



The Ehlers e-Newsletter

For the Week of May 9, 2005

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News from Congressman Ehlers ...

EHLERS INTRODUCES BILL TO PROTECT AND RESTORE GREAT LAKES

– Attempting to accelerate efforts to restore and protect the Great Lakes, Congressman Vernon J. Ehlers Thursday introduced legislation that would boost federal spending on those efforts to \$4 billion over the next six years.

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

http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/050605GreatLakesHR2129.html

EHLERS' MANUFACTURING BILL APPROVED BY SCIENCE COMMITTEE

– Seeking to assist an ailing U.S. manufacturing economy, a Congressional committee Wednesday approved legislation sponsored by Congressman Vernon J. Ehlers, R-Grand Rapids, that would provide grants, encourage scholarship and strengthen an important program that helps small and medium-sized manufacturers.

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

http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/050405ManufacturingCmte.html

THIS WEEK IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MONDAY, MAY 9, 2005

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

TUESDAY, MAY 10, 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 (6 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. 1023 - Charles 'Pete' Conrad Astronomy Awards Act:** Authorizes the NASA Administrator to establish an awards program in honor of Charles "Pete" Conrad, astronaut and space scientist, for recognizing the discoveries made by amateur astronomers of asteroids with near-Earth orbit trajectories. The bill awards outstanding amateur astronomers who discover the largest new asteroid having a near-Earth orbit and asteroids using information derived from professional sources and locating newly discovered asteroids. Awards also are

made for those who provide the greatest service to update the Minor Planet Center's mission of cataloguing of known asteroids.

- 2) **H.Res. 193 - Expressing support to the organizers and participants of the historic meeting of the Assembly to Promote the Civil Society in Cuba on May 20, 2005, in Havana**
- 3) **H.Res. 142 - Supporting the goals and ideals of a "Rotary International Day" and celebrating and honoring Rotary International on the occasion of its centennial anniversary**
- 4) **H.Con.Res. 86 - Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby (June 18, 2005)**
- 5) **H.Con.Res. 135 - Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the District of Columbia Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run (June 10, 2005)**
- 6) **H.Con.Res. 136 - Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers` Memorial Service (May 15, 2005)**

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 2005 AND THE BALANCE OF THE WEEK

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

H.R. 1279 - Gang Deterrence and Community Protection Act of 2005: A comprehensive bill to increase gang prosecutions and prevent gang-related crimes. The bill authorizes increased federal funding to support federal, state and local law enforcement efforts against violent gangs, and to coordinate law enforcement agencies' efforts to share intelligence and jointly prosecute violent gangs. The act also creates new criminal gang prosecution offenses, enhances existing gang and violent crime penalties to deter and punish illegal street gangs, proposes violent crime reforms needed to prosecute effectively gang members, and proposes to reform the federal juvenile justice system to authorize prosecution of 16- and 17-year-old gang members who commit violent crimes.

H.R. 1544 - Faster and Smarter Funding for First Responders Act of 2005: Provides priority assistance to first responders facing greatest risk, establishes streamlined terrorism preparedness grants, sets specific, flexible, and measurable goals for state and local government terrorism preparedness, and provides regional terrorism preparedness grants.

Historical Tidbits

On May 9 ...

1974 - The House Judiciary Committee began formal hearings on the Nixon impeachment.

1996 - In video testimony to a courtroom in Little Rock, AR, U.S. President Clinton insisted that he had nothing to do with a \$300,000 loan in the criminal case against his former Whitewater partners.

On May 10 ...

1872 - Victoria Woodhull became the first woman nominated for the U.S. presidency.

1999 - China broke off talks on human rights with the U.S. in response to NATO's accidental bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Yugoslavia.

On May 11 ...

1995 - The Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty was extended indefinitely. The treaty limited the spread of nuclear material for military purposes.

On May 12 ...

1978 - The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration announced that they would no longer exclusively name hurricanes after women.

On May 13 ...

1846 - The U.S. declared that war already existed with Mexico.

1954 - U.S. President Eisenhower signed into law the St. Lawrence Seaway Development Act.

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

(Please do not respond to this e-mail. To send a message to Congressman Ehlers, please visit our website at www.house.gov/ehlers and click on "Write Your Rep" or go directly to www.house.gov/writerep.)