



## The Ehlers e-Newsletter

For the Week of June 27, 2005

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*EDITOR'S NOTE: Due to the U.S. House of Representatives' July 4 District Work Period (July 4 – 10), there will be no issue of The Ehlers e-Newsletter next week. Our next issue will be for the week of July 11. Enjoy the holiday!*

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

**PRESIDENT BUSH TO ADDRESS NATION TUESDAY ON 1<sup>st</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF TRANSFER OF IRAQI AUTHORITY** – President George W. Bush is scheduled to address the nation Tuesday evening from Fort Bragg, N.C., to discuss the one-year anniversary of the transfer of authority to Iraqi officials. According to news reports, it is unclear whether the speech will be carried on the major networks, but it will be carried live on CNN, Fox News Channel and MSNBC cable channels, as well as the National Public Radio network.

### **THIS WEEK IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

#### **MONDAY, JUNE 27, 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.Res. 312 - Recognizing National Homeownership Month and the importance of homeownership in the United States** (*June 2005*)
- 2) **H.R. 358 - Little Rock Central High School Desegregation 50th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act:** Seeks to mark the 50th anniversary of the desegregation of Little Rock Central High School by the issuance of one-dollar silver commemorative coins in 2007. Surcharges from the sale of the coins would be paid to the Secretary of the Interior for use in efforts to protect, preserve, and interpret resources and stories associated with Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site.
- 3) **H.R. 458 - Military Personnel Financial Services Protection Act:** Amends the Investment Company Act of 1940 to make it unlawful: (1) for any registered investment company to issue any periodic payment plan certificate; or (2) for such company or any depositor or underwriter of such company, or other person,

- to sell such a certificate. States that existing certificates are not invalidated.
- 4) **H.Con.Res. 71 - Expressing the sense of Congress that there should be established a Caribbean-American Heritage Month**
  - 5) **H.R. 2346 - John J. Hainkel Post Office Building Designation Act** (*Hammond, Louisiana*)
  - 6) **H.R. 2490 - Mayor Joseph S. Daddona Memorial Post Office Designation Act** (*Allentown, Pennsylvania*)
  - 7) **H.Con.Res. 152 - Commemorating Mystic Seaport: the Museum of America and the Sea in recognition of its 75th year**
  - 8) **H.R. 1412 - Delaware River Protection Act of 2005:** Amends the Ports and Waterways Safety Act to require any person who knows of a release from a vessel or facility of any object that creates an obstruction in the navigable waters of the United States to notify the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating and the Secretary of the Army. The bill urges the Secretary of the Army to place a high priority on enhancing the Army Corps of Engineers' capabilities to detect submerged obstructions in U.S. waterways through the use of advanced technologies. Grants the Secretary of the Army authority to remove obstructions from the Delaware River. It amends the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 gradually to increase liability limits associated with oil spills for single-hull and double-hull tank vessels and other type tank vessels. The bill establishes the submerged oil program to monitor and evaluate the environmental effects of submerged oil. Directs the Commandant of the Coast Guard to conduct a demonstration project in the Delaware River to develop and demonstrate technologies and management practices to remove submerged oil. It establishes the Delaware River and Bay Oil Spill Advisory Committee.
  - 9) **H.R. 481 - Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site Trust Act of 2005:** Authorizes the United States to take into trust certain land in Kiowa County, Colorado, owned by the Cheyenne and Arapaho Indian Tribes of Oklahoma. The bill directs the Tribes to convey title to the Dawson Ranch to the United States.
  - 10) **H.R. 1084 - To authorize the establishment at Antietam National Battlefield of a memorial to the officers and enlisted men of the Fifth, Sixth, and Ninth New Hampshire Volunteer Infantry Regiments and the First New Hampshire Light Artillery Battery who fought in the Battle of Antietam on September 17, 1862**
  - 11) **H.R. 1428 - National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Reauthorization Act of 2005:** Amends the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act to reauthorize appropriations for the work of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation through FY2010. The bill limits congressional notice requirements for Foundation grants to grants of federal funds in excess of \$10,000. It authorizes the use of federal funds to match contributions made to Foundation grant recipients.
  - 12) **H.R. 2362 - National Geologic Mapping Reauthorization Act of 2005:** Amends the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992 to extend deadlines for development of a five-year strategic plan for the geologic mapping program and for appointment of the advisory committee. It removes from program objectives the development of a geophysical- and geochemical-map database.
  - 13) **H.R. 38 - Upper White Salmon Wild and Scenic Rivers Act:** Amends the Wild

and Scenic Rivers Act to designate specified portions (total 12 miles) of the White Salmon River, Washington, as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

