



The Ehlers e-Newsletter

For the Week of June 20, 2005

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News from Congressman Ehlers ...

EHLERS CO-SPONSORS BIPARTISAN BILL TO BAR GREAT LAKES

DRILLING - Congressman Vernon J. Ehlers Thursday joined with several colleagues in announcing their support for legislation aimed at permanently banning any drilling or other exploration for oil or gas on the Great Lakes. The Great Lakes Oil and Gas Drilling Ban (H.R. 2930), authored by Congressman Bart Stupak, D-Mich., and co-sponsored by Ehlers among a bipartisan group of 15 House members – three Republicans and 12 Democrats total, would prohibit drilling for oil or gas on or under the Great Lakes.

To read Congressman Ehlers' complete comments, please visit our webpage:

http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/061605GLDrilling.html

AWARDS PRESENTED TO LOCAL VOLUNTEER MAGGIE FEGEL – When it comes to role models, Grand Rapids resident Maggie Fegel is a volunteer's volunteer. Fegel, 90, has been actively volunteering her time since she was 9 years old and today, more than 80 years later, continues to contribute upwards of 25 hours a month to help others.

To read the complete release, please visit our webpage:

http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/061705FegelVolunteer.html

WYOMING TEEN'S ARTWORK DISPLAYED AT U.S. CAPITOL – Joining more than 300 other high school student artists from around the country, Alysha Lach proudly saw her artwork displayed in the U.S. Capitol Tuesday during the opening of the 2005 Congressional Arts Competition exhibition.

To read the complete release, please visit our webpage:

http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/061405ArtsCompWinner.html

THIS WEEK IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MONDAY, JUNE 20, 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.

H.R. 2863 - Department of Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2006

(Complete consideration): Appropriates \$409 billion for FY 2006, which is nearly \$34

billion more than requested by President Bush's budget proposal (\$366.7 billion) and is nearly \$48 billion more than approved by FY 2005. The proposal includes \$363.7 billion in base funds and a \$45.3 billion bridge fund for military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 2005

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

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.Res. 207 - Recognizing the 100th anniversary of FarmHouse Fraternity, Inc:** FarmHouse Fraternity, Inc. was founded on April 15, 1905, by 7 students from the College of Agriculture at the University of Missouri-Columbia. FarmHouse Fraternity, Inc. is widely known and respected on college campuses throughout the United States and Canada as a fraternity that encourages values-based leadership, has a strong academic focus, and is dedicated to service.
- 2) **H.Res. 256 - Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives in remembrance of the brave servicemen who perished in the disastrous April 24, 1980, rescue attempt of the American hostages in Iran**
- 3) **H.J.Res. 52 - Approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003**
- 4) **H.Con.Res. 160 - Recognizing the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day, and expressing the sense of Congress that history should be regarded as a means for understanding the past and solving the challenges of the future:** Resolves that Congress recognizes the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day to the Nation. Congress supports the continued celebration of Juneteenth Independence Day to provide an opportunity for the people of the United States to learn more about the past and to better understand the experiences that have shaped the Nation. The President is urged to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe Juneteenth Independence Day with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs. It is the sense of Congress that history should be regarded as a means for understanding the past and solving the challenges of the future. It also recognizes that the celebration of the end of slavery is an important and enriching part of the history and heritage of the United States.

H.R. 2475 - Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006: Continues the commitment to the Global War on Terrorism and to ensuring that intelligence resources are directed in a balanced way toward threats to our national security. Specifically, the bill authorizes more than last year's appropriated amount and more than the President's request to continue to fight the war on terror. H.R. 2475 balances our intelligence resources and strengthens Human Intelligence (HUMINT) gathering by increasing the number of case officers and training and support infrastructure. The bill also establishes a long term counterterrorism program by authorizing the full amount of funds expected for

heightened operations for counterterrorism operations and the war in Iraq which will reduce the dependence on supplemental appropriations. H.R. 2475 enhances the analytic workforce by providing additional linguists and analysts, as well as improved training and tools. The bill continues to invest in technical programs and research and development, and increases the use of MASINT (“signature intelligence”). The bill reflects the results of a comprehensive survey to review and rationalize technical collection programs. Additionally, the bill funds the new Office of the Director of National Intelligence with increased positions and enhances the National Counterterrorism Center through improved information sharing activities and collaboration. Finally, the bill improves physical and technical infrastructure of intelligence agencies with new facilities.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22, 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.J.Res. 10 - Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing the Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States

H.R. XXXX - Legislative Branch Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2006:

Appropriates \$2.870 billion for FY 2006, which is an increase of \$47 million over FY 2005 funding levels and \$270 million less than requested by President Bush’s budget proposal.

H.R. XXXX - Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2006

Appropriates \$ 142.514 billion for FY 2006, which is \$164 million less than appropriated for FY 2005 and \$924 million more than requested by President Bush’s budget proposal.

Historical Tidbits

On June 20 ...

1782 - The U.S. Congress approved the Great Seal of the United States.

1863 - The National Bank of Philadelphia in Philadelphia, PA, became the first bank to receive a charter from the U.S. Congress.

1941 - The U.S. Army Air Force was established, replacing the Army Air Corps.

On June 21 ...

1788 - The U.S. Constitution went into effect when New Hampshire became the ninth state to ratify it.

1938 - In Washington, U.S. President Roosevelt signed the \$3.75 billion Emergency Relief Appropriation Act.

On June 22 ...

1870 - The U.S. Congress created the Department of Justice.

1944 - U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt signed the "GI Bill of Rights" to provide broad benefits for veterans of the war.

1970 - U.S. President Richard Nixon signed 26th amendment, lowering the voting age to 18.

1992 - The U.S. Supreme Court unanimously ruled that hate-crime laws that ban cross-burning and similar expressions of racial bias violated free-speech rights.

On June 23 ...

1836 - The U.S. Congress approved the Deposit Act, which contained a provision for turning over surplus federal revenue to the states.

1860 - The U.S. Secret Service was created to arrest counterfeiters.

1947 - The U.S. Senate joined the House in overriding President Truman's veto of the Taft-Hartley Act.

On June 24 ...

1970 - The U.S. Senate voted overwhelmingly to repeal the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution.

(Information from www.on-this-day.com)

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