and has served our community for 39 years. He holds the record for the longest serving member in the history of the LaPorte County Sheriff's Department.

He has served as a sergeant, captain and major and has held his current rank as Chief Deputy since January 1, 1999. He has been a certified Firearms instructor at the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy and has been the firearms instructor for LaPorte County for over 30 years, and has shot in pistol competitions nationwide for the past 25 years.

The LaPorte County Firearms Training Facility was dedicated in his name on Monday, May 15, 2006 for his unwavering dedication and commitment to firearms training and safety for LaPorte County officers.

He is also a devout family man, and he and his wife Phyllis have three children and four grandchildren.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Delayne D. Ott has shown his commitment to excellence and his undying loyalty to our community and its citizens. It is my honor to stand here today as his Congressman, and recognize him for his service.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5427), making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes:

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in opposition to the proposed amendment by the gentleman from Georgia. The three States of Alabama, Georgia, and Florida have areas which are dependent on the same water sources. While I sympathize with all those needs, the language in the bill is necessary to prevent the Corps of Engineers from interfering in litigation which is meant to allocate those resources in a fair way among the three States.

Mr. Chairman, in 2005 we learned that the Corps of Engineers planned to revise the manuals which govern water sharing between three States—Alabama, Georgia, and Florida. The corps' ACT manual has not been revised since it was written in 1951, even though nine dams have been built and successfully operated in the ACT Basin since then. In other words, there is no urgent need to revise the manuals, and doing so impacts the water supply of millions of persons in the Southeast. Furthermore, this matter is still in Federal court, and allowing the corps to revise these manuals now will interfere with ongoing litigation.

Mr. Chairman, we have tried to work this issue out with the corps directly. On April 14, 2005, the entire Alabama delegation sent a letter to Lt. Gen. Carl Strock, Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, asking that he explain the corps' actions in this matter. In response, on April 26, 2005 Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works John Woodley wrote that the corps ''will withdraw and disclaim any intention to re-evaluate or update the relevant operating procedures and manuals until all relevant litigation has concluded, or the three States' Governors reach an agreement.''

However, Mr. Chairman, after that, the corps did not hold to their commitment. In a letter to Governor Bob Riley of Alabama, dated January 30, 2006, Assistant Secretary Woodley stated that since the relevant litigation has concluded, the corps will now begin revising its manuals. This litigation, however, is not concluded. My understanding is that the ACF litigation has been appealed, and the ACT litigation is still actively underway.

Mr. Chairman, if the corps' manuals revisions are allowed to go forward, it will cause great harm to the State of Alabama. We will have inadequate water for drinking, power generation, navigation, recreation, and wildlife. For this reason, it is essential all three States come to a mutual equitable water sharing agreement. It is not appropriate for the corps to unilaterally step in and decree water distribution without the approval of all three States.

With all due respect to Mr. DEAL's concerns, I must ask for a ''no'' vote in the amendment.

HIRAM BINGHAM STAMP

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a son of Connecticut's Second District, the district I am privileged to represent in this House.

The Bingham family has lived in Salem Connecticut for many generations. I have always been impressed with the Bingham family's history of dedication to public service. Hiram Bingham IV is a prime example of this dedication—only exemplified by the fact that few people actually knew the extent of his good work, including his own family.

In 1988, Hiram passed away. A few years after his death, one of his sons discovered a bundle of documents tucked away in the attic at the family home containing records from Hiram's work at the U.S. State Department. These records revealed an untold story of Hiram's courage and heroism.

Hiram's family and friends knew he worked for the State Department, but he rarely mentioned the details of his employment. From 1939 to 1941, Hiram Bingham served as our Nation's vice consul in Marseilles, France. The records in the closet revealed that while serving at his post Hiram helped save at least 2,500 people from the Nazis, including the artist, Marc Chagall and Nobel Prize winning biochemist Otto Meyerhoff. During these years, this courageous individual issued papers that gave safe passage to Jewish and non-Jewish refugees. He also personally escorted dozens of people across the border into Spain.

It is of no small interest that this man of principle acted in direct opposition to official State Department orders that inhibited immigration of refugees to the United States. Hiram Bingham's action defied the Nazi war machine, Vichy France and his own Nation's State Department. Ignoring the consequences of being caught, he went about his work, quietly saving as many people as he could.

When his superiors discovered his activities in the spring of 1941, he was removed from his post and transferred to Buenos Aires. In 1946, he resigned because of the government's failure to pursue the Nazi presence in Latin America.

After learning of his father's extraordinary efforts, his son Robert Kim Bingham, began petitioning the U.S. Postal Service in 1998 to issue a stamp in honor of his father. During that time, I was serving in the Connecticut General Assembly and Robert asked me to send a letter of support for the stamp to the Post Master General. I took the letter down to the floor during our final week of session and as we worked late into the evening every member of the General Assembly signed onto that letter—representing the first time in memory that every member had signed a letter circulated for any purpose. Robert and his family should take pride in the overwhelming support his dream had with the people of Connecticut.

It has been my honor to work with the Bingham family and be part of the process that brought us here today. I was pleased to read in a newspaper in my district that of the 21 issues that will be released this year, the most requests came in for Hiram Bingham. I am proud that the U.S. Postal Service has included Hiram Bingham in its tribute to American Diplomats.

Last year, I had an opportunity to visit Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Martyrs' and Heros' Remembrance Authority, in Jerusalem. Hearing and seeing the stories of survival made Hiram's work even more profound for me.

Evil is often easy to identify, yet it is often difficult to oppose. To do so requires courage and a strong moral core. Hiram Bingham had both.

He put his moral obligation above his career and he put his personal safety above his career. He paid a price, but heroes are often required to do just that.

Hiram Bingham did not solicit accolades for what he had done. He did not desire to surpass others at all cost—he desired to serve others at all cost. And that is as good a definition of a ''hero'' as I have seen.

Hiram Bingham could have gone along with the orders that came to his desk, but he chose not to. Going along is always easy. Doing the right thing is often difficult. But by doing the difficult thing, Hiram Bingham is today known as one of 11 ''righteous diplomats'' who together saved 200,000 people from the Holocaust. Today the descendents of those 200,000 individuals total more than 1 million. That is a tremendous legacy for one's life's work.

I am pleased that this long overdue honor is being awarded to Hiram Bingham, a ''righteous diplomat'' who put his sense of right and wrong and his capacity to help others ahead of personal considerations.