

# The Ehlers e-Newsletter

Monday, September 8, 2003

## *Last Week in the U.S. House of Representatives*

**EHLERS: FUTURE OF NASA NEEDS 'VIGOROUS DEBATE'** - Congressman Vernon J. Ehlers made the following statement Thursday at the House Science Committee's opening hearing investigating the accident that claimed the Space Shuttle Columbia on Feb. 1: "... Congress must lead the nation in determining whether, and to what extent, we should continue human space exploration. If we continue with human exploration of space, we must have a clear vision and mission, and be willing to pay the price of human space exploration—which will not be cheap. ..."

*To read Congressman Ehlers' full statement, please visit our website:*

[http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03\\_ehlers/090403ShuttleHearing1.html](http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/090403ShuttleHearing1.html)

## **THIS WEEK IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2003**

*On Monday, the House will not be in session.*

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2003**

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

**H.R. 2989 - Transportation, Treasury, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2004:** Provides more than \$89.3 billion in total budgetary resources, an increase of nearly \$3.4 billion over the President's request and \$2.7 billion above the FY03 level, for highway, aviation, public transit, AMTRAK and other programs.

*(Continued from last week.)*

**WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 AND 12, 2003**

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

**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. 2595 - To restore the operation of the Native American Veteran Housing Loan Program during fiscal year 2003 to the scope of that program as in effect on September 30, 2002:** Restores the pilot program of home loans for Native Americans to the scope that was in effect on September 30, 2002. Also, ratifies any home loans acted upon by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs while the limitation contained in the division K of Public Law 108-7; 117 Stat. 476 was in effect.
- 2) **H.R. 2433 - Health Care for Veterans of Project 112/Project SHAD Act of 2003:** Authorizes the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide veterans who participated in a test conducted by the Department of Defense Deseret Test Center from 1962 through 1973 higher priority for hospital care, medical services and nursing home care without requirement for proof of service-connection and extends the authority to provide care to Project 112/Project SHAD veterans through December 31, 2005.

- 3) **H.Res. 315 - Congratulating Rafael Palmeiro of the Texas Rangers for hitting 500 major league home runs and thanking him for being a role model for the Cuban American community, as well as for all Americans.**
- 4) **H.Res. 266 - Commending the Clemson University Tigers men's golf team for winning the 2003 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Men's Golf Championship.**

**H.R. 2765 - District of Columbia Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2004:** Provides \$466 million to the District of Columbia government for FY 2004, which is \$45 million more than the president's request and \$43 million less than FY 2003 funding. (*Continued from last week.*)

**H.R. 2622 - Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act of 2003:** Provides consumers with the tools they need to fight identity theft and to ensure the accuracy of their credit reports while establishing permanent national credit reporting standards by removing the sunset from the expiring national consumer protection standards.

#### **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2003**

*On Friday, the House will not be in session.*

#### **Historical Tidbits**

##### **On Sept. 8 ...**

**1565** - A Spanish expedition established the first permanent European settlement in North America at present-day St. Augustine, FL.

**1892** - An early version of "The Pledge of Allegiance" appeared in "The Youth's Companion."

**1974** - U.S. President Ford granted an unconditional pardon to former U.S. President Nixon.

##### **On Sept. 9 ...**

**1776** - The second Continental Congress officially made the term "United States", replacing the previous term "United Colonies."

**1957** - The first civil rights bill to pass Congress since Reconstruction was signed into law by U.S. President Eisenhower.

##### **On Sept. 11 ...**

**1959** - The U.S. Congress passed a bill authorizing the creation of food stamps.

**2001** - **In the U.S., four airliners were hijacked and were intentionally crashed. Two airliners hit the World Trade Center, which collapsed shortly after, in New York City. One airliner hit the Pentagon in Washington, DC. Another airliner crashed into a field in Pennsylvania. About 3,000 people were killed.**

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

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