



The Ehlers e-Newsletter

For the Week of Monday, September 27, 2004

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News from Congressman Ehlers ...

EHLERS RESOLUTION HONORING NOAA APPROVED BY HOUSE – Less than 100 years ago, when a major hurricane hit the United States, it often came with little warning and resulted in hundreds of deaths. Today, thanks to the efforts of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and its subagencies such as the National Weather Service, people in the storms' paths have ample warning to get out of harm's way.

For more information, please visit our website:

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THIS WEEK IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2004

On Monday, there are no votes in the House.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2004

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 (36 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. 2363 - To revise and extend the Boys and Girls Clubs of America:** Provides for the establishment of 300 additional Boys and Girls Clubs of America
- 2) **H.R. 4319 - Title 46 Codification Act of 2004:** Amends federal shipping law to make technical and conforming amendments and set forth requirements with respect to: (1) documentation of vessels; (2) maritime liability; (3) regulation of ocean shipping; (4) the merchant marine; (5) clearance of, and tonnage taxes and duties levied against, vessels; (6) maritime security and drug enforcement; (7) vessel wrecks and salvage; (8) ice patrol and the destruction or removal of vessel derelicts; (9) safe containers for international cargo; and (10) the Maritime Administration.
- 3) **H.R. 1775 - To amend title 36, United States Code, to designate the oak tree as the national tree of the United States**

- 4) **H.Res. 752 - Expressing continued support for the construction of the Victims of Communism Memorial** (*Washington, D.C.*)
- 5) **H.R. 3954 - Rancho El Cajon Boundary Reconciliation Act:** Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to resolve boundary discrepancies in San Diego County, California, arising from an erroneous survey conducted by a government contractor in 1881 that resulted in overlapping boundaries for certain lands.
- 6) **H.R. 4066 - Chickasaw National Recreation Area Land Exchange Act of 2004:** Provides for the conveyance of certain land to the United States and to revise the boundary of Chickasaw National Recreation Area, Oklahoma
- 7) **H.R. 4469 - Angel Island Immigration Station Restoration and Preservation Act:** Authorizes \$15 million in appropriations to the Secretary of the Interior for the restoration of the Angel Island Immigration Station in the State of California
- 8) **H.R. 4579 - Truman Farm Home Expansion Act:** To modify the boundary of the Harry S Truman National Historic Site in the state of Missouri.
- 9) **H.R. 4596 - To amend PL 97-435 to extend the authorization for the Secretary of the Interior to release certain conditions contained in a patent concerning certain land conveyed by the United States to Eastern Washington University until December 31, 2009**
- 10) **H.R. 4683 - Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Act:** To recognize the important contributions made to American culture and history by African-Americans known as the Gullah/Geechee who settled in the coastal counties of South Carolina and Georgia; assist state and local governments and public and private entities in South Carolina and Georgia in interpreting the story of the Gullah/Geechee and preserving Gullah/Geechee folklore, arts, crafts, and music; and assist in identifying and preserving sites, historical data, artifacts, and objects associated with the Gullah/Geechee for the benefit and education of the public.
- 11) **H.R. 4808 - To provide for a land exchange involving private land and Bureau of Land Management land in the vicinity of Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico**
- 12) **S. 643 - Hibben Center Act:** To authorize the Secretary of the Interior, in cooperation with the University of New Mexico, to construct and occupy a portion of the Hibben Center for Archaeological Research at the University of New Mexico.
- 13) **S. 1687 - Manhattan Project National Historical Park Study Act of 2003:** To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the preservation and interpretation of the historic sites of the Manhattan Project for potential inclusion in the National Park System
- 14) **S. 2052 - El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Act of 2004:** To amend the National Trails System Act to designate El Camino Real de los Tejas, extending approximately 2,580 miles from the Rio Grande near Eagle Pass and Laredo, Texas, to Natchitoches, Louisiana, as a National Historic Trail.
- 15) **H.R. 3247 - Trail Responsibility and Accountability for the Improvement of Lands Act or TRAIL Act:** To provide consistent enforcement authority to the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Forest Service to respond to violations of regulations regarding the management, use, and protection of public lands under

the jurisdiction of these agencies, to clarify the purposes for which collected fines may be used.

