



The Ehlers e-Newsletter

For the Week of February 14, 2005

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News from Congressman Ehlers ...

CONGRESSMAN EHLERS RELEASES STATEMENT ON SOCIAL SECURITY REFORM – In an effort to address questions and concerns about proposals to preserve and protect the Social Security program, Congressman Vernon J. Ehlers, R-Grand Rapids, released the following statement.

To read the complete statement, please visit our website:

http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/021405SocialSecurityStatement.html

THIS WEEK IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2005

On Monday, the House will meet at 12 noon in a Pro Forma session.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2005

On Tuesday, 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 (4 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. 25 - Recognizing the contributions of Jibreel Khazan (Ezell Blair, Jr.), David Richmond, Joseph McNeil, and Franklin McCain, the "Greensboro Four", to the civil rights movement**
- 2) **H.R. 324 - Arthur Stacey Mastrapa Post Office Building Designation Act (Altamonte Springs, Florida)**
- 3) **H.Res. 86 - Congratulating the Patriots on winning Super Bowl XXXIX**
- 4) **H.Res. 80 - Recognizing the Virginia Fire Chief's Association on the occasion of its 75th anniversary and commending the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association for sponsoring annually the Mid-Atlantic Expo and Symposium**

WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16 AND 17, 2005

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

Suspensions (1 bill):

- 1) **H.J.Res XXX - Recognizing the historic commitment of the U.S. to the recovery of and full accounting for Americans who are prisoners of war or in**

a missing status: *Detailed information about this bill was not available at time of publication.*

H.R. 310 - Broadcast Decency Enforcement Act 2005: Amends the Communications Act of 1934 to provide that, if the violator of the terms and conditions of any Federal Communications Commission (FCC) license, permit, or certificate is either a broadcast station licensee or permittee or an applicant for a broadcast license, permit, or certificate, and such violator is determined by the FCC to have broadcast obscene, indecent, or profane material, the amount of forfeiture penalty shall not exceed \$500,000 for each violation. Sets forth: (1) additional factors for determining indecency penalties; (2) indecency penalties for non-licensees; (3) deadlines for actions on complaints; (4) additional remedies for indecent broadcasts; and (4) provisions for license disqualification, revocation, or renewal consideration for violations of indecency prohibitions. Expresses the sense of Congress that broadcast television station licensees should reinstitute a family viewing policy for broadcasters.

S. 5 - Class Action Fairness Act of 2005: Amends the Federal judicial code to specify the calculation of contingent and other attorney's fees in proposed class action settlements that provide for the award of coupons to class members. Grants district courts original jurisdiction of any civil action in which the matter in controversy exceeds \$5 million, exclusive of interest and costs, and that is between citizens of different States, or citizens of a State and a foreign State or its citizens or subjects. Sets forth provisions governing the removal of interstate class actions to Federal district court and the review on appeal of remand orders. Directs the Judicial Conference of the United States to report on class action settlements, incorporating recommendations for best court practices to ensure fairness for class members and appropriate fees for counsel.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2005

On Friday, no votes are expected in the House.

Historical Tidbits

On Feb. 14 ...

1778 - The Stars and Stripes was carried to a foreign port, in France, for the first time. It was aboard the American ship *Ranger*.

1849 - The first photograph of a U.S. President, while in office, was taken by Matthew Brady in New York City. President James Polk was the subject of the picture.

1899 - The U.S. Congress approved voting machines for use in federal elections.

1903 - The U.S. Department of Commerce and Labor was established.

1962 - U.S. first lady Jacqueline Kennedy gave a tour of the White House on television.

On Feb. 15 ...

1879 - U.S. President Hayes signed a bill that allowed female attorneys to argue cases before the U.S. Supreme Court.

On Feb. 16 ...

1938 - The U.S. Federal Crop Insurance program was authorized.

On Feb. 17 ...

1801 - The U.S. House of Representatives broke an electoral tie between Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr. Jefferson was elected president and Burr became vice president.

1964 - The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that congressional districts within each state had to be approximately equal in population.

On Feb. 18 ...

1841 - The first continuous filibuster in the U.S. Senate began. It lasted until March 11th.

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