

for the Duke Ellington School of the Arts, the famous soprano's alma mater.

During a lifetime of recognition of his unique musical genius, Ellington received 13 Grammys over 40 years, the Pied Piper award from the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers in 1968, and honorary doctoral degrees from 16 institutions. He received the nation's highest honors, including the President's Gold Medal in 1966, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1969, the highest honor a civilian can receive in the United States. After his death on May 24, 1974, Western High School in Washington, D.C. was renamed the Duke Ellington High School for the Performing Arts. The school is one of the most renowned in the nation for its excellence in all the arts.

Jazz, America's singular indigenous art form, owes its greatness to a handful of men and women, none more so than Duke Ellington, the Renaissance man of music—composer, musician, band leader, the full package. Today, we add a crowning honor with the city's own circulating quarter bearing the Duke's image. Now our native son, a musical genius already honored the world over for his artistic achievements, will have a lasting image on his nation's currency to remind the world that his hometown, the District of Columbia, nurtured the musical genius of Edward Kennedy Duke Ellington.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2009

Mr. SHIMKUS. 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. 1105.

Requesting Member: JOHN M. SHIMKUS.

Bill number: H.R. 1105.

The Account: Agriculture Salaries and Expenses.

Requesting Entity: National Corn-to-Ethanol Research Center NCERC at 400 University Park Dr. in Edwardsville, IL.

Funding would go to ensure that the NCERC remains capable of validating new cellulosic technologies and to accelerate commercialization. NCERC will be able to find more uses for agricultural products in renewable fuels and lessen our reliance on foreign oil. NCERC is an established research center of excellence in this field.

The Account: Department of Justice, COPS Law Enforcement Technology.

Requesting Entity: Jasper County Sheriff Department at 106 E. Morgan St. in Newton, Illinois.

Funding to provide new radios that will allow the sheriffs office complete interoperability between first responders in Jasper County.

The Account: Department of Justice, COPS Law Enforcement Technology.

Requesting Entity: Shelby County Sheriff Department at 151 N. Morgan St. in Shelbyville, Illinois.

Funding to provide new radios that will allow the sheriffs office complete interoperability between first responders in Shelby County.

The Account: Department of Justice, COPS Law Enforcement Technology.

Requesting Entity: Jasper County Unit 1 School District at 609 S. Lafayette St. in Newton, IL.

Funding to provide a new camera security system for Jasper County schools to help secure the schools.

The Account: Department of Justice, COPS Law Enforcement Technology.

Requesting Entity: Marion County Sheriff Department at 204 N. Washington St. in Salem, Illinois.

Funding for new digital fingerprinting machine to make sheriffs booking process more efficient and allow for easier access to database.

The Account: Energy & Water, General Investigations.

Requesting Entity: Corps of Engineers St. Louis District at 1222 Spruce St. in St. Louis, Missouri.

Funding for a deficiency correction study to investigate solutions such as rehabilitation-replacement of existing relief wells and the construction of additional relief wells at the Prairie DuPont Levee.

The Account: Energy & Water, General Investigations.

Requesting Entity: Corps of Engineers St. Louis District at 1222 Spruce St. in St. Louis, Missouri.

Funding for this project, also referred to as the Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program, this project will provide for the first phases of construction of new 1,200 foot lock chambers at L/Ds 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, La-Grange and Peoria; implement small-scale navigation aids; and begin ecosystem restoration projects along the Mississippi River and Illinois Waterway.

The Account: Energy & Water, Construction General.

Requesting Entity: Corps of Engineers St. Louis District at 1222 Spruce St. in St. Louis, Missouri.

Funding to continue projects which are vital to the ecological restoration of the Upper Mississippi River, including island construction, habitat creation and long-term monitoring.

The Account: Energy & Water, Construction General.

Requesting Entity: Corps of Engineers St. Louis District at 1222 Spruce St. in St. Louis, Missouri.

Funding for this project will go to develop the correct design deficiencies and assure that the Chain of Rocks levee will withstand a 500-year flood. The deficiency correction includes the installation of relief wells, construction of levee berms, a pump station, relocations, and mitigation. The levee protects a major urban area.

The Account: Energy & Water, Construction General.

Requesting Entity: Corps of Engineers St. Louis District at 1222 Spruce St. in St. Louis, Missouri.