- 16) **H.R. 4617 - To amend the Small Tracts Act to facilitate the exchange of small tracts of land**
- 17) **H.R. 4827 - Renaming the Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area as the McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area**
- 18) **S. 1537 - To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey to the New Hope Cemetery Association certain land in the State of Arkansas for use as a cemetery**
- 19) **S. 1778 - Craig Recreation Land Purchase Act** (*Craig, Alaska*)
- 20) **S. 2180 - Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests Land Exchange Act of 2004** (*Colorado*)
- 21) **H.R. 3210 - Little Butte/Bear Creek Subbasins Water Feasibility Act:** To authorize the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, to conduct a water resource feasibility study for the Little Butte/Bear Creek Subbasins in Oregon.
- 22) **H.R. 3597 - To authorize the Secretary of the Interior, through the Bureau of Reclamation, to conduct a feasibility study on the Alder Creek water storage and conservation project in El Dorado County, California**
- 23) **H.R. 4606 - Southern California Groundwater Remediation Act:** To authorize the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation and in coordination with other federal, state and local government agencies, to participate in the funding and implementation of a balanced, long-term groundwater remediation program in California
- 24) **H.R. 5009 - Montana Water Contracts Extension Act of 2004:** To extend water contracts between the United States and specific irrigation districts and the city of Helena in Montana.
- 25) **H.R. 5016 - To extend the water service contract for the Ainsworth Unit, Sandhills Division, Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program** (*Nebraska*)
- 26) **S. 2508 - To redesignate the Ridges Basin Reservoir, Colorado, as Lake Nighthorse**
- 27) **H.J.Res. 102 - Recognizing the 60th anniversary of the Battle of Peleliu and the end of Imperial Japanese control of Palau during World War II and urging the Secretary of the Interior to work to protect the historic sites of the Peleliu Battlefield National Historic Landmark and to establish commemorative programs honoring the Americans who fought there**
- 28) **H.Res. 737 - Recognizing the 60th anniversary of the Liberation of Guam during World War II**
- 29) **H.R. 2941 - Colorado River Indian Reservation Boundary Correction Act:** To correct the south boundary of the Colorado River Indian Reservation in Arizona
- 30) **H.R. 3479 - Brown Tree Snake Control and Eradication Act of 2003:** To provide for the control and eradication of the brown tree snake on the island of Guam and the prevention of the introduction of the brown tree snake to other areas of the United States.

- 31) **H.R. 4657 - District of Columbia Retirement Protection Improvement Act of 2004:** To amend the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 to improve the administration of federal pension benefit payments for District of Columbia teachers, police officers, and fire fighters.
- 32) **H.R. 4046 - Sergeant Riayan A. Tejada Post Office Designation Act** (*New York, N.Y.*)
- 33) **H.Con.Res. 461 - Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the importance of life insurance, and recognizing and supporting National Life Insurance Awareness Month**
- 34) **H.R. 5027 - Specialist Eric Ramirez Post Office Designation Act** (*Mascotte, Florida*)
- 35) **H.R. 5133 - Martha Pennino Post Office Building Designation Act** (*Reston, Virginia*)
- 36) **H.Res. 784 - Commending the resiliency of the people of the State of Florida and the work of those individuals who have assisted with the recovery efforts after the devastation caused by Hurricanes Charley, Frances, and Ivan**

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2004 AND THE BALANCE OF THE WEEK

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

Suspensions (9 bills):

