

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 7, 2009

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I, KAY GRANGER, submit the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 3081, the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act of Fiscal Year 2010 for the language pertaining to "Sister Cities International Cultural and Economic Development Exchange Programs." Any funding granted by the Department of State Educational and Cultural Exchange Programs account would go to Sister Cities International, 1301 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Suite 850, Washington, DC 2004. It is my understanding that the funding would be used to support Sister Cities International's ongoing initiatives to increase the numbers of international citizen exchange opportunities through its network with Africa and Islamic communities. Once funded, there is a one-to-one match of local private dollars to re-granted federal dollars. The City of Fort Worth, TX, is an active partner in Sister Cities International, leading in U.S. public diplomacy efforts.

BLACK MUSIC MONTH

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 7, 2009

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 476, celebrating the 30th anniversary of June as "Black Music Month". I would like to thank my colleague Representative STEVE COHEN from Tennessee for introducing this important piece of legislation, as well as the co-sponsors.

I stand in support of this resolution because it is continuing to recognize the importance that black music has played in American culture. Many American made genres of music such as jazz, blues, gospel, rock and roll, and the rhythm and blues owe their existence to the contribution of black musicians in the past. Georgians such as Tenor Richard Hayes, born in 1887 to former slaves, was one of the most important African-American tenors performing in classical music during the first part of the 20th century. Hayes was one of the highest paid musicians of his time breaking down color barriers for other black classical performers such as Paul Robeson, Leontyne Price, William Dawson, William Grant Still, and even Duke Ellington. As well as other native Georgia artists like Ray Charles, one of the main creators of "soul music", who is well known for his unique version of "America the Beautiful". Charles' rendition of "Georgia on My Mind" was proclaimed the state song on April 24, 1979.

This resolution aims to continue to stress the importance of recognizing June as Black Music Month as it was formally declared in 1979. Celebrating the phenomenal work of black composers, musicians, producers, writers, and singers during one month of the year is the least that we can do to pay tribute to

contributions that they have made in shaping the musical art forms that we enjoy today. Celebrating and observing the 30th anniversary of June as "Black Music Month" is something that I encourage all Americans to do. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

TRIBUTE TO ANTOINETTE TRIFARI

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 7, 2009

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the life of an outstanding individual, Antoinette Trifari. She will mark her 100th birthday with a celebration, joined by family and friends, some of whom are traveling great distances to be part of this happy occasion.

It is only fitting that she be honored in this, the permanent record of the greatest democracy ever known, for she has brought so much joy to the lives of others throughout her lifetime.

Antoinette is a native of the great City of Paterson, NJ. She was born there on July 9, 1909 to Angelina and John Pescatore, and was the fifth of fourteen children. She attended Paterson schools, going first to School 19, then graduating from School 5. Then at age fourteen, she began working, sewing pearls and sequins onto fabric that was used for opera gowns. Antoinette soon went on to work for more than ten years in Paterson's world famous silk and textile mills.

Antoinette was married on June 9, 1935 to Edmund Trifari, also of Paterson, who had attended New Jersey Law School. The wedding was held at St. Anthony's R.C. Church and was officiated by the groom's brother, Reverend Aloysius Trifari, a Salesian priest. Two years later, the Trifaros welcomed twins, Edmund, Jr. and Nancy Angela. The young family soon moved to a new development of Cape Cod homes on the outskirts of Paterson, known as Colonial Village. Antoinette and Edmund lived there together until Edmund passed away on January 2, 2003, after sixty-seven and a half years of marriage. She remained in their home until 2005 when she moved to Connecticut to live with Edmund, Jr. and his wife Claire Elwood. Her daughter Nancy lives in England with her husband George Dowden.

Over the years, Antoinette has been blessed not only with her children, but with seven grandchildren; Conrad, MaryBeth and Michael Roncati, and TerriAnn, Edmund III, John and Brian Trifari. Now, she also has thirteen great-grandchildren; Conrad Maxwell, Dean, Mia, Dylan, Carissa Roncati and Jessica Bates, Abigail, James, Ryan and Michael Sands, Joshua, Nicholas and Tyler Trifari. She is also the loving aunt of countless nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

She is well known throughout the Paterson area for a business that she began. She made poodles out of commercial yarn; they were so creative and lifelike that the yarn company featured a story about her in their corporate magazine. She also continues crocheting, a lifelong hobby she still enjoys. Antoinette also has a passion for helping people and volunteering. She was a member of St. Mary's R.C.

