



## The Ehlers e-Newsletter

For the Week of Tuesday, September 6, 2005

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

**HOUSE APPROVES \$10.5B IN HURRICANE EMERGENCY FUNDS** – Meeting in emergency session Friday, the U.S. House of Representatives approved \$10.5 billion in emergency funds to address the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, which ravaged New Orleans and the Gulf Coast areas of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida earlier this week.

*To read the complete press release, please visit our website:*

[http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03\\_ehlers/090205HurricaneRelief.html](http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/090205HurricaneRelief.html)

**SUPREME COURT CHIEF JUSTICE REHNQUIST DIES** – U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, who had led the nation's highest court since 1986, died late Saturday after a long battle with thyroid cancer. He was 80 years old and had been a member of the Supreme Court since 1971. Rehnquist is scheduled to be buried at Arlington National Cemetery Wednesday. President George W. Bush announced Monday that he would withdraw the nomination of U.S. District Court Judge John Roberts to replace retiring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and renominate Roberts to replace Rehnquist as chief justice. Senate hearings on Roberts nomination, which were to begin Tuesday, were postponed until next Monday, Sept. 12. A new candidate for O'Connor's seat on the Court has not been announced.

**EHLERS MANUFACTURING BILL TO BE CONSIDERED IN HOUSE** – The Manufacturing Technology Competitiveness Act (H.R. 250), sponsored by Congressman Vernon J. Ehlers, is scheduled to be considered by the full House of Representatives Wednesday. Approved by the House Science Committee on May 4, the legislation seeks to help reinvigorate the nation's manufacturing sector by reauthorizing and strengthening the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program and establishing research fellowship and grant programs.

*To view a previous press release on H.R. 250, click here:*

[http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03\\_ehlers/050405ManufacturingCmte.html](http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/050405ManufacturingCmte.html)

### **THIS WEEK IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2005**

On Monday, the House is not in session.

## **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 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.Res. 360 - Commemorating the 60th anniversary of V-J Day and the end of World War II in the Pacific:** Resolves that the House of Representatives recognizes the 60th anniversary of V-J Day and the end of World War II in the Pacific theater. It joins with a grateful Nation in expressing respect and appreciation to the members of the United States Armed Forces who served in the Pacific theater during World War II. Finally, the House remembers and honors those Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice and gave their lives for their country during the campaigns in the Pacific theater during World War II.
- 2) **S.J.Res. 19 - A joint resolution calling upon the President to issue a proclamation recognizing the 30th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act:** Resolves that Congress calls upon the President to issue a proclamation: (1) recognizing the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe; (2) reasserting the U.S. commitment to full implementation of the Helsinki Final Act; and (3) urging all participating countries to abide by their Helsinki obligations. Congress also calls upon the President to convey to all Helsinki signatories that respect for human rights, democratic principles, and economic liberty continue to be vital elements in promoting a new era of democracy, peace, and unity in the region covered by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

## **WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 AND 8, 2005**

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

### **Suspensions (3 bills):**

- 1) **H.R. 1215 - Green Chemistry Research and Development Act of 2005:** Authorizes an interagency green chemistry research and development (R&D) program. The National Science Foundation and the Environmental Protection Agency would lead an Interagency Working Group to coordinate federal green chemistry activities. The Working Group would also include the Department of Energy and the National Institute of Standards and Technology, as well as any other agency the President designates. The program would be authorized at \$33 million in FY06 rising to \$38 million in FY08 (from within existing authorizations). The program would support R&D grants, including grants for university-industry partnerships, support green chemistry R&D at federal labs, promote education through curricula development, and collect and disseminate information about green chemistry. The bill also includes a National Academy of Sciences study to identify the barriers to successful commercialization of green chemistry products and processes.
- 2) **H.R. 230 - National Small Business Regulatory Assistance Act of 2005:** Amends the Small Business Act to direct the Administrator of the Small Business Administration (SBA), acting through the Associate Administrator for Small

Business Development Centers, to establish a program to provide regulatory compliance assistance to small businesses through participating Small Business Development Centers (Centers), the Association for Small Business Development Centers (Association), and Federal compliance partnership programs. The bill requires the Administrator to enter into arrangements with participating Centers to provide: (1) access to regulatory information and resources; (2) training and education activities; (3) confidential counseling to owners and operators of small businesses regarding compliance with Federal and State regulations; and (4) technical assistance.

- 3) **H.R. 3207 - Second-Stage Small Business Development Act of 2005:** Seeks to utilize the existing Small Business Administration infrastructure to improve second-stage small business concern operations through counseling from other similar business concerns. Specifically, H.R. 3207 aims to utilize the existing network of small business development centers to organize peer learning opportunities with trained facilitators for second-stage small business concerns. It is expected that these programs will provide targeted assistance to those small business concerns that are growing rapidly but face operational obstacles that other similarly-situated business concerns faced and overcame. Other small business development centers are expected to utilize the best practices and advice obtained from the pilot program. H.R. 3207 would authorize the appropriation of \$6 million over the 2006-2009 period (\$1.5 million a year) for a pilot program to support certain small businesses. Under the bill, the Small Business Administration would make grants to eligible Small Business Development Centers to create learning opportunities for small businesses in the "second stage" of business development. Under the bill, such second-stage businesses would be those that meet specific size, revenue, growth, and market criteria.

