



## The Ehlers e-Newsletter

For the Week of January 24, 2005

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

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

#### **EHLERS REINTRODUCES BILL TO AID MANUFACTURING SECTOR –**

Legislation that would create new – and strengthen existing – programs that support U.S. manufacturing sector research, development and innovation efforts has been reintroduced by Congressman Vernon J. Ehlers. The proposal, the Manufacturing Technology Competitiveness Act (H.R. 250), would provide technical extension services to small- and medium-sized manufacturers, said Ehlers, R-Grand Rapids. The bill is essentially identical to legislation he introduced in the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress. The legislation stalled in the Senate after being approved in July 2004 by the full House of Representatives.

*For more information, please read the press release on our website:*

[http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03\\_ehlers/011005ManufacturingBill.html](http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/011005ManufacturingBill.html)

**EHLERS PRAISES ADMINISTRATION'S TSUNAMI WARNING PLAN –** “I commend the Administration’s proposal to improve tsunami detection and monitoring capabilities both close to home and around the world,” said Congressman Vernon J. Ehlers, R-Grand Rapids, who chairs the House Science Committee’s Subcommittee on Environment, Technology and Standards, which oversees the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the operation of the U.S. Tsunami Program. “I will work to speed through Congress whatever legislative and financial support is necessary to quickly implement this plan. For the long term, U.S. participation in the Global Earth Observation System of Systems also is critical to these efforts.”

*To view the complete statement, please read the press release on our website:*

[http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03\\_ehlers/011405TsunamiPlan.html](http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/011405TsunamiPlan.html)

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

#### **MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 2005**

*On Monday, the House is not in session.*

#### **TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 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.Con.Res. 16 - Congratulating the people of Ukraine for conducting a democratic, transparent, and fair runoff presidential election on December 26, 2004, and congratulating Viktor Yushchenko on his election as President of Ukraine and his commitment to democracy and reform**
- 2) **H.Res. XXX- Commending countries and organizations for marking the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz and urging a strengthening of the fight against racism, intolerance, bigotry, prejudice, discrimination, and anti-Semitism**

### **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2005**

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

**H.R. 54 - To amend title 31, United States Code, to provide reasonable standards for congressional gold medals, and for other purposes:** Amends federal law to set forth congressional gold medal standards under which the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to strike not more than two congressional gold medals for presentation during any calendar year.

### **THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 2005 AND THE BALANCE OF THE WEEK**

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

#### **Historical Tidbits**

##### **On Jan. 24 ...**

**1972** - The U.S. Supreme Court struck down laws that denied welfare benefits to people who had resided in a state for less than a year.

**2000** - The U.S. Supreme Court upheld a Missouri law that limited the contributions that individuals could donate to a candidate during a single election.

**2002** - The U.S. Congress began a hearing on the collapse of Enron Corp.

**2003** - The U.S. Department of Homeland Security began operations under Tom Ridge.

##### **On Jan. 25 ...**

**1917** - The U.S. purchased the Danish West Indies (now the Virgin Islands) for \$25 million.

**1981** - The 52 Americans held hostage by Iran for 444 days arrived in the United States and were reunited with their families.

##### **On Jan. 26 ...**

**1802** - The U.S. Congress passed an act calling for a library to be established within the U.S. Capitol.

**1837** - Michigan became the 26th united state.

**1998** - U.S. President Clinton denied having an affair with a former White House intern, saying "I did not have sexual relations with that woman, Miss Lewinsky."

##### **On Jan. 27 ...**

**1967** - At Cape Kennedy, astronauts Virgil I. "Gus" Grissom, Edward H. White and Roger B. Chaffee died in a flash fire during a test aboard their *Apollo I* spacecraft.

**1981** - U.S. President Reagan greeted the 52 former American hostages released by Iran at the White House.

**1999** - The U.S. Senate blocked dismissal of the impeachment case against President Clinton and voted for new testimony from Monica Lewinsky and two other witnesses.

**On Jan. 28 ...**

**1915** - The Coast Guard was created by an act of the U.S. Congress.

**1986** - The U.S. space shuttle *Challenger* exploded just after takeoff. All seven of its crewmembers were killed.

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