Church in Paterson her entire life until she moved, and is a now a parishioner of Saint Peter Claver R.C. Church in West Hartford. Even into her nineties she was a volunteer at St. Joseph's Home for the Aged in Totowa, NJ. She made many lasting friendships and touched many lives through her involvement with the Little Sisters of the Poor. When she moved in 2006 to Middlewoods Assisted Living Home in Farmington, Connecticut, she immediately became an active participant in many of their programs. She is the assistant to the pianist in the Choral Group, attends Sunday outings visiting historic and cultural points of interest around Connecticut, and is a tutoring mentor for young children. She enjoys playing Scrabble with friends and playing solitaire on the computer, and most of all, sharing her joy of life and her love with all those she encounters.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to celebrating and recognizing individuals like Antoinette Trifari.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Antoinette's family and friends, everyone at St. Joseph's Home in Totowa, New Jersey, all those who have been touched by her, and me in recognizing Antoinette Trifari.

UPPER ELK RIVER WILD AND SCENIC STUDY ACT

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 7, 2009

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, at the request of the Pocahontas County Commission of the great State of West Virginia, today I am introducing legislation to provide for a study to determine the feasibility and suitability of including a segment of the Elk River as a component of the Wild and Scenic River System.

The Elk River is one of West Virginia's premier natural resource assets. It is the longest river in West Virginia with its boundaries entirely within the State. The study which would be authorized by this legislation, however, would focus only on that segment of the Elk where it begins at the confluence of two streams—Old Field Fork and Big Spring Fork—at the community of Slatyfork and flows North for approximately five miles to the Pocahontas/Randolph County line. The study would be conducted by the U.S. Forest Service.

The idea of preserving this river in its natural state is not something new. Indeed, I well recall conversations with one of West Virginia's visionary conservationists, former State Senator Robert K. Holliday, on this matter during the late 1980s and early 1990s. In 1989, the Senate of West Virginia passed a resolution calling for the development of the Elk River into a national recreation area by Federal and State governments. And in 1993, I did propose a Wild and Scenic study for a 57.5 mile segment of the river. For one reason or another, the enthusiasm over this endeavor dissipated.

The February 4, 2009, unanimous vote by the Pocahontas County Commission consisting of President Martin V. Saffer, David M. Fleming and Reta J. Griffith to request that a study be conducted on a much smaller segment of the Elk River resurrects this issue and makes it ripe for consideration.

The "Slaty" segment of the Elk River that would be the subject of the study authorized by this bill, named in reference to the community of Slatyfork where the river begins, was described in a January 2009 letter written by local resident Tom Shipley to the Pocahontas County Commission as follows: "History abounds around, near and on the banks of the Elk River. She is, in a literal sense, very much as she was back in the early 1800's . . . one of the last rivers on the East Coast that has three naturally reproducing species of wild trout . . . Brook, Brown and Rainbow. As Big Spring Fork and Old Field merge, they form an impressive gateway to the Upper Elk . . . a gift from God to Pocahontas County."

Indeed, the Slaty segment of the Elk River is a superb fishery, and the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources does a good job in the area. While what is being proposed is a study—not a designation—and while the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act is very clear that nothing in the statute "shall affect the jurisdiction or responsibilities of the State with respect to fish and wildlife," I am including in the legislation being introduced today a reaffirmation that the mere act of studying this segment of the Elk River will not change the status quo with respect to State jurisdiction.

The legislation being introduced today states that nothing in the bill "shall be construed as affecting access for recreational activities otherwise allowed by law or regulation, including hunting, fishing, or trapping." It further states that nothing in the measure "shall be construed as affecting the authority, jurisdiction, or responsibility of the State to manage, control, or regulate fish and resident wildlife under State law or regulations, including the regulation of hunting, fishing, and trapping."

In my view, most people associated with this segment of the Elk River want to keep it the way it is. As Mr. Shipley wrote, the river is "a gift of God to Pocahontas County" and I would add, to the State of West Virginia and the Nation as a whole.

In his book entitled "Upper River, Elk's Origins and Beyond," Skip Johnson, a long time outdoor columnist and reporter for the Charleston Gazette, concisely summed up the essence of our relationship with rivers. "Rivers like Elk touch us in a spiritual way," he wrote. "Dave Teets, my neighbor, gave a talk on rivers at our 2004 church picnic. He said that rivers are important in the Bible, important to our soul and mind, and important to God. They also provide recreation, transportation, and natural boundaries. Then he made a less profound but equally important point: 'Who hasn't spent at least a part of a day just watching a river roll on?'"

I could not agree more.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF ELIZABETH LOUISE ALLEN, AN AMERICAN MEZZO-SOPRANO AND HARLEM SCHOOL OF THE ARTS' PRESIDENT EMERITUS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 7, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memoriam of my dear friend Elizabeth Lou-

ise Allen, who departed this life peacefully on Monday, June 22, 2009. Known to all of us as, Betty Lou Allen, she had been a guiding force at The Harlem School of the Arts since she became Executive Director, and eventually President after Dorothy Maynor, the school's founder, retired in 1979.

