

The Ehlers e-Newsletter

Tuesday, April 29, 2003

Last Week in the U.S. House of Representatives

CONGRESSMAN EHLERS INVITES CONSTITUENTS TO TOWN MEETING, OTHER EVENTS MAY 3 – Constituents interested in sharing their thoughts with Congressman Ehlers as well as hearing a report on his work in Washington are invited to a town meeting at the Gerald R. Ford Museum this Saturday, May 3, from 9 – 10 a.m. The museum is located at 303 Pearl St. NW, Grand Rapids. The town meeting will include a report by Congressman Ehlers as well as an open Q&A session.

Following the meeting, Congressman Ehlers will present Congressional Medal of Merit awards to more than 40 area high school seniors from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon. The day's events will conclude with Artfest 2003, featuring the artwork of more than 40 area high school students, one of which will be selected as winner of the annual Congressional Arts Competition and will be displayed in Washington, D.C, for the following year. Additional town meetings will be held on Saturday, May 10, in Ionia and Hastings.

THIS WEEK IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES MONDAY, APRIL 28

On Monday, the House is not in session.

TUESDAY, APRIL 29

On Tuesday, the House will meet at 2:00 p.m. for legislative business. Votes will be postponed until 6:30 p.m.

Suspensions (6 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.Res. 161 - Recognizing the achievements of Operation Respect and the 'Don't Laugh At Me' Programs**
- 2. H.Res. 107 - Commending and supporting the efforts of Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE), the world's preeminent collegiate free enterprise organization**
- 3. H.Con.Res. 149 - Expressing support for the celebration of Patriot's Day and honoring the Nation's first patriots**
- 4. H.Res. 173 - Recognizing the achievements and contributions of the National Wildlife Refuge System on the occasion of its centennial anniversary and expressing strong support for the continued success of the National Wildlife Refuge System**
- 5. H.R. 274 - Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge Expansion Act:** Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to acquire the property in Cecil County, Maryland, known as Garrett Island for inclusion in the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge.
- 6. S. 162 - Gila River Indian Community Judgment Fund Distribution Act of 2003:** Provides for the distribution of certain funds awarded to the Gila River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. This bill is the final step in resolving

litigation that began in 1951 and this legislation represents the product of close consultation between the community and the Bureau of Indian Affairs regarding the structure and content of the distribution plan.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30 AND THURSDAY, MAY 1

On Wednesday and Thursday, the House will meet at 10:00 a.m. for legislative business.

H.R. 1350 – Improving Education Results for Children With Disabilities Act of 2003: The Improving Education Results for Children with Disabilities Act seeks to improve education results for children with special needs by shifting the focus away from compliance with duplicative, burdensome, and confusing rules, and placing a renewed emphasis on ensuring that children with disabilities are learning.

H.R. 1298 – United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003: Authorizes the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief announced in the State of the Union Address by authorizing \$15 billion over the next five years (\$3 billion a year, FY 2004-'08) for HIV/AIDS care, treatment and prevention in those countries already facing crisis of unprecedented proportions, and also in those countries with alarming recent increases in HIV prevalence. The bill also creates a more responsive, coordinated and effective approach among the various agencies of the U.S. Government involved in the global fight against HIV/AIDS.

FRIDAY, MAY 2

On Friday, no votes are expected in the House.

Historical Tidbits ... This week in history

April 28

1788 – Maryland became the seventh state to ratify the U.S. Constitution

April 29

1988 – Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev promised more religious freedom.

1990 – The destruction of the Berlin Wall began.

April 30

1789 – George Washington took office as first elected U.S. president.

(Please do not respond to this e-mail. To send a message to Congressman Ehlers, please visit our website at <http://www.house.gov/ehlers> and click on "Write Your Rep.")