



The Ehlers e-Newsletter

For the Week of May 23, 2005

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News from Congressman Ehlers ...

PRESIDENT BUSH DELIVERS CALVIN COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS –

President George W. Bush urged graduates at Calvin College to “make a difference in the world” as he delivered the college’s 2005 commencement address Saturday at Knollcrest Fieldhouse, with Congressman Ehlers among the 5,000 in attendance.

To read the complete text of the President’s speech, click below:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2005/05/20050521-1.html>

NOAA BILL SAILS THROUGH SCIENCE COMMITTEE – The House Science Committee Tuesday favorably reported out a bill related to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). By voice votes, the committee passed H.R. 50, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Act, which was proposed by Congressman Vernon J. Ehlers, R-Grand Rapids.

To read the complete release, visit our website:

http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/051705NOAApassesSciComm.html

THIS WEEK IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MONDAY, MAY 23, 2005

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) H.R. 32 - Stop Counterfeiting in Manufactured Goods Act: Modifies federal criminal code provisions regarding trafficking in counterfeit goods or services to prohibit trafficking in counterfeit marks. Directs the court: (1) upon a determination by a preponderance of the evidence that any article in a defendant's possession bears or is a counterfeit mark, to order the forfeiture and destruction of such article, regardless of whether the defendant is convicted of an offense; and (2) in imposing sentence, to order a person convicted of, or who pleads guilty or nolo contendere to, a violation to forfeit any property derived from proceeds of, or used in the commission of, the violation. The bill modifies the definition of "counterfeit mark" to include a spurious mark that is applied to, or consists of, a label, patch or medallion.

2) H.R. 744 - Internet Spyware (I-SPY) Prevention Act of 2005: Amends the federal criminal code to prohibit intentionally accessing a protected computer without authorization, or exceeding authorized access, by causing a computer program or code to be copied onto the protected computer, and intentionally using that program or code: (1) in furtherance of another federal criminal offense; (2) to obtain or transmit personal information (including a Social Security number or other government-issued identification number, a bank or credit card number, or an associated password or access code) with intent to defraud or injure a person or cause damage to a protected computer; or (3) to impair the security protection of that computer.

3) H.R. 29 - Securely Protect Yourself Against Cyber Trespass Act: makes it unlawful for any person who is not the owner or authorized user (user) of a protected computer (a computer exclusively for the use of a financial institution or the U.S. Government, or a computer used in interstate or foreign commerce or communication) to engage in deceptive acts or practices in connection with specified conduct, including: (1) taking unsolicited control of the computer; (2) modifying computer settings; (3) collecting personally identifiable information; (4) inducing the owner or authorized user to disclose personally identifiable information; (5) inducing the unsolicited installation of computer software; and (5) removing or disabling a security, anti-spyware, or anti-virus technology.

4) H.R. 1499 - Heroes Earned Retirement Opportunities Act: Amends the Internal Revenue Code to include combat zone compensation (otherwise excludable from gross income) as earned income for purposes of calculating the tax deduction for contributions to retirement savings plans.

5) H.R. 849 - To provide for the conveyance of certain public land in Clark County, Nevada, for use as a heliport

6) H.R. 1101 - To revoke a Public Land Order with respect to certain lands erroneously included in the Cibola National Wildlife Refuge, California

7) H.R. 606 - Angel Island Immigration Station Restoration and Preservation Act: Authorizes appropriations to the Secretary of the Interior for restoring the Angel Island Immigration Station in San Francisco Bay, in coordination with the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation and the California Department of Parks and Recreation. Limits federal funding under this Act to 50 percent of the total funds from all sources spent to restore the Angel Island Immigration Station.

8) H.R. 2066 - General Services Administration Modernization Act: Authorizes a reorganization and streamlining of the General Services Administration (GSA), the federal agency charged with leveraging the federal government's buying power to purchase commercial goods and services for the federal government at the best value possible. The bill streamlines the outdated and bifurcated system that currently exists within GSA into one system.

9) H.Res. 280 - Celebrating Asian Pacific American Heritage Month (May 2005)

10) H.R. 1224 - Business Checking Freedom Act of 2005: Amends federal law to authorize interest-bearing or dividend-bearing transaction accounts for all businesses, permitting up to 24 transfers per month to another account of the owner in the same institution. It amends the Federal Reserve Act, the Home Owners' Loan Act, and the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to repeal the prohibition against the payment of interest on demand deposits.

