

# The Ehlers e-Newsletter

Tuesday, September 16, 2003

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

**MORE THAN \$6 MILLION INCLUDED FOR SEVERAL LOCAL PROJECTS IN TRANSPORTATION APPROPRIATIONS BILL** – Funding for several West Michigan transportation projects received approval from the U.S. House of Representatives Tuesday evening as House members approved the Transportation, Treasury and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2004, 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/091003Transportation.html](http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/091003Transportation.html)

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

### **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2003**

*On Monday, the House will meet at 12 noon in a Pro Forma Session.*

### **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 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.*

#### **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) **S. 520 - Fremont-Mason Conveyance Act:** Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain facilities to the Fremont-Madison Irrigation District in the State of Idaho. This bill will transfer all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the canals, laterals, drains, and other components of the water distribution and drainage system that are operated and maintained by the District.
- 2) **H.R. 2040 - To amend the Irrigation Project Contract Extension Act of 1998 to extend certain contracts between the Bureau of Reclamation and certain irrigation water contractors in the States of Wyoming and Nebraska.**
- 3) **H.R. 1284 - To amend the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 to increase the Federal share of the costs of the San Gabriel Basin demonstration project.**
- 4) **H.Con.Res. 235 - Celebrating the life and achievements of Lawrence Eugene "Larry" Doby:** Expresses profound sorrow on the death of Lawrence Eugene "Larry" Doby, and extends condolences to his family. The legislation expresses its deep appreciation to Larry Doby and his family for the impact that he made in pioneering civil rights by breaking down racial barriers in baseball and in America and commends Larry Doby, the first African-American to play in Major League Baseball's American League, as a courageous leader, a role model, and a paradigm of the American Dream.
- 5) **S. 678 - Postmaster Equity Act of 2003:** Expresses the sense of Congress to include postmasters and postmasters organizations in the process for the development and planning of certain policies, schedules, and programs.

- 6) **H.Res. 352 - Remembering and honoring the March on Washington of August 28, 1963:** Expresses the sense of Congress in remembering and honoring the 1963 March on Washington as one of the largest political demonstrations in United States history. This legislation recognizes the monumental importance of the 1963 March on Washington in the on-going struggle for civil rights and equal rights for all Americans and extends its gratitude to the organizers and participants of the 1963 March on Washington for their dedication and commitment to equality and justice.
- 7) **H.Res. XXX - Expressing profound sorrow for the death of the Honorable Frank O'Bannon and gratitude to the Honorable Frank O'Bannon for serving the State of Indiana with honor and distinction:** Gov. O'Bannon was the governor of Indiana until he died of stroke-related complications last week.
- 8) **H.Res. XXX - Honoring the 50th anniversary of the Small Business Administration and recognizing Small Business Week.**
- 9) **H.R. 13 - Museum and Library Services Act of 2003:** Authorizes the Federal library and museums program under the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

### **WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 AND 18, 2003**

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

#### **Suspensions (4 bills):**

- 1) **H.R. 659 - Hospital Mortgage Insurance Act of 2003:** Gives the Department of Housing and Urban Development the authority to provide mortgage insurance to certain hospitals which are currently ineligible for the insurance.
- 2) **H.R. 292 - Korean War Veterans Recognition Act of 2003:** Amends title 4 of the U.S. Code to include July 27th, National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day, in the list of days on which the American flag should especially be displayed.
- 3) **H.R. 2152 - To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to extend for an additional 5 years the special immigrant religious worker program.**
- 4) **H.R. 49 - Internet Tax and Nondiscrimination Act:** Makes permanent the moratorium on Internet access taxes and on multiple and discriminatory taxes on electronic commerce created by the Internet Tax Freedom Act (ITFA) in 1998. The bill would also eliminate the provision of that statute permitting Internet access taxes imposed by states prior to October 1, 1998.

**H.R. 7 - Charitable Giving Act of 2003:** Encourages individuals, businesses and foundations to make increased contributions donations in order to help Americans in need. Provides an exclusion from gross income for otherwise taxable withdrawals from traditional or Roth IRAs that are made for charitable purposes. Also, provides the following incentives for increased charitable contributions by corporations and other businesses:

- Increases the cap on corporate charitable contributions from 10 percent to 20 percent of modified taxable income;
- Extends the enhanced deduction for donations of food inventory to all businesses, not just C corporations;

- Makes it easier for corporations to make charitable contributions of scientific property used for research and computer technology and equipment; and
- Allows a shareholder in an S corporation to receive the benefit of a full charitable deduction for charitable contributions made by the S corporation.

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

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

### **Historical Tidbits**

#### **On Sept. 15 ...**

**1775** - An early and unofficial American flag was raised by Lieutenant Colonel Isaac Mott after the seizing of Fort Johnson from the British. The flag was dark blue with the white word "Liberty" spelled on it.

**1789** - The U.S. Department of Foreign Affairs was renamed the Department of State.

**1858** - The first mail service begins to the Pacific Coast of the U.S. under government contract. Coaches from the Butterfield Overland Mail Company took 12 days to make the journey between Tipton, MO and San Francisco, CA.

#### **On Sept. 16 ...**

**1782** - The Great Seal of the United States was impressed on document to negotiate a prisoner of war agreement with the British. It was the first official use of the impression.

**1974** - U.S. President Ford announced a conditional amnesty program for draft-evaders and deserters during the Vietnam War.

#### **On Sept. 17 ...**

**1787** - The Constitution of the United States of America was signed by delegates at the Constitutional Convention. The U.S. Constitution is the oldest working Constitution in the world.

**1796** - U.S. President George Washington's Farewell Address was read before the U.S. Congress.

**1862** - The Battle of Antietam took place during the American Civil War. More than 23,000 men were killed, wounded, or missing. The Rebel advance was ended with heavy losses to both armies.

#### **On Sept. 18 ...**

**1789** - Alexander Hamilton negotiated and secured the first loan for the United States. The Temporary Loan of 1789 was repaid on June 8, 1790 at the sum of \$191,608.81.

**1793** - U.S. President George Washington laid the actual cornerstone of the U.S. Capitol.

**1850** - The Fugitive Slave Act was declared by the U.S. Congress. The act allowed slave owners to claim slaves that had escaped into other states.

**1947** - The U.S. Air Force was established as a separate military branch by the National Security Act.

**1981** - A museum honoring former U.S. President Ford was dedicated in Grand Rapids.

**1991** - U.S. President Bush said that he would send warplanes to escort U.N. helicopters that were searching for hidden Iraqi weapons if it became necessary.

**On Sept. 19 ...**

**1881** - James A. Garfield died of wounds from an assassin. The 20th U.S. president lived for 11 weeks after the wounds were inflicted.

**1957** - The U.S. conducted its first underground nuclear test. The test took place in the Nevada desert.

**1994** - U.S. troops entered Haiti peacefully to enforce the return of exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

**1995** - The U.S. Senate passed a welfare overhaul bill.

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