- 14) **H.R. 1512 - Taunton, Massachusetts Special Resources Study Act:** Directs the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study regarding the suitability and feasibility of designating certain historic buildings and areas in Taunton, Massachusetts, as a unit of the National Park System.
- 15) **H.Con.Res. 188 - Honoring the members of the United States Air Force who were killed in the June 25, 1996, terrorist bombing of the Khobar Towers United States military housing compound near Dhahran, Saudi Arabia**
- 16) **H.Res. 199 - Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the massacre at Srebrenica in July 1995:** Resolves that it is the sense of the House that the thousands of innocent people executed at Srebrenica in Bosnia and Herzegovina in July 1995, along with all individuals who were victimized during the conflict and genocide in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995, should be solemnly remembered and honored. The policies of aggression and ethnic cleansing as implemented by Serb forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995 meet the terms defining the crime of genocide in Article 2 of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. Foreign nationals, including United States citizens, who have risked and in some cases lost their lives in Bosnia and Herzegovina while working toward peace should be solemnly remembered and honored. The United Nations and its member states should accept their share of responsibility for allowing the Srebrenica massacre and genocide to occur in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995 by failing to take sufficient, decisive, and timely action, and the United Nations and its member states should constantly seek to ensure that this failure is not repeated in future crises and conflicts.
- 17) **H.Con.Res. 155 - Urging the Government of the Republic of Albania to ensure that the parliamentary elections to be held on July 3, 2005, are conducted in accordance with international standards for free and fair elections**

#### **TUESDAY, JUNE 28, 2005**

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

#### **H.R. 3057 - Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs**

**Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2006:** Appropriates \$20.27 billion for FY 2006, which is an increase over last year's level of \$19.54 billion for FY 2005 but less than the \$22.82 billion requested by President Bush's budget proposal.

#### **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 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. 3057 - Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs**

**Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2006 – Continued consideration (see above).**

**H.R. 3058 - Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development, The Judiciary, District of Columbia, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2006:** Appropriates \$66.935 billion for FY 2006, which is an increase over last year's level of \$63.172 billion for FY 2005 and more than the \$60.705 billion requested by President Bush's budget proposal.

**H.R. 2864 - Water Resources Development Act of 2005:** The highlights of the Water Resources Development Act of 2005 are: The authorization of 30 projects with chief's reports relating to flood damage reduction, navigation, hurricane and storm damage reduction, and environmental restoration, including the navigation and ecosystem restoration project for the Upper Mississippi River and Illinois Waterway System, an Everglades restoration project, and the program for protecting, conserving, and restoring the Louisiana Coastal Area; Provisions for streamlining and expediting Corps of Engineers project delivery and permits; Provisions for the improvement of the Corps of Engineers' planning and project development process, including independent peer review of larger and more controversial studies; and the authorization of a number of smaller projects, project modifications, and investigations related to the civil works program of the Corps of Engineers.

### **Historical Tidbits**

#### **On June 27 ...**

**1927** - The U.S. Marines adopted the English bulldog as their mascot.

**1950** - Two days after North Korea invaded South Korea, U.S. President Truman ordered the Air Force and Navy into the Korean conflict. The United Nations Security Council had asked for member nations to help South Korea repel an invasion from the North.

**1973** - Former White House counsel John W. Dean told the Senate Watergate Committee about an "enemies list" that was kept by the Nixon White House.

**1980** - U.S. President Carter signed legislation reviving draft registration.

**1985** - The U.S. House of Representatives voted to limit the use of combat troops in Nicaragua.

#### **On June 28 ...**

**1894** - The U.S. Congress made Labor Day a U.S. national holiday.

**1902** - The U.S. Congress passed the Spooner bill, it authorized a canal to be built across the isthmus of Panama.

**1938** - The U.S. Congress created the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) to insure construction loans.

**1949** - The last U.S. combat troops were called home from Korea, leaving only 500 advisers.

**1972** - U.S. President Nixon announced that no new draftees would be sent to Vietnam.

**2000** - The U.S. Supreme Court declared that a Nebraska law that outlawed "partial birth abortions" was unconstitutional. About 30 U.S. states had similar laws at the time of the ruling.

#### **On June 29 ...**

**1950** - U.S. President Harry S Truman authorized a sea blockade of Korea.

**1953** - The Federal Highway Act authorized the construction of 42,500 miles of freeway from coast to coast.

**On June 30 ...**

**1950** - U.S. President Harry S Truman ordered U.S. troops into Korea and authorizes the draft.

**1958** - The U.S. Congress passed a law authorizing the admission of Alaska as the 49th state in the Union.

**1971** - The 26th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified when Ohio became the 38th state to approve it. The amendment lowered the minimum voting age to 18.

**1977** - U.S. President Jimmy Carter announced his opposition to the B-1 bomber.

**2000** - U.S. President Clinton signed the E-Signature bill to give the same legal validity to an electronic signature as a signature in pen and ink.

**On July 1 ...**

**1847** - The U.S. Post Office issued its first adhesive stamps.

**1862** - The U.S. Congress established the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

**1934** - The Federal Communications Commission replaced the Federal Radio Commission as the regulator of broadcasting in the United States.

**1943** - The U.S. Government began automatically withholding federal income tax from paychecks.

**1946** - U.S. President Harry Truman signed Public Law 476 that incorporated the Civil Air Patrol as a benevolent, nonprofit organization. The Civil Air Patrol was created on December 1, 1941.

**1963** - The U.S. postmaster introduced the five-digit ZIP (Zone Instant Post) code.

**1966** - The Medicare federal insurance program went into effect.

**1980** - U.S. President Jimmy Carter signed legislation that provided for 2 acres of land near the Lincoln Memorial for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

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