



## The Ehlers e-Newsletter

For the Week of October 3, 2005

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### *News from Congressman Ehlers ...*

**ROBERTS CONFIRMED AS CHIEF JUSTICE** – The U.S. Senate voted 78-22 to confirm John G. Roberts Jr. as Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. The confirmation allowed Roberts to take his place replacing the late William H. Rehnquist when the Supreme Court convened its new session on Monday.

**MIERS NOMINATED FOR HIGH COURT** – President George W. Bush Monday nominated White House Counsel Harriet Miers, 60, to the Supreme Court seat being vacated by retiring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. Miers was the first woman ever to head the State Bar of Texas and the first woman ever to head a major Texas law firm. She has worked in the Bush White House since 2001 and has been associated with the president since 1993 when the then-governor appointed her to serve as commissioner of the Texas state lottery. Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist said he is hopeful that the Senate can complete consideration of her nomination by Thanksgiving.

### **THIS WEEK IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES MONDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2005**

*On Monday, the House will meet at 4 p.m. in a Pro Forma session.*

### **TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4 AND 5, 2005**

*On Tuesday and Wednesday, in observance of the Jewish New Year, Rosh Hashanah, the House is not in session.*

### **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2005**

*On Thursday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. for legislative business. Votes will be postponed until 6:30 p.m.*

#### **Suspensions (11 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. 1413 - Colin L. Powell Residential Plaza Redesignation Act:** Designates the federal building in Kingston, Jamaica (formerly known as the Crowne Plaza and now a staff housing facility for the U.S. mission in Jamaica) as the "Colin L. Powell Residential Plaza."

- 2) **H.Con.Res. 161 - Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for an event to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the Million Man March on October 15, 2005**
- 3) **S. 1786 - A bill to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to make emergency airport improvement project grants-in-aid under title 49, United States Code, for repairs and costs related to damage from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita:** Authorizes the Secretary of Transportation to make grants in fiscal year 2006 under the Federal Aviation Administration's existing Airport Improvement Program for hurricane-related costs incurred by public-use airports in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Texas. Under this bill, affected airports may receive grants for emergency capital costs, such as repairs to terminal buildings, hangars, runways, airfield signage and lighting, fencing, navigation aids, and fuel systems. In addition, emergency operating costs resulting from the hurricanes would also be made eligible for grants. This may cover items such as the cost of putting fences back up, renting generators, and hiring extra security personnel.
- 4) **H.Res. 15 - Supporting the goals and ideals of National Campus Safety Awareness Month**
- 5) **H.Res. 276 - Supporting the goals and ideals of Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month**
- 6) **H.Con.Res. 59 - Recognizing the contributions of African-American basketball teams and players for their achievements, dedication, and contributions to the sport of basketball and to the Nation:** Resolves that Congress recognizes the teams and players of the barnstorming African-American basketball teams for their achievement, dedication, sacrifices, and contribution to basketball and to the Nation prior to the integration of the white professional leagues. The bill states that current National Basketball Association players should pay a debt of gratitude to those great pioneers of the game of basketball and recognize them at every possible opportunity. Additionally, a copy of this resolution will be transmitted to the Black Legends of Professional Basketball Foundation, which has recognized and commemorated the achievements of African-American basketball teams, the National Basketball Association, and the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame.
- 7) **H.R. 3439 - Ava Gardner Post Office Building Designation Act** (*Smithfield, North Carolina*)
- 8) **H.R. 3894 - Hurricane Katrina Emergency Housing Act of 2005:** Directs the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to waive specific requirements under the section 8 (United States Housing Act of 1937) housing voucher and project-based assistance programs for an individual or family who resides or resided in any area subject to a presidential disaster declaration in connection with Hurricane Katrina on August 29, 2005, and whose residence became uninhabitable or inaccessible as a result of Hurricane Katrina.
- 9) **H.R. 3895 – Rural Housing Hurricane Relief Act of 2005:** Amends the Housing Act of 1949 with respect to counties and residents of designated disaster areas and the counties contiguous to such areas. The bill authorizes the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to convert rental assistance into housing voucher assistance or rural housing vouchers, reprogram funds, and waive rural

area requirements in the event of a presidential-declared disaster. The bill states that such authority shall last for six months after declaration of a disaster. H.R. 3895 eliminates the rural housing voucher program fiscal year unit limit. Additionally, the bill amends the Doug Bereuter section 502 single family housing loan guarantee program to permit loan and refinancing guarantees for home repair or rehabilitation.