Betty Lou was born on March 17, 1927, in Campbell, Ohio, near Youngstown. Her father worked in the steel mills; her mother had a thriving business taking in laundry. Betty grew up in a neighborhood which was mostly made up of Sicilian and Greek families, and where she was introduced to the opera and its music. From the neighbors' windows, she could hear the broadcasts from the Metropolitan Opera house every Saturday from their radios.

Betty lost her mother to lung cancer when she was 12 years old. After many turbulent years, that began with her father, and later in foster homes, where she was treated badly and unfairly, Betty moved into the Youngstown Y.W.C.A. when she was 16 years old. She supported herself cleaning houses, excelled in Latin and German languages in high school, and entered Wilberforce College in Wilberforce, Ohio, on a scholarship (A historically black institution, it is now Wilberforce University).

At Wilberforce, Ms. Allen met Theodor Heimann, a former Berlin Opera tenor who taught German and voice there and encouraged her to sing. Soprano Leontyne Price was also a classmate at Wilberforce. Betty went on to earn a scholarship to what was then the Hartford School of Music in Connecticut.

In the early 1950s, Ms. Allen studied at Tanglewood, where Leonard Bernstein chose her to be the mezzo-soprano soloist in his Symphony No. 1 ("Jeremiah"); she was later a frequent soloist with Mr. Bernstein and the New York Philharmonic. Betty made her New York recital debut at Town Hall in 1958 in a program that included Brahms and Fauré.

Elizabeth "Betty Lou" Allen was part of the first great wave of African-American singers to appear on the world's premier stages in the postwar years. Active from the 1950s to the 1970s, she performed with the New York City Opera; the Metropolitan Opera; and the opera companies of Houston, Boston, San Francisco, and Santa Fe. In 1954 Ms. Allen made her City Opera debut as Queenie in "Show Boat," by Jerome Kern and in 1964, she made her formal Opera debut at the Teatro Colon in Buenos Aires, Argentina, followed by countless appearances worldwide.

Betty Allen sang the role of Begonia in the City Opera production of Hans Werner Henze's comic opera "The Young Lord," conducted by Sarah Caldwell in 1973. In reviewing the production of "The Young Lord," New York Times' Harold C. Schonberg wrote of Ms. Allen's on-stage performance: "When she was onstage everything came to life, and everything around her was dimmed."

Ms. Allen, who also toured as a recitalist, was known for her close association with the American composers Virgil Thomson, Ned Rorem and David Diamond. At her death, she was on the faculty of the Manhattan School of Music, where she had taught since 1969. She was also the president emeritus and a former executive director of the Harlem School of the Arts.

With the Met, Ms. Allen sang the role of Commère in Mr. Thomson's "Four Saints in

Three Acts" in 1973; she later participated in the first complete recording of the work. Elsewhere, her roles included Teresa in "La Sonnambula," by Bellini; Jocasta in Stravinsky's "Oedipus Rex"; Monisha in Scott Joplin's "Treemonisha"; and Mistress Quickly in Verdi's "Falstaff."

Betty Allen has brought so much joy to many audiences of all ages and diversity with her beautiful voice. She has long been committed to nurturing young artists across all disciplines and opening doors for so many African American children who would have never had the opportunity exploit their talents.

From 1979 to 1992 she served as Executive Director and President to her beloved Harlem School of the Arts. Upon her retirement she stayed on as President Emeritus. While HSA was born of the commitment and ideals of its founder, it was Betty Allen who strengthened the foundation of the vibrant and inspiring institution that it is today. HSA honored Betty Allen with the inaugural Betty Allen Lifetime Achievement Award at the Art is Life Gala on Monday, March 9, 2008, and graced her presence at this year's benefit.

In addition to her many years as a leader and master teacher with HSA, Ms. Allen has also taught at the North Carolina School of Arts, the Manhattan School of Music, and the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. She also holds Honorary Doctorates from Wittenberg University, Union College, Adelphi University, and Clark University in Massachusetts and the New School in New York City.

Madam Speaker, HSA President and Chief Executive Officer Kakuna Kerina stated: "The impact Betty Allen has made as an artist and arts educator is measured in the tens of thousands of lives she influenced in their youth. She was unique in that the standards she applied to herself were the same as the standards she expected of others, and we are better for it. We extend our condolences to Ms. Allen's family and thank them for sharing her with a vast community of admirers throughout the world."

Elizabeth "Betty Lou" Allen is a national treasure and true American heroine, whose artistic talents expanded the boundaries for so many African American children to achieve to be the best in any genre they choose to explore. May God bless all of us for the life of our American mezzo-soprano, Betty Allen.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 7, 2009

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information in regards to H.R. 2996, the Fiscal Year 2010 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill.

Project Name: City of East Prairie, Missouri Stormwater and Sewer Infrastructure
Bill Number: H.R. 2996

Account: STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Project

Requesting Entity: City of East Prairie, Missouri

Address of Requesting Entity: 219 N. Washington St., East Prairie, Missouri, 63845-1141