

The Ehlers e-Newsletter

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Monday, November 17, 2003

THIS WEEK IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2003

On Monday, 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 (17 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.J.Res. 22 - Recognizing the Agricultural Research Service of the Department of Agriculture for 50 years of outstanding service to the nation through agricultural research.**
- 2) **H.R. 1367 - To authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a loan repayment program regarding the provision of veterinary services in shortage situations:** Authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture, subject to the availability of appropriations, to assist veterinarians in repaying their educational loans if they agree to provide veterinary medical services in areas where the Secretary has determined a shortage of qualified veterinarians exist.
- 3) **H.R. 3217 - To provide for the conveyance of several small parcels of National Forest System land in the Apalachicola National Forest, Florida, to resolve boundary discrepancies involving the Mt. Trial Primitive Baptist Church of Wakulla County, Florida.**
- 4) **H.R. 3157 - To provide for the designation of a Department of Agriculture disaster liaison to assist state and local employees of the department in coordination with other disaster agencies in response to a federally declared disaster area as a result of a disaster:** directs the Secretary of Agriculture to designate and deploy disaster liaison teams to places that are federally-designated disaster areas. The teams will coordinate the activities of USDA employees as they assist agricultural producers within the disaster area. The teams will facilitate the making of claims and applications for economic assistance of affected producers as they deal with agencies designated under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.
- 5) **H.R. 2304 - To resolve boundary conflicts in the vicinity of the Mark Twain National Forest in Barry and Stone Counties, Missouri, that resulted from private landowner reliance on a subsequent federal survey.**
- 6) **H.R. 3353 - George Henry White Post Office Building Designation Act** (*Tarboro, North Carolina*).
- 7) **S. 1590 - James E. Davis Post Office Building Designation Act** (*Brooklyn, New York*).
- 8) **H.R. 3300 - Walter F. Ehrnfelt, Jr. Post Office Building Designation Act** (*Strongsville, Ohio*).
- 9) **H.R. 3185 - Hugh Gregg Post Office Building Designation Act** (*Nashua, New Hampshire*)

- 10) S.J.Res. 18 - Commending the Inspectors General for their efforts to prevent and detect waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement, and to promote economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in the federal government during the past 25 years:** Recognizes the many accomplishments of the Inspectors General in preventing and detecting waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement in the federal government. The bill also commends the Inspectors General and their employees for the dedication and professionalism displayed in the performance of their duties. It reaffirms the role of Inspectors General in promoting economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in the administration of the programs and operations of the federal government.
- 11) H.Con.Res. 299 - Honoring Mr. Sargent Shriver.**
- 12) H.R. 3198 - John F. Kennedy Center Reauthorization Act of 2003:** Authorizes funding for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts (Kennedy Center), authorizes ongoing General Accounting Office review of construction projects at the Kennedy Center, and creates a project management team to oversee construction of the plaza project. This bill reauthorizes the capital program of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts for three years and authorizes \$53 million for maintenance, repair and alteration and \$52 million for capital projects. The legislation also authorizes GAO to periodically review the capital program of the Kennedy Center to ensure effective project management.
- 13) H.R. 1274 - To direct the Administrator of General Services to convey to Fresno County, California, the existing federal courthouse in that county.**
- 14) S. 1066 - To correct a technical error from Unit T-07 of the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System.**
- 15) H.R. 1648 - Carpinteria and Montecito Water Distribution Systems Conveyance Act of 2003:** Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain water distribution systems of the Cachuma Project, California, to the Carpinteria Valley Water District and the Montecito Water District. This bill will help simplify the operation and maintenance of the Carpinteria Valley and Montecito Water Districts' water distribution systems and eliminate unnecessary paperwork and consultation between the districts and the Bureau of Reclamation.
- 16) H.R. 1732 - Williamson County Water Recycling Act of 2003:** Amends the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Williamson County, Texas, Water Recycling and Reuse Project.
- 17) H.R. 3209 - To amend the Reclamation Project Authorization Act of 1972 to clarify the acreage for which the North Loup division is authorized to provide irrigation water under the Missouri River Basin project.**

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2003 AND THE BALANCE OF THE WEEK

On Tuesday, the House will meet at 9 a.m. for morning hour and 10 a.m. for legislative business. On Wednesday and Thursday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. for legislative business. On Friday, the House will meet at 9 a.m. for legislative business.

