

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2009

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I secured as part of H.R. 3183, the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010.

Requesting Member: Congressman GEOFF DAVIS

Bill Number: H.R. 3183

Account: Corps of Engineers—Investigations
Legal Name of Requesting Entity: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—Huntington District
Address of Requesting Entity: 502 Eighth Street, Huntington, WV 25701

Description of Request: Appropriate \$1,793,000 for the Ohio River Basin Comprehensive Study, WV, KY, OH, PA, IL, VA, AL, TN, NY, MD, NC, MS & GA. Funds will help to complete the Reconnaissance Report and initiate the Feasibility Report. This project is an important use of taxpayer dollars because it is the first step in the development of a comprehensive analysis and strategy for the administration and management of the Ohio River Basin system. The project will eventually identify and document stakeholders and their needs for water resources products and services that are now or could be generated by the current system and will determine the current condition of the system infrastructure.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF JOE MASELLI

HON. STEVE SCALISE

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2009

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor my friend Joe Maselli, the son of Italian immigrants who passed away on October 18, 2009. Joe Maselli was a proud New Orleanian for over 60 years. He may best be known as a proud and tireless advocate for the preservation of Italian heritage and culture, and a devoted family man.

Joe Maselli earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Tulane University and served for three years in the U.S. Army.

Joe devoted much of his life to the celebration of the Italian cultural contribution to America. He helped create the Italian Village at the 1984 Worlds Fair in New Orleans, and founded the American-Italian Renaissance Foundation, as well as the American-Italian Sports Hall of Fame, which awards scholarships to up and coming athletes and scholars.

Joe was an Ethnic Affairs Advisor to Presidents Ford, Carter, and Reagan. In 1992, the Governor of Louisiana chose him to chair the Louisiana Quincentenary Commission honoring Louisiana's 500th Anniversary.

Even with all of Joe's accomplishments, he always put his family first. Joe is survived by his wife of 63 years, Antoinette Cammarata, their four children, and eight grandchildren, which I know he considered his greatest accomplishments.

I extend my sincere condolences to the Maselli family and will work to ensure that the distinguished legacy of my friend Joe Maselli is not forgotten by future generations.

COLUMN: NET NEUTRALITY ISN'T A NEUTRAL TERM, AND IT ISN'T GOOD FOR THE NET

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2009

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I submit the following column, written by David Nicklaus of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

NET NEUTRALITY ISN'T A NEUTRAL TERM, AND IT ISN'T GOOD FOR THE NET

David Nicklaus, St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Some beats, like banking, need tougher cops, but others, like the Internet, are doing fine with no cop at all.

So when the chairman of the Federal Communications Commission weighs in on an important Internet issue by vowing to become "a smart cop on the beat," we should worry that the Web's best years, characterized by rapid growth with little regulation, may be behind it.

Of course, FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski doesn't characterize his stance that way. His idea of a "smart cop" is one who enforces the principle that all Internet traffic should be treated equally. And he argues that his brand of policing will encourage innovation, not stifle it.

The principle Genachowski endorsed this week—and one he intends to codify into FCC regulations—is referred to as net neutrality. Despite the lofty-sounding name, however, a net neutrality rule wouldn't be neutral. It would amount to favoring one group of Internet companies, the content creators, in an ongoing turf battle with broadband providers.

Broadband firms, like AT&T, Verizon and the cable TV industry, own the Internet's infrastructure. Companies like Google and eBay own the content that travels over those broadband networks.

These two groups obviously need each other, but that doesn't mean they have to like each other.

A net neutrality rule would require broadband providers to treat all content alike in terms of pricing and access. Without it, content companies worry they might face an extra fee for speedy delivery of bandwidth-gobbling applications, like video downloading sites or Internet telephone services.

Say Microsoft, for example, paid the fee, but Google didn't. Microsoft's site would get an unfair advantage, the net neutrality advocates argue, allowing the Verizons of the world to pick winners and losers—and perhaps to snuff out competitors of their own video and phone businesses.

The broadband companies counter that they have invested huge sums in Internet infrastructure, including \$70 billion last year alone. They generally don't use discriminatory pricing now, but some people in the industry think it would be one way to pay for a next-generation network that could carry far more data at faster speeds.

