacArthur gave his "Old Soldiers" speech before the U.S. Congress. In the address General MacArthur said that "Old soldiers never die, they just fade away."

1995 - The Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, OK, was destroyed by a bomb. It was the worst bombing on U.S. territory. 168 people were killed including 19 children, and 500 were injured. Timothy McVeigh was found guilty of the bombing on June 2, 1997.

2002 - The *USS Cole* was relaunched. In Yemen, 17 sailors were killed when the ship was attacked by terrorists on October 12, 2000. The attack was blamed on Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

On April 20 ...

1832 - Hot Springs National Park was established by an act of the U.S. Congress. It was the first national park in the U.S.

1971 - The U.S. Supreme Court upheld the use of busing to achieve racial desegregation in schools.

On April 21 ...

1862 - The U.S. Congress established the U.S. Mint in Denver, CO.

1987 - Special occasion stamps were offered for the first time by the U.S. Postal Service. "Happy Birthday" and "Get Well" were among the first to be offered.

On April 22 ...

1792 - U.S. President George Washington proclaimed American neutrality in the war in Europe.

1864 - The U.S. Congress mandated that all coins minted as U.S. currency bear the inscription "In God We Trust."

1954 - The U.S. Senate Army-McCarthy televised hearings began.

1970 - The first "Earth Day" was observed by millions of Americans.

On April 23 ...

1789 - U.S. President George Washington moved into Franklin House, New York. It was the first executive mansion.

1908 - U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt signed an act creating the U.S. Army Reserve.

1924 - The U.S. Senate passed the Soldiers Bonus Bill.

1988 - A U.S. federal law took effect that banned smoking on flights that were under two hours.

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