

The Ehlers e-Newsletter

Monday, November 3, 2003

Last Week in the U.S. House of Representatives

NORMANDY INVASION VETERANS HONORED WITH MEDALS – Eight veterans of the World War II invasion of Normandy were honored Monday morning by Congressman Vernon J. Ehlers in a brief ceremony in his Grand Rapids office.

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

http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/110303NormandyMedals.html

EHLERS: U.S. ECONOMIC NUMBERS ‘VERY ENCOURAGING’ – A report from the U.S. Commerce Department Thursday that the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew at a 7.2 percent annual rate in the third quarter of 2003 drew positive comments from Congressman Vernon J. Ehlers, R-Grand Rapids.

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

http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/103003GDPGrows.html

LOSS OF SPACE WEATHER OFFICE WOULD HAVE ‘IMMEDIATE AND SEVERE’ IMPACT – While solar flares affected electrical grids, cell phone users, soldiers in Iraq, and even astronauts on the International Space Station, a panel of witnesses warned of severe consequences if Congress eliminated or transferred the office charged with detecting and studying such space weather events. Congressman Ehlers chaired a hearing on this issue on Thursday.

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

http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/103003SolarFlaresHearing.html

HOUSE HONORS CONTRIBUTIONS OF SCIENCE FELLOWS – The U.S. House of Representatives Tuesday approved a resolution honoring the hundreds of science fellows who have served in Congress and the Administration over the past three decades. September marked the 30th anniversary of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Congressional Science and Engineering Fellowship Program. “This is a truly valuable educational program from the perspective of both Members of Congress and the fellows that serve in it,” said Congressman Vernon J. Ehlers.

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

http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/102803AAASFellows.html

THIS WEEK IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2003

On Monday, no votes are expected in the House.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 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 (20 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. 3166 - John G. Dow Post Office Building Designation Act** (*Tappan, New York*)
- 2) **H.R. 3029 - S. Truett Cathy Post Office Building Designation Act**
- 3) **H.R. 2438 - Major Henry A. Commiskey, Sr. Post Office Building Designation Act** (*Hattiesburg, Mississippi*)
- 4) **H.Con.Res. 262 - Expressing the sense of the Congress in support of the National Anthem “SingAmerica” project:** Commends the National Association for Music Education, the Smithsonian Institution, the American Sportscasters Association, and all those involved in the National Anthem “SingAmerica” project for their initiative to promote national awareness of the patriotic musical heritage of the United States. The bill also urges all Americans to assist, enjoy and participate in the National Anthem “SingAmerica” project.
- 5) **H.Con.Res. 176 - Recognizing and Supporting Financial Planning Week:** States that Congress supports the goals and ideals of “Financial Planning Week.” The bill recognizes the significant impact that sound financial planning can have on securing financial independence and achieving life’s goals and dreams.
- 6) **H.Res. 425 - Recognizing and honoring the firefighters and other public servants who responded to the October, 2003, historically devastating, outbreak of wildfires in Southern California.**
- 7) **H.R. 3118 - Orville Wright Federal Building and the Wilbur Wright Federal Building Designation Act** (*Washington, D.C.*).
- 8) **H.Res. 394 - Recognizing the American Concrete Institute:** Recognizes the American Concrete Institute (ACI) for 100 years of service to the people of the United States as the technical society for the concrete industry and for the economic stability, quality of life, durability of infrastructure, and international competitiveness that the Institute has made possible to the United States.
- 9) **H.Con.Res. 280 - Recognizing the National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association:** Acknowledges the achievements of the National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association and celebrates this 100th anniversary milestone.
- 10) **H.R. 2620 - Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2003:** *Information not available at time of publication.*
- 11) **H.R. 2898 - E-911 Implementation Act of 2003:** *Information not available at time of publication.*
- 12) **S. 313 - Animal Drug User Fee Act of 2003:** *Information not available at time of publication.*
- 13) **H.Res. 300 - Recognizing the outstanding contributions of the faculty, staff, students, and alumni of Christian colleges and universities:** Recognizes the university campuses affiliated with the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities, and other faith-based campuses and supports the goals and ideas of Christian Higher Education Month.
- 14) **H.Con.Res. 94 - Direct Support Professional Recognition Resolution:** Expresses the sense of the Congress that the federal government and the states should make it a priority to ensure a stable, quality direct support workforce for individuals with mental retardation or other developmental disabilities that

advances our Nation's commitment to community integration for such individuals and to personal security for them and their families.

