

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE IN THE STORIED HISTORY OF THE TRI-CITY RECORD

**HON. FRED UPTON**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 15, 2009*

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a cornerstone of our community, the Tri-City Record, which is currently celebrating its 25th year with Anne and Karl Bayer at the helm. Since its founding as the Weekly Record in 1882, the Tri-City Record has been a lifeline for southwest Michigan, reliably keeping folks informed on significant news and community events.

What began as the Weekly Record became the Watervliet Record in 1884. Through the years, with only a handful of owners, the newspaper grew to report not only on news in the city of Watervliet, but also the surrounding communities of Coloma and Hartford. A century after the first name change, the newspaper was purchased by Anne and Karl Bayer in 1984, and soon became the Tri-City Record.

Under the Bayer family's stewardship, countless residents have come to rely upon the Tri-City Record to stay connected with the community and keep up on current events. I commend the Tri-City Record's rich tradition of excellence and proud history of reporting to Coloma, Hartford, Watervliet and across the State of Michigan.

As the newspaper industry across the Nation has been strained during the digital age, the Tri-City Record continues to be a jewel in our corner of southwest Michigan. I salute Anne and Karl Bayer and the entire staff on reaching this milestone and wish them continued success for many years to come.

Twenty-five years later and still going strong, the Bayers represent a most important chapter in the storied history of the Tri-City Record.

THANKING JOHN BRANDT FOR 40 YEARS OF SERVICE

**HON. ADRIAN SMITH**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 15, 2009*

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor a broadcasting icon in western Nebraska, John Brandt. Yesterday, Ogallala joined together to thank John for his 40 years of broadcasting service to the area.

A 1963 graduate of Superior High School in Superior, Nebraska, John has been a fixture on the airwaves for listeners in my district since December of 1969.

Never one to shy away from the hard-hitting questions, John earned his reputation as being a tough but fair interviewer, whose only motivation was to provide his listeners with the most up-to-date information available.

He has given back to the Ogallala community in so many ways and I fully expect this service to continue. I wish him well as he continues to serve the community and our State as a whole.

EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. SCOTT GARRETT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 15, 2009*

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2996—Interior and Environment Appropriations Act, 2010:

1. Project Name—Walkill River National Wildlife Refuge Land Acquisition Project  
Requesting Member—SCOTT GARRETT  
Bill Number—H.R. 2996, Interior and Environment Appropriations Act, 2010

Account—U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Land Acquisition

Requesting Entity—U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service/Walkill River National Wildlife Refuge, 1547 County Route 565, Sussex, NJ 07461

Description of the Project—This funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund will further consolidate refuge ownership and important habitat, increase recreational opportunities within the refuge, and maintain the water quality in the Highlands region of New Jersey. The national wildlife refuge system was created to ensure protection of ecologically sensitive wildlife species and the Walkill River NWR was added to the system because of the importance of the biodiversity along the river. Adding these 237 acres to the refuge would also meet the criteria of the Land and Water Conservation Fund by providing additional opportunities for public recreation, outdoor education and research, and by protecting open space and habitat for wildlife, including endangered and threatened species, in our rapidly developing state.

Description of the Spending Plan—(\$1,400,000)

The \$1.4 million from the Land and Water Conservation Fund in FY 2010 will further consolidate refuge ownership and important habitat, increase recreational opportunities within the refuge, and maintain the water quality in the Highlands region of New Jersey. The national wildlife refuge system was created to ensure protection of ecologically sensitive wildlife species and the Walkill River NWR was added to the system because of the importance of the biodiversity along the river. Adding these acres to the refuge would also meet the criteria of the Land and Water Conservation Fund by providing additional opportunities for public recreation, outdoor education and research, and by protecting open space and habitat for wildlife, including endangered and threatened species, in our rapidly developing state.

Total—\$1,400,000

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 15, 2009*

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, I was absent from votes on December 14, 2009 due to a medical appointment. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 969 and "yea" on rollcall 970.

JASON FABINI'S SERVICE IN THE NFL

**HON. MARK E. SOUDER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 15, 2009*

Mr. SOUDER. Madam Speaker, today on the floor of the House of Representatives I would like to recognize the amazing accomplishments of Jason Fabini of Indiana. As an eleven year veteran of the National Football League Jason was a member of three teams, playing under five coaches. Mr. Fabini began his football career in Fort Wayne, Indiana at Bishop Dwenger High School. A standout high-school athlete, Mr. Fabini was recruited to play football at the University of Cincinnati.

