



The Ehlers e-Newsletter

For the Week of February 7, 2005

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News from Congressman Ehlers ...

EHLERS PRAISES PRESIDENT BUSH'S STATE OF THE UNION SPEECH –

Congressman Vernon J. Ehlers, R-Grand Rapids, made the following comments Wednesday evening in response to President George W. Bush's State of the Union address, delivered to a joint session of Congress in the chambers of the U.S. House of Representatives: "President Bush offered an honest and challenging assessment of the State of the Union. In my opinion, this was President Bush's best State of the Union address ever. He dealt with a number of important issues and concisely discussed how he thought they should be addressed. Clearly, President Bush likes to drive events; he doesn't like events to drive him."

To read Congressman Ehlers' complete statement, please go to our website:

http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/020205SOTURreaction.html

EHLERS COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS SET FOR 109TH CONGRESS –

Congressman Vernon J. Ehlers this week received his committee assignments for the 109th Congress, which will result in no changes in his duties from the previous session of Congress.

To view Congressman Ehlers' committee assignments, please read the press release on our website:

http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/020405CommitteeAssignments.html

THIS WEEK IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2005

On Monday, the House is not in session.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2005

On Tuesday, the House will meet at 2 p.m. for legislative business. Votes will be postponed until 6:30 p.m.

Suspensions (2 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. 315 - John Milton Bryan Simpson United States Courthouse Designation Act (Jacksonville, Fla.)**

- 2) **H.R. 548 - Tony Hall Federal Building and United States Courthouse Designation Act** (*Dayton, Ohio*)

WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9 AND 10, 2005

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

Suspensions (4 bills):

- 1) **H.Con.Res. 6 - Expressing the sense of the Congress that the Department of Defense should continue to exercise its statutory authority to support the activities of the Boy Scouts of America, in particular the periodic national and world Boy Scout Jamborees**
- 2) **H.Con.Res. 26 - Honoring the Tuskegee Airmen for their bravery in fighting for our freedom in World War II, and for their contribution in creating an integrated United States Air Force**
- 3) **H.Con.Res. 30- Supporting the goals and ideals of National Black HIV/Aids Awareness Day**
- 4) **H.Res. 46 - Supporting the goals and ideals of National Mentoring Month**

H.R. 418 - Real ID Act of 2005: Establishes and rapidly implements regulations for state driver's license and identification document security standards, to prevent terrorists from abusing the asylum laws of the United States, to unify terrorism-related grounds for inadmissibility and removal, and to ensure expeditious construction of the San Diego border fence.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2005

On Friday, no votes are expected in the House.

Historical Tidbits

On Feb. 7 ...

1936 - The U.S. Vice President's flag was established by executive order.

1943 - The U.S. government announced that shoe rationing would go into effect in two days.

1962 - The U.S. government banned all Cuban imports and re-export of U.S. products to Cuba from other countries.

On Feb. 8 ...

1922 - The White House began using radio after U.S. President Harding had it installed.

1963 - The Kennedy administration prohibited travel to Cuba and made financial and commercial transactions with Cuba illegal for U.S. citizens.

1973 - U.S. Senate leaders named seven members of a select committee to investigate the Watergate scandal.

1978 - The U.S. Senate deliberations were broadcast on radio for the first time. The subject was the Panama Canal treaties.

1980 - U.S. President Jimmy Carter announced a plan to re-introduce draft registration.

On Feb. 9 ...

1825 - The U.S. House of Representatives elected John Quincy Adams president. No candidate had received a majority of electoral votes.

1870 - The United States Weather Bureau was authorized by Congress. The bureau is officially known as the National Weather Service (NWS).

On Feb. 10 ...

1934 - The first imperforated, ungummed sheets of postage stamps were issued by the U.S. Postal Service in New York City.

1967 - The 25th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified. The amendment required the appointment of a vice-president when that office became vacant and instituted new measures in the event of presidential disability.

On Feb. 11 ...

1812 - The term "gerrymandering" had its beginning when the governor of Massachusetts, Elbridge Gerry, signed a redistricting law that favored his party.

1993 - Janet Reno was appointed to the position of attorney general by U.S. President Clinton. She was the first female to hold the position.

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