If those investments aren't made, the information superhighway will eventually look like I-70 at rush hour, with video file-sharers slowing things down for the folks who just want to read e-mail or check an airline schedule.

Scott Cleland, a consultant who runs the broadband-industry-backed site NetCompetition.org, says a strict net neutrality regime would discourage infrastructure investment and make the Internet less secure. If the network owners can't discriminate among forms of content, he argues, they would lose their ability to root out viruses and other malware.

Cleland may be overstating the security argument. Any reasonable FCC regulation would surely allow the broadband companies to police their networks for harmful files. His larger point, though, is a good one: Why risk messing up something that isn't broken?

Existing antitrust law should prevent, say, AT&T from discriminating against an Internet-phone competitor like Skype. Beyond such an obvious abuse, it's hard to see what harm can come from letting the broadband firms price their network however they want.

It's often said that on the Internet, information wants to be free. That four-letter word has two meanings—free as in zero cost, and free as in unregulated and unrestricted—and they are at odds in this debate.

If we impose regulations just to keep down the cost of certain services, we may find that we've lost the very freedom that makes the Internet so successful and so valuable.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF STS. CONSTANTINE & HELEN GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH IN PALOS HILLS, ILLINOIS

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2009

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Sts. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church as they celebrate 100 years of community, faith and service. Throughout their history, the parishioners of Sts. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church have strived to embody their calling as members of the community of faith, and in doing so have served commendably as a pillar of the Palos Hills community.

Originally located on South Michigan Avenue in 1909, Sts. Constantine & Helen relocated in 1926 when a fire consumed the building, and then relocated to its new location on the corner of 111th Street and Roberts Road in Palos Hills with an opening ceremony in 1976.

Today, Sts. Constantine & Helen is as vibrant as ever under the faithful guidance of Rev. Nick Jonas, and the parish continues to serve the worship needs of over 400 families. The church is expecting some 1,200 participants at its centennial celebration on October 24, at which time Rev. Byron Papanikolaou will also mark his incredible 50th year with the congregation.

It is my honor to recognize Sts. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church on the occasion of its 100th anniversary. The parish has fulfilled a vision of a proud community that works together, learns together, and worships together. With its legacy of remarkable pastors and committed parishioners, the parish is truly deserving of this recognition.

HONORING THE FISHER HOUSE
AND THE REPUBLICAN CLUB OF
CENTRAL PASCO COUNTY, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 23, 2009

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Republican Club of Central Pasco County for their support of the Fisher House at the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital in Tampa, Florida.

Military families are the first line of support for our servicemen and women: they sit up at night waiting for their phone call and they send them comforts from home to sustain them while they fight for our freedom a half a world away.

Some families are called on to support and encourage their loved ones long after they've returned from the battles of war. For them, the Fisher House often becomes their "home away from home".

Since it opened its doors in 2007, the Fisher House in Tampa has hosted more than 1,200 people. The 16,000-square-foot house can accommodate up to 21 families at a time, and averages 35 guests per night. The average length of stay is two months, but two families have been there since the house opened.

Nationwide, the Fisher House program has made available nearly three million days of lodging since the program originated in 1990. They are operated by the Department of Veterans Affairs and rely on donations to the Fisher House Foundation so that no family has to pay to stay at any Fisher House.

The Republican Club of Central Pasco County, Florida, continually supports the Fisher House Foundation and our military men and women. This weekend, they will host the 2nd biennial event, "A Night for Heroes" in support of the Fisher House Foundation.

Madam Speaker, just as our military men and women believe it is their duty to serve our Nation; it is our duty to support them. The Republican Club of Central Pasco County has truly answered the call. On behalf of this Congress, I thank them for their unyielding commitment to this most important cause.

**COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION
ACT OF 2010**

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 3619) to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2010, and for other purposes:

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Chair, I want to applaud my friend, Chairman JIM OBERSTAR,

and his committee for putting together a strong bill that invests in the needs of our Coast Guard. This bill makes many key investments in the ability of our Coast Guard to protect our nation, guard our waterways, and make sure it is "always ready" to respond.

However, I rise today in reluctant opposition to this bill because of the very significant changes it makes to the admissions process for the United States Coast Guard Academy.