- 11) **H.Con.Res. 149 - Recognizing the 57th anniversary of the independence of the State of Israel**
- 12) **H.Con.Res. 89 - Honoring the life of Sister Dorothy Stang**
- 13) **H.Res. 191 - Urging the Government of Romania to recognize its responsibilities to provide equitable, prompt, and fair restitution to all religious communities for property confiscated by the former Communist government in Romania**
- 14) **H.Res. 273 - Urging the withdrawal of all Syrian forces from Lebanon, support for free and fair democratic elections in Lebanon, and the development of democratic institutions and safeguards to foster sovereign democratic rule in Lebanon**
- 15) **H.Con.Res. 153 - Welcoming His Excellency Hamid Karzai, the President of Afghanistan, on the occasion of his visit to the United States in May 2005 and expressing support for a strong and enduring strategic partnership between the United States and Afghanistan**
- 16) **H.Res. 243 - Recognizing the Coast Guard, the Coast Guard Auxiliary, and the National Safe Boating Council for their efforts to promote National Safe Boating Week (May 21-27, 2005)**
- 17) **H.R. 2046 – Servicemembers’ Health Insurance Protection Act of 2005:** Amends the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to limit premium increases on reinstated health insurance coverage of servicemembers who are released from active duty. It would amend the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights to preserve employer-sponsored health plan reinstatement rights for certain Reserve-component members who acquire TRICARE eligibility prior to entering active duty.

TUESDAY, MAY 24, 2005

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

Suspensions (1 bill):

1) H.R. 2520 - Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act of 2005: *A legislative summary of this bill was not available at time of publication.*

H.R. 810 - Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2005: Expands the number of stem cell lines that are eligible for federally funded research, thereby accelerating scientific progress toward cures and treatments for a wide range of diseases and debilitating health conditions. Under the current federal policy on human embryonic stem cell research, only those stem cell lines derived before August 9, 2001, are eligible for federally funded research. This bill lifts that restriction. Stem cell lines shall be eligible for federally funded research regardless of the date on which they were derived. The bill also institutes stronger ethical requirements on stem cell lines that are eligible for federally funded research.

H.R. 2419 - Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2006: The Chairman’s mark provides a total of \$29.7 billion in budget 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 \$131.7 million below FY05 and the same as the President's budget request.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2005 AND THE BALANCE OF THE WEEK

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.

H.R. 1815 - National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006: Authorizes \$441.6 billion in budget authority for the Department of Defense (DOD) and the national security programs of the Department of Energy. The bill also authorizes \$49.1 billion in supplemental funding to support current operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, and the global war on terrorism. This legislation serves as the annual policy and funding blueprint for the vast national security activities of the Departments of Defense and Energy.

H.R. XXXX - Military Quality of Life and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2006: Provides funding for veterans medical services, military construction, military housing and base closure efforts. The bill appropriates \$85.2 billion for FY 2006, more than the \$79.3 billion appropriated in FY 2005 and more than the President's FY 2006 request of \$84.1 billion.

Historical Tidbits

On May 23 ...

1788 - South Carolina became the eighth state to ratify U.S. Constitution.

1922 - "Daylight Saving Time" was debated in the first debate ever to be heard on radio in Washington, DC.

On May 24 ...

1764 - Bostonian lawyer James Otis denounced "taxation without representation" and called for the colonies to unite in demonstrating their opposition to Britain's new tax measures.

1913 - The U.S. Department of Labor entered into its first strike mediation. The dispute was between the Railroad Clerks of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad.

2000 - The U.S. House of Representatives approved permanent normal trade relations with China. China was not happy about some of the human rights conditions that had been attached by the U.S. lawmakers.

On May 25 ...

1787 - The Constitutional convention opened in Philadelphia with George Washington presiding.

1961 - America was asked by U.S. President Kennedy to work toward putting a man on the moon before the end of the decade.

1997 - U.S. Senator Strom Thurmond became the longest-serving senator in U.S. history (41 years and 10 months).

1999 - A report by the U.S. House of Representatives Select Committee on U.S. National Security and Military/Commercial Concerns with the People's Republic of China concluded that China had "stolen design information on the U.S. most-advanced

thermonuclear weapons" and that China's penetration of U.S. weapons laboratories "spans at least the past several decades and almost certainly continues today."

On May 26 ...

1835 - A resolution was passed in the U.S. Congress stating that Congress has no authority over state slavery laws.

1836 - The U.S. House of Representatives adopted what has been called the Gag Rule.

1868 - U.S. President Andrew Johnson was acquitted, by one vote, of all charges in his impeachment trial.

1938 - The House Committee on Un-American Activities began its work of searching for subversives in the United States.

1948 - The U.S. Congress passed Public Law 557 which permanently established the Civil Air Patrol as the Auxiliary of the new U.S. Air Force.

1994 - U.S. President Clinton renewed trade privileges for China, and announced that his administration would no longer link China's trade status with its human rights record.

On May 27 ...

1933 - In the U.S., the Federal Securities Act was signed. The act required the registration of securities with the Federal Trade Commission.

1935 - The U.S. Supreme Court declared that President Franklin Roosevelt's National Industrial Recovery Act was unconstitutional.

(Information from www.on-this-day.com)

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