**H.R. 250 - Manufacturing Technology Competitiveness Act of 2005** (*Sponsored by Rep. Ehlers / Science Committee*): provides grants to help develop new manufacturing technologies and establishes a fellowship program for manufacturing sciences postdoctoral and senior research fellows. The bill reauthorizes and strengthens the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program to help small and medium-sized manufacturers respond to the extraordinary challenges they face from globalization. Additionally, H.R. 250 establishes, within the MEP program, a manufacturing extension center competitive grant program to develop projects to solve new or emerging manufacturing problems. The technology research and development programs in this bill help domestic manufacturers retain a competitive advantage in the face of global competition. H.R. 250 directs the President to establish an Interagency Committee (IC) to plan and coordinate Federal efforts in manufacturing research and development; and an Advisory Committee to provide advice and information to the IC from the non-Federal manufacturing research and development community. The bill requires federal agencies that are IC members to coordinate their manufacturing grant activities with a collaborative manufacturing research grants program established by this Act's amendment to the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (NIST Act). H.R. 250 amends the NIST Act to require the NIST Director to establish the following programs: (1) collaborative manufacturing research grants to partnerships among firms, educational institutions, research institutions, State agencies, and nonprofit organizations

to encourage development of innovative, multidisciplinary manufacturing technologies; and (2) manufacturing sciences research fellowships, at specified postdoctoral and senior levels.

**H.R. 889 - Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2005:** Authorizes approximately \$8.7 billion in funding for fiscal year 2006 for the Coast Guard, more than \$860 million above the amount requested in the Administration's fiscal year 2006 budget. This amount includes \$5.586 billion for Coast Guard Operating Expenses; \$1.9 billion for Coast Guard capital needs including a \$650 million increase for the Integrated Deepwater Systems (Deepwater) program, the Coast Guard's long-term replacement program for its operational capital assets. The bill also makes several changes to existing law regarding the activities of the Coast Guard, shipping and navigation and the maritime transportation system. The bill authorizes the Coast Guard to establish Naval Vessel Protection Zones up to 12 nautical miles offshore; to conduct international training and to provide technical assistance to international navies, coast guards and maritime authorities during regular Coast Guard operations; to inspect ferries for maritime safety purposes; requires the Coast Guard to detail adequate personnel to assure that Great Lakes pilotage rates are adjusted annually; promotes the transportation of liquefied natural gas (LNG) on U.S. Flag vessels; establishes a long-range vessel tracking system pilot project; and requires a detailed Deepwater implementation report.

#### **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2005**

*On Friday, there are no votes expected in the House.*

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

**\* Possible Motions to Instruct Conferees**

#### **Historical Tidbits**

##### **On September 5 ...**

**1774** - The first session of the U.S. Continental Congress convenes in Philadelphia. The delegates drafted a declaration of rights and grievances, organized the Continental Association, and elected Peyton Randolph as the first president of the Continental Congress.

**1881** - The American Red Cross provided relief for disaster for the first time. The disaster was the Great Fire of 1881 in Michigan.

**1882** - The first U.S. Labor Day parade was held in New York City.

**1905** - The Treaty of Portsmouth was signed by Russia and Japan to end the Russo-Japanese War. The settlement was mediated by U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt in New Hampshire.

**1939** - The U.S. proclaimed its neutrality in World War II.

**1961** - The U.S. government made airline hijacking a federal offense.

**1975** - A Secret Service agent foiled an assassination attempt against U.S. President Gerald R. Ford. Lynette A. "Squeaky" Fromme was a follower of Charles Manson, who was incarcerated at the time. 17 days later, Sara Jane Moore attempted to assassinate Ford.

##### **On September 6 ...**

**1901** - U.S. President William McKinley was shot and mortally wounded (he died eight days later) by Leon Czolgosz. Czolgosz, an American anarchist, was executed the following October.

**1995** - U.S. Senator Bob Packwood was expelled by the Senate Ethics Committee.

**2001** - The U.S. Justice Department announced that it was seeking a lesser antitrust penalty and would not attempt to break up Microsoft.

**2002** - In New York, the U.S. Congress convened at Federal Hall for a rare special session. The session was held in New York to express the nation's mourning for the loss on September 11, 2001 and unity in the war against terrorism.

### **On September 7**

**1813** - The nickname "Uncle Sam" was first used as a symbolic reference to the United States. The reference appeared in an editorial in the New York's Troy Post.

**1977** - The Panama Canal treaties were signed by U.S. President Carter and General Omar Torrijos Herrera. The treaties called for the U.S. to turn over control of the canal's waterway to Panama in the year 2000.

**1995** - U.S. Senator Bob Packwood announced that he would resign after 27 years in the Senate.

**1999** - The White House announced that 12 jailed members of the Puerto Rican independence group Armed Forces of National Liberation had accepted a clemency offer proposed by U.S. President Clinton.

### **On September 8 ...**

**1935** - U.S. Senator Huey P. Long, "The Kingfish" of Louisiana politics, was shot and mortally wounded. He died two days later.

**1974** - U.S. President Ford granted an unconditional pardon to former U.S. President Nixon.

**1999** - U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno named former U.S. Senator John Danforth to head an independent investigation into the 1993 fire at the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, TX.

### **On September 9 ...**

**1776** - The second Continental Congress officially made the term "United States," replacing the previous term "United Colonies."

**1893** - U.S. President Grover Cleveland's wife, Frances Cleveland, gave birth to a daughter, Esther. It was the first time a president's child was born in the White House.

**1957** - The first civil rights bill to pass Congress since Reconstruction was signed into law by U.S. President Eisenhower.

**1998** - Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr delivered to the U.S. Congress 36 boxes of material concerning his investigation of U.S. President Clinton.

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