- 1) **H.R. 4768 - Veterans Medical Facilities Management Act of 2004:** Authorizes leases (all requested by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)) to be paid from the medical care account for outpatient clinics or other health care facilities which VA currently operates or plans to operate in.
- 2) **H.R. 4231 - Department of Veterans Affairs Nurse Recruitment and Retention Act of 2004**
- 3) **H.Res. 759 - Commending the Festival of Children Foundation for its outstanding efforts on behalf of children and expressing the support of the House of Representatives for the designation of a “Child Awareness Month”**
- 4) **H.Res. 778 - Commemorating the 100th anniversary of the birth of William “Count” Basie**
- 5) **H.Res. 792 - Honoring the United Negro College Fund on the occasion of the Fund’s 60th anniversary**
- 6) **H.R. 4731 - To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the National Estuary Program:** Amends section 320 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (the Clean Water Act) to reauthorize the National Estuary Program within the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- 7) **H.R. 5105 - To authorize the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution to carry out construction and related activities in support of the collaborative VERITAS project on Kitt Peak near Tucson, Ariz.**
- 8) **H.R. 3124 - F.H. Newell Building Designation Act** (*Boise, Idaho*)
- 9) **H.R. 1402 - Garza-Vela United States Courthouse Designation Act** (*Brownsville, Texas*)

H.R. 3193 - District of Columbia Personal Protection Act: To amend the Firearms Control Regulations Act of 1975, as approved by the District of Columbia government in 1975, which banned the ownership and possession of firearms in the District. This legislation would bar the District government from enacting legislation that would ban residents of the District from owning firearms and keeping them in their homes.

H.J.Res. 106 - Marriage Protection Amendment: To propose an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to marriage, stating: "*Marriage in the United States shall consist solely of the union of a man and a woman. Neither this Constitution, nor the constitution of any state, shall be construed to require that marriage or the legal incidents thereof be conferred upon any union other than the union of a man and a woman.*" If approved by two-thirds of the House, the proposal would require approval by two-thirds of the Senate and three-fifths of the states before it is ratified.

* *Possible Motions to go to Conference*

* *Possible Motions to Instruct Conferees*

Historical Tidbits

On Sept. 27 ...

1779 - John Adams was elected to negotiate with the British over the American Revolutionary War peace terms.

1964 - The Warren Commission issued a report on the assassination of U.S. President John F. Kennedy in November of 1963. The report concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald had acted alone.

1973 - U.S. Vice President Spiro Agnew said he would not resign after he pleaded "no contest" to a charge of tax evasion. He did resign on October 10th.

1979 - The Department of Education became the 13th Cabinet in U.S. history after the final approval from Congress.

1986 - The U.S. Senate approved federal tax code changes that were the most sweeping since World War II.

1991 - U.S. President Bush eliminated all land-based tactical nuclear arms and removed all short-range nuclear arms from ships and submarines around the world. Bush then called on the Soviet Union to do the same.

1994 - More than 350 Republican congressional candidates signed the Contract with America. It was a 10-point platform they pledged to enact if voters sent a GOP majority to the House.

1995 - The U.S. government unveiled the redesigned \$100 bill. The bill featured a larger, off-center portrait of Benjamin Franklin.

On Sept. 28 ...

1787 - The U.S. Congress voted to send the new Constitution of the United States to the state legislatures for their approval.

1850 - U.S. President Millard Fillmore named Brigham Young the first governor of the Utah territory. In 1857, U.S. President James Buchanan removed Young from the position.

1991 - In response to U.S. President Bush's reduction of U.S. nuclear arms Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev promised to reciprocate.

On Sept. 29 ...

1789 - A regular army was established by the U.S. War Department with several hundred men.

1962 - U.S. President John F. Kennedy nationalized the Mississippi National guard in response to city officials defying federal court orders. The orders had been to enroll James Meredith at the University of Mississippi.

1983 - The War Powers Act was used for the first time by the U.S. Congress when they authorized President Reagan to keep U.S. Marines in Lebanon for 18 more months.

1994 - The U.S. House voted to end the practice of lobbyist buying meals and entertainment for members of Congress.

On Sept. 30 ...

1777 - The Congress of the United States moved to York, PA, due to advancing British forces.

1971 - The Soviet Union and the United States signed pacts that were aimed at avoiding an accidental nuclear war.

On October 1 ...

1890 - The U.S. Congress passed the McKinley Tariff Act. The act raised tariffs to a record level.

1972 - The Chinese government approved friendly relations with the United States.

1979 - The United States handed control of the Canal Zone over to Panama.

1991 - The U.S. trust territory of Palau became independent.

1992 - The Strategic Arm Reduction Treaty was approved by the U.S. Senate.

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