Funding for the project in East St. Louis to provide flood protection to 200,000 residents and over \$1 billion in economic value. The flood control project is aged and requires rehabilitation to provide a thorough level of protection.

The Account: Energy & Water, Construction General.

Requesting Entity: Corps of Engineers St. Louis District at 1222 Spruce St. in St. Louis, Missouri.

Funding that can be used to initiate design work for the Maryville, Illinois, project. This

project authority covers communities in Madison and St. Clair Counties, Illinois, including East St. Louis, Belleville, Glen Carbon, Maryville, and Collinsville. The communities of the region rely heavily on combined sewer systems, some of which exceed 100 years of performance. Problems created by this compromised infrastructure impact the health, water quality, and economic development potential of the area.

The Account: Energy & Water, Construction General.

Requesting Entity: Corps of Engineers St. Louis District at 1222 Spruce St. in St. Louis, Missouri.

Funding for this project at Wood River goes to replacing 163 of 170 existing relief wells and installing 60 new relief wells as a deficiency correction under the existing project authorization. Additional reconstruction/replacement is proposed for various components of 26 closure structures, 38 gravity drains, and 7 pump stations.

The Account: Energy & Water, O&M.

Requesting Entity: Corps of Engineers St. Louis District at 1222 Spruce St. in St. Louis, Missouri.

Funding will be used to operate and maintain Carlyle Lake. This lake provides flood control, water quality control, and water supply to nearby communities; recreation; fish and wildlife conservation; and is authorized to augment navigation flows downstream on the Kaskaskia River. The lake offers 3 marinas, 18 public boat ramps, a sailboat harbor, 4 beaches, 5 campgrounds, and a visitor center; numerous outlying areas provide a variety of opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts. The Project includes a State Resort with hotel, cabins, restaurant and conference center and two State Parks, one of which offers overnight cottages, a swimming pool, and a restaurant/store. Large sub-impoundment dams, managed by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, are located at the northern end of the lake and are flooded each fall, providing excellent hunting opportunities.

The Account: Energy & Water, O&M.

Requesting Entity: Corps of Engineers St. Louis District at 1222 Spruce St. in St. Louis, Missouri.

Funding at Lake Shelbyville to be used to provide flood control, water supply, recreation, conservation of fish and wildlife, and water quality control and augments navigation flows downstream on the Kaskaskia River. The lake extends northeastward to approximately river mile 275 through Shelby, Moultrie, Douglas, and Coles Counties. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

The Account: Energy & Water, O&M.

Requesting Entity: Corps of Engineers St. Louis District at 1222 Spruce St. in St. Louis, Missouri.

Funding at Rend Lake to provide flood control, water supply, recreation, conservation of fish and wildlife, and area redevelopment. The earth fill dam with an un-gated main and auxiliary spillway provides the necessary features to create Rend Lake and support the project's purposes. The earth dam is located on the Big Muddy River at mile 103.7 and two sub-impoundment dams are located on the upper arms of the lake.

The Account: Interior, Environment and Related Agencies, EPA, STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure.

Requesting Entity: RE Water at 320 Northwest St. West Salem, IL 62476.

Funding would be used to expand service to rural water customers in Richland County.

The Account: Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies, Higher Education.

Requesting Entity: Southeastern Illinois College, 3575 College Road in Harrisburg, IL 62946.

Funding to purchase materials to set up a new training program for students in mining and mining safety measures.

The Account: Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies, Higher Education.

Requesting Entity: Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, University Park Drive in Edwardsville, IL 62046.

The funding would be used to purchase advanced fabrication, analytical, and processing equipment to enhance SIAM capabilities.

The Account: Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, Federal Highway Administration.

Requesting Entity: Illinois Department of Transportation, 2300 S. Dirksen Parkway in Springfield, IL.

The funding would be used for the design, engineering, land acquisition and planning of the Godfrey Crosstown Connector project in conjunction with US67.

The Account: Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, Federal Highway Administration.

Requesting Entity: Illinois Department of Transportation, 2300 S. Dirksen Parkway in Springfield, IL.

The funding would be used for the design, engineering, land acquisition, and planning for expansion of Rt 162 from Maryville toward Troy, IL.

The Account: Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, Federal Highway Administration.

Requesting Entity: Illinois Department of Transportation, 2300 S. Dirksen Parkway in Springfield, IL.

The funding would be used for the resurfacing and the expansion of Mt. Erie-Golden Gate Road in Wayne County.

