

The Ehlers e-Newsletter

Monday, July 28, 2003

NOTE: The U.S. House of Representatives is currently in recess through Labor Day. The next issue of The Ehlers e-Newsletter is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 2.

Last Week in the U.S. House of Representatives

HOUSE APPROVES IMPROVEMENTS TO HEAD START PROGRAM: The U.S. House of Representatives early Friday morning approved legislation to reauthorize the pre-school Head Start education program with measures that will help students improve academically, provide more assistance to the children of seasonal and migrant workers and allow more involvement of faith-based institutions, Congressman Vernon J. Ehlers said.

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

http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/072503HeadStart.html

EHLERS SUPPORTS DECISION TO SEND U.S. TROOPS TO LIBERIA:

President George W. Bush's decision to send U.S. military personnel to the embattled African nation of Liberia was strongly endorsed by Congressman Vernon J. Ehlers, who encouraged the president to take this action in a letter sent Thursday.

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

http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/072503LiberiaLetter.html

PRESCRIPTION DRUG REIMPORTATION BILL APPROVED BY HOUSE:

Seeking to address huge prescription drug price disparities that force American prescription drug users to spend as much as five times or more than their counterparts in Canada, Congressman Ehlers joined the majority of the U.S. House of Representatives early Friday morning in approving legislation to allow for the "reimportation" of prescription pharmaceuticals.

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

http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/072503Reimportation.html

MICHIGAN MEMBERS BAND TOGETHER AGAINST UNFAIR EPA CLEAN AIR RULE:

Members of the Michigan Congressional Delegation joined forces in opposing a rule proposed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that poses a serious economic threat to Michigan and would fail to provide any real environmental benefit. In a bipartisan effort, all 15 House members and both senators representing Michigan co-signed a joint letter to the EPA expressing concern that the agency's proposed 8-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard fails to address the problem of so-called "transport" ozone pollution that blows across Lake Michigan from areas such as Chicago, Milwaukee and Gary, Ind.

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

http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/072803EPAOzoneLetter.html

SCIENCE COMMITTEE CLEARS BILL TO ADDRESS HARMFUL ALGAE:

The House Science Committee today approved by voice vote legislation to address

harmful algal blooms and hypoxia. Environment, Technology, and Standards Subcommittee Chairman Vernon J. Ehlers, R-Grand Rapids, introduced H.R. 1856 as a means to help combat harmful algal blooms, a problem that costs the U.S. economy \$50 million per year, due to closure of fisheries and beaches and treatment of human illness from exposure to toxins from the blooms.

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

http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/072203AlgalBlooms.html

THIS WEEK IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The U.S. House of Representatives is out of session until Sept. 2, 2003.

Historical Tidbits

On July 28 ...

1866 - The metric system was legalized by the U.S. Congress for the standardization of weights and measures throughout the United States.

1868 - The Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was declared in effect. The amendment guaranteed due process of law.

On July 29 ...

1957 - The International Atomic Energy Agency was established.

1958 - The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) was authorized by the U.S. Congress.

On July 30 ...

1619 - The first representative assembly in America convened in Jamestown, VA.

1956 - The phrase, "In God We Trust," was adopted as the U.S. national motto.

1965 - U.S. President Johnson signed into law Social Security Act that established Medicare and Medicaid. It went into effect the following year.

1974 - The U.S. House of Representatives Judiciary Committee voted to impeach President Nixon for blocking the Watergate investigation and for abuse of power.

On July 31 ...

1790 - The first U.S. patent was issued to Samuel Hopkins for his process for making potash and pearl ashes. The substance was used in fertilizer.

1792 - The cornerstone of the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia, PA, was laid. It was the first building to be used only as a U.S. government building.

1991 - U.S. President Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev signed the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty.

On August 1 ...

1790 - The first U.S. census was completed. The population of the 17 states was 3,929,214.

1907 - The U.S. Army established an aeronautical division that later became the U.S. Air Force.

1946 - In the U.S., the Atomic Energy Commission was established.

(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.")