



## The Ehlers e-Newsletter

For the Week of April 25, 2005

Visit our website at [www.house.gov/ehlers](http://www.house.gov/ehlers)

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

**EHLERS 'THRILLED' PRESIDENT BUSH WILL ATTEND CALVIN COMMENCEMENT** – Congressman Vernon J. Ehlers, R-Grand Rapids, released the following statement regarding the announcement that President George W. Bush will speak at the Calvin College Commencement ceremonies to be held on May 21 in the Knollcrest Fieldhouse on the Calvin College campus in Grand Rapids. The announcement was made by White House Press Secretary Scott McClellan in his daily morning press briefing Thursday morning.

*To read Congressman Ehlers statement, please visit our website:*

[http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03\\_ehlers/042105BushatCalvin.html](http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/042105BushatCalvin.html)

### **SUBCOMMITTEE APPROVES TSUNAMI PREPAREDNESS BILL –**

By voice vote, the Subcommittee on Environment, Technology, and Standards today passed H.R. 1674, U.S. Tsunami Warning and Education Act of 2005. No amendments were offered. The legislation was introduced by Science Committee Chairman Sherwood Boehlert, R-N.Y., Rep. Jay Inslee, D-Wash., Environment, Technology, and Standards Subcommittee Chairman Vernon J. Ehlers, R-Grand Rapids, and Subcommittee Ranking Minority Member David Wu, D-Ore.

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

[http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03\\_ehlers/042005TsunamiBillSubcmte.html](http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/042005TsunamiBillSubcmte.html)

### **EHLERS DISAPPOINTED WITH FEDERAL APPROVAL OF CASINO PLAN –**

Congressman Vernon J. Ehlers said Tuesday he is disappointed with the decision of the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs to approve a land-trust proposal by the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomie Indians, which the tribe says will be used for a gambling casino in Allegan County, just south of Grand Rapids.

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

[http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03\\_ehlers/041905CasinoOKd.html](http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/041905CasinoOKd.html)

### **THIS WEEK IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES MONDAY, APRIL 25, 2005**

On Monday, the House will meet at 12:00 p.m. in Pro Forma session.

## **TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2005**

On Tuesday, the House will meet at 12:30 p.m. for morning hour and 2:00 p.m. for legislative business. Votes will be postponed until 6:30 p.m.

### **Suspensions (10 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.R. 1158 - To reauthorize the Steel and Aluminum Energy Conservation and Technology Competitiveness Act of 1988**

**2) H.R. 28 - High-Performance Computing Revitalization Act of 2005**

This bill requires the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy to: (1) establish the goals and priorities for Federal high-performance computing research, development, networking, and other activities; (2) establish Program Component Areas that implement such goals and identify the Grand Challenges (i.e., fundamental problems in science or engineering, with broad economic and scientific impact, whose solutions will require the application of high-performance computing resources) that the Program should address; and (3) develop and maintain a research, development, and deployment road map for the provision of high-performance computing systems.

It requires the advisory committee on high-performance computing to conduct periodic evaluations of the funding, management, coordination, implementation, and activities of the Program, and report at least once every two fiscal years to specified congressional committees.

**3) H.Con.Res. 96 - Recognizing the significance of African American women in the United States scientific community**

**4) H.Con.Res. 41 - Recognizing the second century of Big Brothers Big Sisters, and supporting the mission and goals of that organization**

**5) H.R. 1236 - Mayor Tony Armstrong Memorial Post Office Designation Act**  
*(Sparks, Nevada)*

**6) H.R. 1524 - Ed Eilert Post Office Building Designation Act**  
*(Overland Park, Kansas)*

**7) H.Res. 227 - Recognizing and honoring the contributions of American Indians to economic innovation and society generally**

**8) H.R. 902 - Presidential \$1 Coin Act of 2005**

This bill directs the Secretary of the Treasury to redesign the one-dollar coin, beginning in 2007, issuing four different designs a year while continuing to issue the "Sacagawea-design" \$1 coin. The bill also proposes a number of methods to increase the circulation of the dollar coin. Finally, the legislation incorporates the issuance of one-cent coins in 2009 with four different reverse designs to commemorate the bicentennial of the birth of President Abraham Lincoln.

**9) H.R. 749 - Expanded Access to Financial Services Act of 2005**

H.R. 749 amends the Federal Credit Union Act to permit federal credit unions to offer check cashing and money transfer services to non-members of the credit union as long as the individual is within the credit union's field of membership. The bill is

designed to lower the costs paid by consumers for these basic banking services through increased competition in the marketplace.

**10) H.Con.Res. 81 - Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the two-year anniversary of the human rights crackdown in Cuba**

**WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY, APRIL 27 and 28, 2005**

On Wednesday and Thursday, the House will meet at 10:00 a.m. for legislative business.

**Suspensions (2 bills):**

**1) H.Res 224 - Providing for the expenses of certain committees of the House of Representatives in the One Hundred and Ninth Congress**

**2) H.Res. 210 - Supporting the goals of World Intellectual Property Day, and recognizing the importance of intellectual property in the United States and worldwide**

**H.R. 748 - Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act (Subject to a Rule)**

Amends the Federal criminal code to prohibit transporting a minor across a State line to obtain an abortion and thereby abridging the right of a parent under a law in force in the State where the minor resides requiring parental involvement in a minor's abortion decision. The bill makes an exception if the abortion was necessary to save the life of the minor.

**H.Res. 22 - Expressing the Sense of the House that American small businesses are entitled to a small business bill of rights (Subject to a Rule)**

**Possible Motions to go to Conference**

**Possible Motions to Instruct Conferees**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 2005**

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

**Historical Tidbits**

**On April 25 ...**

**1846** - The Mexican-American War ignited as a result of disputes over claims to Texas boundaries. The outcome of the war fixed Texas' southern boundary at the Rio Grande River.

**1898** - The U.S. declared war on Spain. Spain had declared war on the U.S. the day before.

**1953** - U.S. Senator Wayne Morse ended the longest speech in U.S. Senate history. The speech on the Offshore Oil Bill lasted 22 hours and 26 minutes.

**1980** - In Iran, a commando mission to rescue hostages was aborted after mechanical problems disabled three of the eight helicopters involved. During the evacuation, a helicopter and a transport plane collided and exploded. Eight U.S. servicemen were killed. The mission was aimed at freeing American hostages that had been taken at the U.S. embassy in Tehran on November 4, 1979. The event took place April 24th Washington, DC, time.

**On April 27 ...**

**1861** - U.S. President Lincoln suspended the writ of habeas corpus.

**1861** - West Virginia seceded from Virginia after Virginia seceded from the Union during the American Civil War.

**1937** - The first U.S. Social Security checks were distributed.

**On April 28 ...**

**1818** - U.S. President James Monroe proclaimed naval disarmament on the Great Lakes and Lake Champlain.

**1952** - The U.S. occupation of Japan ended.

**On April 29 ...**

**1974** - U.S. President Nixon announced he was releasing edited transcripts of secretly made White House tape recordings related to the Watergate scandal.

**1975** - The U.S. embassy in Vietnam was evacuated as North Vietnamese forces fought their way into Saigon.

**1998** - The U.S., Canada and Mexico end tariffs on \$1 billion in NAFTA trade.

*(Information from [www.on-this-day.com](http://www.on-this-day.com))*

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