

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 to 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

Description of Request: Provide an earmark in the amount of \$200,000 to rebuild East Prairie, Missouri's wastewater and storm water infrastructure. The existing 84-year-old water infrastructure is crumbling under the streets due to sinkholes which have plagued the community. The sinkholes are destroying box culverts, which is posing a threat to streets and houses in East Prairie. The money procured will pay for the construction of new stormwater sewers. A minimum of 45% of the total project cost will come directly from the City of East Prairie, Missouri.

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. 3082, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2010. For the project titled "Replace Joint Base Communications Building," which received \$6,170,000 in H.R. 3082, in the Navy Reserve Military Construction account, the legal name and address of the receiving entity is NAS JRB Fort Worth, in Fort Worth, TX. Funds will be used to build a new communications building. The existing base communications building is undersized. The location of communications assets must remain in that position since communications lines that run throughout the base run underground into the building's terminal/switch room. This facility, built in 1951, does not lend itself to the demands of current technologies. This has resulted in piecemeal renovations over the years in an attempt to meet growing communications needs. The existing space will not accommodate growth requirements for the terminal/switch room, threatening a loss in communication functionality base-wide.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. MARY BONO MACK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 7, 2009

Mrs. BONO MACK. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2996, the Department of Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010:

Requesting Member: MARY BONO MACK

Bill Number: H.R. 2996

Account: Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations, 2010

Entity Requesting: Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy and the Friends of the Desert, 45480 Portola Ave. Palm Desert, CA 92260

Description of Earmark: \$500,000 is provided for the protection lands including two properties comprising 871 acres in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument, improving resource management.

A 504 acre property is bounded by USFS land on 4 sides. A portion of an 8.1 mile segment of Palm Canyon Creek, found eligible for classification as a Wild and Scenic River in the Forest Land Management Plan, traverses the property, as does the Palm Canyon trail. A 367 acre property is bounded by USFS land on 3 sides. The property also adjoins an existing rural residential area where a paved road provides access to the property. This access and available water and electric service create development potential. Acquisition of the property prevents potential future residential development on it and the attendant wildfire issues and water supply issues in this area of extremely high fire hazard. The property provides habitat for the gray vireo.

Spending Plan: Project Expenditures—

The total cost for the 871 acres is \$1,500,000. Because both properties have been pre-acquired, they are available for immediate sale to USFS upon the enactment of the federal budget.

Requesting Member: MARY BONO MACK

Bill Number: H.R. 2996

Account: Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations, 2010

Entity Requesting: Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy and the Friends of the Desert, 45480 Portola Ave., Palm Desert, CA 92260

Description of Earmark: \$500,000 is provided in the legislation for protecting local groundwater resources and preventing pollution in the City of Cathedral City. There are thousands of septic tanks that lie east of the Whitewater Channel in the Coachella Valley that have been identified as a significant threat to public potable groundwater resources. This project will permanently remove these known pollution sources (septic tanks) and will sustain and improve local and regional water supply reliability. Cathedral City is confident that this project will proceed with full community support and participation. Long-term attainment and maintenance of state and Federal drinking water quality standards will also be achieved as a result of this endeavor.

Spending Plan: Project Expenditures—

Task: Right-of-Way Acquisition: \$0; Construction Costs: \$12,700,000.

Design & Construction Management: \$2,300,000—Design and Engineering, Environmental Permits, Environmental Clean-up, Construction Administration, Construction Inspection, Materials Testing, Surveying. Total Cost: \$15,000,000.

Matching Funds Break-down: City of Cathedral City General Fund—\$800,000, Federal Assistance—\$1,000,000, Assessment District—\$9,000,000, California Proposition 84 Grant—\$2,000,000, Cathedral City Redevelopment Agency—\$700,000, Coachella Valley Water District—\$1,500,000. Total Match: \$15,000,000.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 7, 2009

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, I am submitting the following information regarding H.R. 1945, Tule River Tribe Water Development Act. The entity to receive funding authorized

under this act is the Bureau of Reclamation. The project will benefit the Tule River Tribe located at 340 N. Reservation Road, Porterville, CA 93257. I certify, to the best of my knowledge, that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project; the project is not directed to an entity or program that will be named after a sitting Member of Congress; the project is not intended to be used by an entity to secure funds for other entities unless the use of funding is consistent with the specified purpose of the authorizing legislation; and the project meets or exceeds all statutory requirements for matching funds where applicable.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 7, 2009

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2847, Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010. This legislation passed in the House of Representatives on June 18, 2009.

In the Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs account, an earmark for Emergency Communications Equipment for the City of Midland was included on my behalf. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Midland, located at 300 North Lorraine, Midland, Texas 79702.

Funding for this project will be used to upgrade backup equipment for Midland's emergency communications system, which is used by the city's police, firefighters and other first responders. In the past, not all first responder groups in Midland could communicate with each other due to differences in their systems. An advantage of Midland's new, upgraded communications system is interoperability, enabling police and other first responders to communicate directly. The backup equipment must be upgraded so that it will properly take effect should the main system fail during an emergency.

In the Office of Justice Assistance, Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants Program account, an earmark for the Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT) Program, at the Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas (San Angelo Police Department in partnership with ALERRT) was included on my behalf. The entity to receive funding for this project is the ALERRT Program at Texas State University-San Marcos, located at 601 University Drive, San Marcos, Texas 78666.

ALERRT was established by Texas State University to provide first responders with the tactics they will need to effectively respond to active shooter situations. ALERRT enables officers that have successfully completed a special "Train-the-Trainer" course to train fellow officers at their home agencies, providing an efficient and cost-effective manner to increase the number of officers with these life-saving skills. Continued funding for ALERRT in FY10 will enable the program to train more patrol officers, including San Angelo Police Department, help establish the program as a national