10) **H.R. 3896 - Hurricane Katrina Emergency Relief CDBG Flexibility Act of 2005:** Directs the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to suspend the community development block grant public services cap for FY2005-FY 2008 for communities directly or indirectly affected by Hurricane Katrina. The bill considers the specific economic circumstances of each indirectly affected community in determining the length of such suspension and it will waive or find alternative public hearing requirements in FY2006 for a directly affected community.

11) **H.Con.Res. 248 - Honoring the life and work of Simon Wiesenthal and reaffirming the commitment of Congress to the fight against anti-Semitism and intolerance in all forms, in all forums, and in all nations:** Resolves that Congress honors the life and work of Simon Wiesenthal to memorialize the victims of the Holocaust and to bring the perpetrators of crimes against humanity to justice. Congress reaffirms its commitment to the fight against anti-Semitism and intolerance in all forms, in all forums, and in all nations. Finally, it urges all members of the international community to facilitate the investigation and prosecution of surviving Nazi war criminals and to continue documenting and collecting information on Nazi war crimes for archival and historical purposes.

#### **Conference Report on H.R. 2360 - Department of Homeland Security**

**Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2006:** Provides \$30.8 billion for operations and activities of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in FY 2006, an increase of \$1.4 billion above FY 2005 and \$1.3 billion above the President's request. The conference agreement reflects the DHS organizational structure recommended by the Secretary on July 13, 2005, and does not adopt any new aviation security fees.

#### **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2005**

*On Friday, the House will meet at 9:00 a.m. for legislative business.*

**H.R. 3893 - Gasoline for America's Security Act of 2005:** Includes provisions to encourage the siting of new refineries by giving states, at the request of their Governor, the opportunity to use reformed refinery siting procedures. The bill also directs the President to designate sites on federal lands, including closed military installations, that are appropriate for the purposes of siting a refinery. Refineries sited pursuant to this Presidential designation would be eligible to use the reformed siting procedures.

**\* Possible Motions to go to Conference**

**\* Possible Motions to Instruct Conferees**

#### **Historical Tidbits**

**On Oct. 3 ...**

**1863** - U.S. President Lincoln declared that the last Thursday of November would be recognized as Thanksgiving Day.

**1922** - Rebecca L. Felton became the first female to hold office of U.S. Senator. She was appointed by Governor Thomas W. Hardwick of Georgia to fill a vacancy.

**1942** - The Office of Economic Stabilization was established by U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt. He also authorized controls on rents, wages, salaries and farm prices.

**On Oct. 4 ...**

**2001** - In Washington, DC, Reagan National Airport re-opened. The airport had been closed since the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001.

**On Oct. 5 ...**

**1937** - U.S. President Roosevelt called for a "quarantine" of aggressor nations.

**1947** - U.S. President Harry S. Truman held the first televised presidential address from the White House. The subject was the current international food crisis.

**1991** - Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev announced that his country would cut its nuclear arsenal in response to the arms reduction that was initiated by U.S. President George Bush.

**On Oct. 6 ...**

**1949** - U.S. president Harry Truman signed the Mutual Defense Assistance Act. The act provided \$1.3 billion in the form of military aid to NATO countries.

**1961** - U.S. president John F. Kennedy advised American families to build or buy bomb shelters to protect them in the event of a nuclear exchange with the Soviet Union.

**On Oct. 7 ...**

**1765** - Nine American colonies sent a total of 28 delegates to New York City for the Stamp Act Congress. The delegates adopted the "Declaration of Rights and Grievances."

**1956** - A U.S. House subcommittee began investigations of allegedly rigged TV quiz shows.

**1963** - U.S. President Kennedy signed a nuclear test ban treaty with Britain and the Soviet Union.

**2001** - The U.S. and Great Britain began airstrikes in Afghanistan in response to that state's support of terrorism and Osama bin Laden. The act was the first military action taken in response to the terrorist attacks on the U.S. on September 11, 2001.

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