Conference Report on H.R. 2754 - Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2004: The conference agreement provides a total of \$27.3 billion in

new discretionary spending authority for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Civil, the Department of Interior including the Bureau of Reclamation, the Department of Energy, and several Independent Agencies. This bill is \$1.19 billion above fiscal year 2003 and \$382 million above the President's budget request.

Suspensions (29 bills):

- 1) **H.Res. 411 - Expressing the sense of the House that John Wooden should be honored for his contributions to sports and education.**
- 2) **H.Res. 391 - Congratulating the University of Illinois Fighting Illini men's tennis team.**
- 3) **H.Res. 379 - Honoring the Rice University Owls baseball team.**
- 4) **H.Res. 438 - Congratulating John Gagliardi, football coach of St. John's University:** congratulates John Gagliardi, football coach of St. John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota, on becoming the all-time winningest coach in collegiate football history.
- 5) **H.R. 1006 - Captive Wildlife Safety Act:** Amends the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to incorporate under its "prohibited wildlife species" designation any live lions, tigers, leopards, cheetahs, jaguars and cougars. The proposal stipulates that this prohibition shall not apply to a list of entities including: licensed, registered or federally inspected zoos, circus, research facilities or aquariums; any person accredited by the American Sanctuary Association or Association of Sanctuaries; any state college, university or agency, state-licensed wildlife rehabilitator, or state-licensed veterinarian and individuals transporting a wildlife animal to an exempted entity.
- 6) **H.R. 1204 - To amend the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 to establish requirements for the award of concessions in the National Wildlife Refuge System, to provide for maintenance and repair of properties located in the system by concessionaires authorized to use such properties.**
- 7) **H.R. 1651 - Sierra National Forest Land Exchange Act of 2003.**
- 8) **H.R. 2907 - Northern Arizona National Forest Land Exchange Act of 2003.**
- 9) **H.R. 280 - National Aviation Heritage Area Act:** Will establish the National Aviation Heritage Area, which will contain resources associated with the development of the aviation and aerospace industry in America. The intent of H.R. 280 is to promote heritage tourism and develop educational and cultural programs for the public while preserving certain lands, structure, facilities and sites within the heritage area. The legislation names an Ohio nonprofit, The Aviation Heritage Foundation, Inc., as the "management entity." A management plan must be developed and approved by the Secretary of the Interior. The plan will provide for the protection, enhancement, and interpretation of the natural, cultural, historic, scenic, and recreational resources of the Area; and include an inventory of the resources contained in the core part of the Area, including the Dayton Aviation Heritage Historical Park, and other property in the Area that is related to the themes of the Area and that should be preserved, restored, managed, or maintained because of its significance. The bill authorizes appropriations of \$10 million, although not more than \$1 million may be spent in any FY with 50

- percent cap on the Federal share of the activity cost. Finally, the bill directs the Secretary to conduct a special resource study, updating a previous report, detailing alternatives for incorporating the Wright Company factory as a unit of Dayton Aviation National Historical Park.
- 10) **S. 254 - Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park Addition Act of 2003.**
 - 11) **H.R. 1189 - To increase the waiver requirement for certain local matching requirements for grants provided to American Samoa, Guam, the Virgin Islands, or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.**
 - 12) **H.Con.Res. 313 - To urge the President, on behalf of the United States, to present the Presidential Medal of Freedom to His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, in recognition of his significant, enduring, and historic contributions to the causes of freedom, human dignity, and peace and to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of His Holiness' inauguration of his ministry as Bishop of Rome and Supreme Pastor of the Catholic Church.**
 - 13) **H.R. 2130 - New Bridge Landing Post Office Redesignation Act.**
 - 14) **S. 1718 - Senator James B. Pearson Post Office Designation Act (*Prairie Village, Kansas*).**
 - 15) **S. 867 - Ronald Reagan Post Office Building Designation Act (*Billings, Montana*).**
 - 16) **H.Con.Res. 69 - Expressing the sense of Congress that Althea Gibson should be recognized for her ground breaking achievements in athletics and her commitment to ending racial discrimination and prejudice within the world of sports.**
 - 17) **H.Con.Res. 320 - Expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the importance of motorsports.**
 - 18) **H.Con.Res. 288 - Honoring Seeds of Peace:** Resolves that Congress: (1) honors the accomplishments of Seeds of Peace for promoting understanding, reconciliation, acceptance, coexistence, and peace among youth from the Middle East and other regions of conflict around the world; and (2) offers Seeds of Peace as a model of hope that living together in peace and security is possible.
 - 19) **H.R. 3287 - To award congressional gold medals posthumously on behalf of Reverend Joseph A. DeLaine, Harry and Eliza Briggs, and Levi Pearson:** In recognition of their contributions to the Nation as pioneers in the effort to desegregate public schools that led directly to the landmark desegregation case of *Brown v. the Board of Education of Topeka*.
 - 20) **H.Res. 427 - Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the courageous leadership of the Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam and the urgent need for religious freedom and related human rights in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.**
 - 21) **H.Res. 423 - Recognizing the 5th anniversary of the signing of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 and urging a renewed commitment to eliminating violations of the internationally recognized right to freedom of religion and protecting fundamental human rights.**
 - 22) **H.Res. 393 - Commending Afghan women for their participation in Afghan government and civil society, encouraging the inclusion of Afghan women in**