As a Cincinnati Bearcat Fabini truly developed his skills, and prepared for a lengthy career in the National Football League. While at Cincinnati, Fabini was a three-time All-Conference USA selection. As a sophomore, Fabini started every game and was named to the third-team All National Independent list. His growth continued when, in his junior year, he received Cincinnati's top award for an offensive lineman—the John Pease Award. In the 1997 season Fabini helped lead the Bearcats to their first bowl-game victory in 47 years.

In the 1998 NFL Draft, the New York Jets selected Jason Fabini as their fourth round pick. As a rookie for the Jets, Fabini started all sixteen games. In his second season with New York, Jason suffered a setback when he tore his ACL in a game against the New England Patriots. While Fabini was forced to miss the last seven games of his second season in the NFL due to his knee injury, he persevered and returned to the field ready to play the following season. In 2000, when Jason Fabini returned to the Jets' starting offensive line, he led the offensive to a tie with the Indianapolis Colts for fewest sacks allowed, 20. In recognition of Fabini's return to play after his injury, the New York Jets awarded him the Ed Block Courage Award in 2000. While with the New York Jets Fabini paved the way for Curtis Martin, RB, to rush over 1,000 yards in seven consecutive seasons, 1998–2004, and in 2004 helped Martin set a club record for most yards rushed in a single season, 1,697 yards. In 2004, Fabini started his 100th career game against the Arizona Cardinals.

In 2006 Fabini went to play for the Dallas Cowboys. During his year with the Cowboys, Fabini played fifteen games for Dallas.

In 2007 Jason Fabini signed with the Washington Redskins, a Dallas rival. As a Redskin, Fabini played in all sixteen games, starting in 13 of them. His versatility as a lineman was truly an asset for Washington and helped Clinton Portis, RB, rush for over 1,200 yards. In 2007, in a game against his old team, the New York Jets, Fabini lead the offensive line to block for 296 yards, the third-highest single-game rushing total in Washington Redskins' history.

In February of 2009 Fabini was inducted into the University of Cincinnati Athletics Hall of Fame.

Jason Fabini has had a long, successful football career. He played in over 152 games, starting over 129 of those games. Throughout his career, Fabini started in eight postseason

contests. Although still young, Fabini has decided to retire from playing professional football so that he can focus on his family and a promising future. Jason Fabini has four sons: Hunter, Jacob, John Michael, and Jordan and is the son of Tom Fabini and Madeline Lombardo of Fort Wayne, Indiana.

PROCLAMATION ISSUED TO MS.  
MARY ANNE SHARP

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

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 15, 2009*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I would like to submit this proclamation which I issued to Ms. Mary Anne Sharp.

Whereas, Forty-five years ago a virtuous woman of God accepted her calling to serve as Director of the Decatur Civic Chorus in Decatur, Georgia; and

Whereas, Ms. Mary Anne Sharp began her educational career in Decatur, Georgia, attending Decatur public schools, Oglethorpe University and Emory University; and

Whereas, this phenomenal woman has shared her time and talents with the citizens of DeKalb County, Georgia and the world through directing and producing concerts that continue to touch the lives of many; and

Whereas, Ms. Sharp is a cornerstone in our community that has enhanced the lives of thousands for the betterment of our District and Nation; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Ms. Mary Anne Sharp on her 45th Anniversary as Director of the Decatur Civic Chorus and to congratulate her on this milestone;

Now therefore, I, Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr. do hereby proclaim December 13, 2009 as Ms. Mary Anne Sharp Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 13th day of December, 2009.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 15, 2009*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, on Monday, December 14, 2009, I was unable to be present for recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 969 (on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 779, as amended) and "yes" on rollcall vote No. 970 (on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 942, as amended).

MS. MARIAN WILSON-SYLVESTRE

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 15, 2009*

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary accomplishments of Ms. Marian Wilson-Sylvestre, who has dutifully served the American Red

Cross, Bay Area Chapter and touched the lives of those in need for nearly 30 years. Her work has affected countless people beset by fires, floods and other disasters, and has ensured that volunteers and communities throughout the 9th Congressional District are ready and resilient in the face of adversity.