- 15) **H.Con.Res. 237 - Honoring the late Rick Lupe**: Resolves that Congress recognizes and honors the late Rick Lupe for his dedication and service to the United States, for his long and essential service in fighting wildfires and caring for the environment, and for ultimately sacrificing his life for the people of Arizona.
- 16) **H.R. 2766 - Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests Land Exchange Act of 2003**: Directs the Secretary of Agriculture to exchange certain lands in the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests in the State of Colorado. The bill will facilitate the exchange of approximately 9.84 acres of Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests to the city of Golden, Colorado. The city needs the land to construct a water pipeline to transfer domestic water supplies into storage for the city and its residents.
- 17) **S. 677 - Canyon of the Gunnison Boundary Revision Act of 2003**: Amends the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area Act of 1999 to revise the boundaries of the Park and the Conservation Area to add specified lands.
- 18) **S. 924 - Alaska Native Village Corporation and the Department of the Interior Land Exchange Act**: Authorizes the exchange of lands between an Alaska Native Village Corporation and the Department of the Interior.
- 19) **H.R. 506 - Galisteo Basin Archaeological Sites Protection Act**: Designates specified archaeological sites in New Mexico as the Galisteo Basin Archaeological Protection Sites. It requires the Secretary of the Interior to: (1) continue to search for additional Native American and Spanish colonial sites in the Galisteo Basin area; and (2) submit to the Congress recommendations for additions to, deletions from, and modifications of the boundaries of such sites.
- 20) **H.R. 982 - To clarify the tax treatment of bonds and other obligations issued by the Government of American Samoa**: Clarifies the tax treatment of bonds and other obligations issued by the Government of American Samoa.

WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5 AND 6, 2003

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

Suspensions (2 Bills):

- 1) **H.R. 3349 - To authorize salary adjustments for Justices and judges of the United States for fiscal year 2004**: Authorizes a FY 2004 cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for federal judges consistent with the law, thereby permitting the appropriators to provide the necessary funding.
- 2) **H.R. 3214 - Advancing Justice Through DNA Technology Act of 2003**:
Information not available at time of publication.

H.R. 2443 - Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2003: *(Held over from last week)* Authorizes appropriations for the Coast Guard and the Federal Maritime Commission in Fiscal Year 2004. The bill also makes changes to laws governing the Coast Guard, shipping, and navigation.

H.R. 1829 - Federal Prison Industries Competition in Contracting Act of 2003:

Fundamentally changes the manner in which Federal Prison Industries (FPI), Inc. sells products and services to the Federal agencies, requiring that such sales be made on a competitive basis. For the first time, private sector firms, and their non-inmate workers, will be free to bid on Federal contracting opportunities currently reserved for FPI. The bill does not alter a broad array of advantages that FPI enjoys when it competes with private sector firms. To assure that a buying agency is getting adequate value for the taxpayer dollars being spent with FPI, the buying agency, rather than FPI, would be empowered to determine if FPI's offered product and delivery schedule meet the buying agency's needs. Similarly, the buying agency would be empowered to determine if FPI's offered price met the Government-wide procurement standard for a "fair and reasonable price."

** Possible Motions to go to Conference*

** Possible Motions to Instruct Conferees*

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2003

On Friday, no votes are expected in the House.

Historical Tidbits

On Nov. 3 ...

1796 - John Adams was elected the 2nd U.S. President.

1995 - U.S. President Clinton dedicated a memorial at Arlington National Cemetery to the 270 victims of the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103.

On Nov. 4 ...

1939 - During World War II, the U.S. modified its neutrality stance with the Neutrality Act of 1939. The new policy allowed cash-and-carry purchases of arms by belligerents.

1979 - Iranian militants seized the U.S. embassy in Tehran and took 63 Americans hostage. The militants, mostly students, demanded that the U.S. send the former shah back to Iran to stand trial.

On Nov. 5 ...

1872 - In the U.S., Susan B. Anthony was fined \$100 for attempting to vote in the presidential election. She never paid the fine.

1940 - U.S. President Roosevelt won an unprecedented third term in office.

On Nov. 6 ...

1860 - Abraham Lincoln was elected to be the sixteenth president of the United States.

On Nov. 7 ...

1916 - Jeanette Rankin of Montana became the first woman elected to the U.S. Congress.

1944 - U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt became the first person to win a fourth term as president.

1973 - The U.S. Congress over-rode President Nixon's veto of the War Powers Act, which limits a chief executive's power to wage war without congressional approval.

1983 - A bomb exploded in the U.S. Capitol. No one was injured.

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

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