As many of my colleagues know, the Coast Guard Academy is located in my district, in New London, Connecticut. Established at Fort Trumbull in 1910 first as the School of Instruction to the U.S. Revenue Cutter Academy and then as the U.S. Coast Guard Academy after the consolidation of the Life Saving Service and the Revenue Cutter Service in 1915, the Academy has been a part of New London at its present site since 1932. Over its last century in New London, the Academy has helped to train, educate and shape generations of young leaders of the Coast Guard.

Today, the Coast Guard Academy is a highly competitive educational institution. Called "the best kept secret in higher education" by the Princeton Review, it is a challenging school that attracts driven, committed leaders who go on to serve our nation in the many diverse roles played by our Coast Guard today. In fact, the number of applicants who said that they were not seeking admission to one of the other service academies—that the Coast Guard Academy was their first choice—rose from 61 percent of the class of 2009 to 66 percent of the class of 2011.

As of July 2009, the Coast Guard Academy had 973 cadets enrolled representing 43 states and 15 foreign nations. For the newest class, the class of 2013, 1,672 completed the application process, 411 were offered appointments to the Academy, and 288 cadets—17 percent of those who applied—were sworn in. Nearly 80 percent of Academy graduates go on to graduate programs, with most paid for by the Coast Guard, and 85 percent of graduates choose to serve beyond their required five-year commitment.

The Academy is particularly proud of its high recruitment of women cadets. Of the total corps of cadets, 27 percent are women: 23 percent female in the class of 2010, 30 percent in the class of 2011, 28 percent in the class of 2012, and 29 percent in the class of 2013. Its success in this area sets the Coast Guard Academy apart from other service academies, and is worthy of recognition.

However, there are two areas in which both the Congress and the Coast Guard Academy agree that there is some work to do—the recruitment of underrepresented minorities in the cadet corps, as well as a lack of geographical diversity. I absolutely believe that, as a publicly funded institution, the Coast Guard Academy should represent a cross-section of our society, reflecting the racial, gender and geographic composition of our nation. Any young person, regardless of race, gender or geographic location, should have the opportunity to serve our nation as an officer in the Coast Guard.

In my ongoing discussions with the leadership of the Coast Guard Academy, they have made clear that some of their top priorities include increasing diversity, both of underrepresented minorities and geographical regions, and spreading the word about the excellent education it has to offer to a wider audience. While involving Members of Congress in the application process may be one of the answers to these challenges, there are likely other ways to achieve these goals that should be considered as well before taking this step.

For example, the Academy has significantly increased its efforts to get the word out about their unique institution and what they have to offer to underrepresented minority and geographic populations. For example, they are specifically directing recruitment efforts through mailings, advertising on online college search websites, and ramping up efforts to get recruiters in cities and regions with high minority populations, as well as those states and regions not typically represented at the Academy.

There is some indication that these efforts are paying off. For instance, compared to last year, inquiries to the Academy by minority students are up 40 percent to 1,800. And, online applications from minority students are up 34 percent to 317.

In addition, the Coast Guard Academy recently released a comprehensive Strategic Plan focusing on diversity, leadership, and character development. This plan outlines a clear goal of achieving 20–25 percent representation by underrepresented minorities by 2015, and in faculty and staff by 2020. This plan is getting off the ground now.

Even without congressional nominations, there is much each of us can do to contribute to the makeup of the Academy. For example, we can all include Coast Guard Academy admissions information our offices distribute related to service academy nominations, and direct interested constituents to the institution. And, we can ensure that our websites include information about the Academy. Earlier this year, a survey of congressional websites showed that over half made no mention of the Coast Guard Academy and did not post a link or other information about the institution. In March, I circulated a "Dear Colleague" letter urging that Members make sure their websites reflect this important information—and I will continue to work with my colleagues to encourage them to do so.

I strongly believe that any change to the application process or the character of the institution must be carefully considered, hand in hand with the Academy, before moving forward. The manager's amendment to this bill included a provision to require the Government Accountability Office, GAO, to evaluate the Coast Guard Academy's efforts to improve minority and geographic diversity. While I strongly support this review and look forward to its findings, I am disappointed that this