



The Ehlers e-Newsletter

For the Week of January 3, 2005 – Happy New Year!

Visit our website at <http://www.house.gov/ehlers>

News from Congressman Ehlers ...

109th CONGRESS IS SWORN IN – Congressman Vernon J. Ehlers, R-Grand Rapids, joined with 433 of his House colleagues Tuesday in being sworn in to the 109th Congress. House and Senate members convened the new session of Congress Tuesday, re-electing Congressman J. Dennis Hastert, R-Illinois, as Speaker of the House and taking care of other housekeeping measures. House members are scheduled to meet again on Thursday to confirm the vote of the Electoral College re-electing President George W. Bush.

EHLERS, BOEHLERT PRAISE ADMINISTRATION RESPONSE TO OCEAN COMMISSION REPORT – (Dec. 16) Congressman Vernon J. Ehlers and House Science Committee Chairman Sherwood Boehlert praised the Administration's recently released response to the Final Report of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy.

For more information, read the press release on Congressman Ehlers' website:

http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/121604OceanReport.html

EHLERS OFFERS CONDOLENCES ON DEATH OF JAY VANANDEL – (Dec. 7)

Congressman Vernon J. Ehlers released the following statement regarding the death of Jay VanAndel, co-founder of Amway Corp. (now Alticor Inc.): "It is with deep sadness that I heard about the passing of Jay VanAndel today. My wife, Jo, and I offer our deepest sympathies to Jay's children – Steve, Dave, Nan and Barb – and their families, who also lost their mother and grandmother, Betty, earlier this year."

To read the complete statement, visit our website:

http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/120704VanAndel.html

THIS WEEK IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MONDAY, JANUARY 3, 2005

On Monday, the House is not in session.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2005

On Tuesday, the House will meet for the start of the 109th Congress at 12 Noon.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2005

On Wednesday, no votes are expected in the House.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 2005

On Thursday, the House will meet in joint session to count electoral ballots. No recorded votes are expected.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 2005

On Friday, the House is not in session.

Historical Tidbits

On Jan. 3 ...

1777 - The Battle of Princeton took place in the War of Independence, in which George Washington defeated the British forces, led by Cornwallis.

1947 - U.S. Congressional proceedings were televised for the first time. Viewers in Washington, Philadelphia and New York City saw some of the opening ceremonies of the 80th Congress.

1953 - Frances Bolton and her son, Oliver from Ohio, became the first mother-son combination to serve at the same time in the U.S. Congress.

1961 - The U.S. severed diplomatic relations with Cuba.

1993 - U.S. President George Bush and Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed the second Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) in Moscow.

On Jan. 4 ...

1965 - In his State of the Union address, U.S. President Johnson proclaimed the building of the "Great Society."

1974 - U.S. President Nixon refused to hand over tape recordings and documents subpoenaed by the Senate Watergate Committee.

On Jan. 5 ...

1972 - U.S. President Richard M. Nixon ordered the development of the space shuttle.

1998 - U.S. Representative Sonny Bono died in skiing accident.

On Jan. 6 ...

1999 - The 106th U.S. Congress opened. The first item on the agenda was the impeachment proceedings of U.S. President Bill Clinton. The trial was set to begin January 7, 1999.

On Jan. 7 ...

1789 - Americans voted for the electors that would choose George Washington to be the first U.S. president.

1953 - U.S. President Harry Truman announced the development of the hydrogen bomb.

1959 - The United States recognized Fidel Castro's new government in Cuba.

1980 - U.S. President Jimmy Carter signed legislation that authorized \$1.5 billion in loans for the bail out of Chrysler Corp.

1998 - Former White House intern Monica Lewinsky signed an affidavit denying that she had an affair with U.S. President Clinton.

1999 - U.S. President Clinton went on trial before the Senate. It was only the second time

in U.S. history that an impeached president had gone to trial. Clinton was later acquitted of perjury and obstruction of justice charges.

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