the political and economic life of Afghanistan, and advocating the protection of Afghan women's human rights in the Afghanistan Constitution.

- 23) H.Con.Res. 83 - Honoring the victims of the Cambodian genocide:** resolves that Congress: (1) honors the victims of the genocide in Cambodia that took place beginning in April 1975 and ending in January 1979; and (2) is committed to pursue justice for the victims of the Cambodian genocide.
- 24) H.R. 1813 - Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act of 2003:** amends the Torture Victims Relief Act (TVRA) of 1998 to authorize appropriations for domestic and foreign centers for the treatment of victims of torture, and to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture for fiscal years 2004, 2005 and 2006.
- 25) H.R. 3140 - Fairness to Contact Lens Consumers Act:** Provides for availability of contact lens prescriptions to patients.
- 26) H.R. 2218 - Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act Amendment:** Amends the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide for the regulation of non-corrective contact lens as medical devices.
- 27) S. 286 - Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities Prevention Act of 2003:**
Information not available at time of publication.
- 28) S.Con.Res. 48 - Supporting the goals and ideals of "National Epilepsy Awareness Month."**
- 29) S. 650 - Pediatric Research Equity Act of 2003:** *Information not available at time of publication.*

* **Possible Motions to go to Conference**

* **Possible Motions to Instruct Conferees**

* **Members are advised that Conference Reports may be brought up at any time**

Historical Tidbits

On Nov. 17 ...

1800 - The U.S. Congress held its first session in Washington, DC, in the partially completed Capitol building.

On Nov. 18 ...

1903 - The U.S. and Panama signed a treaty that granted the U.S. rights to build the Panama Canal.

1987 - The U.S. Congress issued the Iran-Contra Affair report. The report said that President Ronald Reagan bore "ultimate responsibility" for wrongdoing by his aides.

1993 - The U.S. House of Representatives joined the U.S. Senate in approving legislation aimed at protecting abortion facilities, staff and patients.

On Nov. 19 ...

1794 - The U.S. and Britain signed the Jay Treaty, which resolved the issues left over from the Revolutionary War.

1863 - U.S. President Lincoln delivered his Gettysburg Address as he dedicated a national cemetery at the site of the Civil War battlefield in Pennsylvania.

1919 - The U.S. Senate rejected the Treaty of Versailles with a vote of 55 in favor to 39 against. A two-thirds majority was needed for ratification.

1985 - U.S. President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev met for the first time as they began their summit in Geneva.

1993 - The U.S. Senate approved a sweeping \$22.3 billion anti-crime measure.

1998 - The impeachment inquiry of U.S. President Clinton began.

2001 - U.S. President George W. Bush signed the most comprehensive air security bill in U.S. history.

On Nov. 20 ...

1962 - The Cuban Missile Crisis ended. The Soviet Union removed its missiles and bombers from Cuba and the U.S. ended its blockade of the island.

1993 - The U.S. Senate passed the Brady Bill and legislation implementing NAFTA.

1998 - Afghanistan's Taliban militia offered Osama bin Laden safe haven. Osama bin Laden had been accused of orchestrating two U.S. embassy bombings in Africa and later terrorist attacks on New York City and the Pentagon.

On Nov. 21 ...

1922 - Rebecca L. Felton of Georgia was sworn in as the first woman to serve as a member of the U.S. Senate.

1993 - The U.S. House of Representatives voted against making the District of Columbia the 51st state.

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