Ms. Wilson-Sylvestre has been involved in community-building, volunteerism, education and healing for the length of her career. After attending Columbia University in New York City, Ms. Wilson-Sylvestre received a Master of Social Work at New York's Adelphi University.

Her career in alleviating affliction and pain for others began at the Payne Whitney Psychiatric Clinic at New York Hospital, where she observed and aided patients as a Psychiatric Assistant. Next, her skills in social work and teaching brought her to the Cardinal McCloskey Home and School for Children where she worked with foster children.

In 1978, after arriving in the Bay Area, Ms. Wilson-Sylvestre served Bayview Hunter's Point Mental Health Clinic as a child and family therapist, and also began teaching at San Francisco Community College. Her career with the Bay Area Chapter of the American Red Cross began when she became Director of Project New Pride in 1980. For the next 29 years, she worked her way up through the ranks of the American Red Cross, both fulfilling and exceeding her duties as Case Work Supervisor, Regional Manager, County Executive, and, for the last 14 years, Senior Executive Officer.

Marian has truly utilized leadership, skill, dedication and a penchant for compassion in her life's work, and I am certain she will continue to do so in her future endeavors. As member of many quality organizations, including the National Association of Social Workers, Rotary Club of Oakland, the California Personnel and Guidance Association, the East Bay Women's Political Action Committee, and the boards of City of Oakland Emergency Management, Travelers Aid Society and Allen Temple Baptist Church Health Ministry, Ms. Wilson-Sylvestre has served the community in innumerable ways.

Her work has been celebrated throughout the 9th Congressional District, and beyond, including an award from the National Institute of Mental Health, the Tiffany Award for Management Excellence, a 2002 Congressional Recognition Award, the 1990 National HIV/AIDS Cultural Diversity Award, being named the 2002 Honoree for Black Women Organized for Political Action, and the Oakland Unified School District's recurring honor of Principal for a Day.

On behalf of California's 9th Congressional District, I salute you, Marian Wilson-Sylvestre, for a successful career of service and your unwavering commitment to others. I extend my heartfelt congratulations on your retirement, and I wish you the very best.

HONORING THE CONNECTICUT  
COUNCIL OF SMALL TOWNS

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 15, 2009*

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Connecticut Council of

Small Towns (COST) for celebrating its 35th anniversary. Several Connecticut town leaders founded COST in 1975 to provide a strong voice for the state's smaller municipalities in both our State's and the Nation's capital.

COST is a grassroots advocacy organization comprised of nearly 120 member municipalities. The organization offers valuable information and training resources to help municipal leaders meet the challenges they face as chief executives of Connecticut's smaller non-metro and suburban areas. It is the only organization dedicated solely to the interests of Connecticut's small suburban and rural municipalities.

Through meetings, conferences, and events, COST brings together the leaders of small towns with legislators to foster discussion about issues that are most important to Connecticut's small communities. The organization provides information to towns regarding public policy and pending legislation, and how they will affect small towns and their citizens.

COST members benefit from connecting with other municipal leaders across the State, sharing ideas, and discussing the similar challenges that they face. Participating municipalities save money by working collectively to advocate for State and Federal aid to towns in Connecticut.

I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in honoring the Connecticut Council of Small Towns in celebrating its anniversary. Many of COST's member towns reside within my district in eastern Connecticut and highly regard the organization for providing a voice for them in all levels of government. We thank COST for its service and look forward to working with the organization in the future to help Connecticut's communities succeed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 15, 2009*

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately last night and earlier today I was unable to cast my votes on H. Res. 779, H. Res. 942, H. Res. 894, H.R. 1517, and H.R. 3978 and wish the record to reflect my intentions had I been able to vote.

Last night, I met with constituents of mine in a town hall forum at the Prairie Winds Retirement Center in Urbana, Illinois and I was unable to arrive in Washington, DC to cast my votes.

Had I been present on rollcall No. 969 on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 779, Recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of National Runaway Prevention Month, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present on rollcall No. 970 on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 942, Commending the Real Salt Lake soccer club for winning the 2009 Major League Soccer Cup, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present on rollcall No. 971 on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 894, Honoring the 50th anniversary of the recording of the album "Kind of Blue" and reaffirming jazz as a national treasure, I would have voted "aye." One of my constituents, Lamont Parsons of Urbana, Illinois, is a regionally famous jazz guitarist who has inspired in