The Account: Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, EDI.

Requesting Entity: Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, 1 Old State Capitol Plaza, Springfield, IL.

The funding would be used in the renovation of the Tinsley Project for upcoming Lincoln Bicentennial. The Tinsley project needs to be overhauled to be historically accurate.

The Account: Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, EDI.

Requesting Entity: Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission at 200 S. 9th St in Springfield, Illinois.

The funding would be used to institute a re-development plan for Macarthur Blvd between 172 and S. Grand.

LEONARD ABESS, JR.

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2009

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Leonard Abess, Jr. a

Miami, Florida banker who openhandedly and unselfishly took \$60 million out of his own pocket to give bonuses to former employees and the current staff on the payroll at City National Bank of Florida to thank them for their years of service.

Current chairman and CEO of City National Bank of Florida, Mr. Abess made the decision after selling a majority stake in Miami-based City National Bancshares in November 2008. He took \$60 million of the proceeds and gave it to his tellers, bookkeepers and clerks. All 399 workers on the staff received bonuses. Additionally, Mr. Abess tracked down 72 former employees so they could share in the windfall. Some longtime employees received bonuses based on years of service which amounted to tens of thousands of dollars, in some cases more than \$100,000.

In April 2008, Mr. Abess announced that Caja Madrid, the second-largest bank in Spain, was buying City National for \$1 billion. With more than \$2.75 billion in assets, City National ranked among the largest community banks in the country and was one of the few remaining independent banks in Florida.

When Abess said, "We want to be the biggest bank in Florida . . . I'm not walking away from my customers or employees,"—he kept his word. The deal would allow Mr. Abess to continue to run the bank and retain his title, as well as a 17 percent stake. Most importantly, local City National offices did not close and were not sold off.

Mr. Abess' selfless generosity proved that although we are currently in an era of economic downfalls, unethical behavior and corporate conspiracy, one can still stand strong on their own charitable, altruistic morality. Now, Mr. Abess will receive a prized bonus of his own when he will have the opportunity to watch President Barack Obama's speech to a joint session of Congress from First Lady Michelle Obama's box on February 23, 2009. Ms. Geneva Lawson, a 51 year employee at City National Bank of Florida, will also accompany Mr. Abess to see history in the making.

It is an honor to have the privilege to recognize this valued leader before the United States House of Representatives. I salute Mr. Leonard Abess, Jr. on behalf of his selfless deed and great acts of gratitude, and believe that all Americans can learn from his benevolence, commitment and passion. I wish him every happiness and success.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF KOREAN AMBASSADOR TAE-SIK LEE

HON. ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2009

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and bid farewell to my friend, Ambassador Tae-Sik Lee, who since 2005 has represented his country, the Republic of Korea, in Washington.

Ambassador Lee first served as a diplomat in Washington in the early 1980s and later earned a degree from the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University. After serving in numerous posts in Seoul and other world capitals, his return to Washington nearly four years ago was in many ways a homecoming.

While I would like to dwell on Ambassador Lee's series of distinguished positions in service to his country—Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ambassador to the Court of St. James in London, Ambassador to Israel, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Director-General of the International Trade Bureau and Deputy Executive Director of Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization—the limited time I have will not do justice to his distinguished service. However, I wish to point that during his tenure as Ambassador to the United States, the alliance of our two countries has grown stronger and deeper.

For instance, in 2007, the United States and South Korea signed a Free Trade Agreement that will result in significant, measurable benefits to businesses, workers, and consumers in both of our countries.

Last November, Korea successfully joined the Visa Waiver Program, which makes travel between Korea and the United States much easier for tourists, business leaders, family members, students, and others.

Additionally, by an act of Congress, Korea's Foreign Military Sales status was elevated to the equivalent of NATO+3. This change in status will have a positive impact both in terms of military readiness and enhanced interoperability of our two countries' armed forces.

Throughout Ambassador Lee's time in Washington, South Korea and the United States have remained steadfast in efforts to solve the North Korean nuclear problem and to ensure continued peace, stability, and prosperity in the Northeast Asia region. Ambassador Lee also skillfully managed often vexing and sensitive historical issues ranging from "Comfort Women" to the Dokdo Islands.

Also during Ambassador Lee's tenure, the Congress passed resolutions that included celebrating the U.S.-Korea alliance, welcoming President Myung-Bak Lee to Washington in April 2007 and calling for justice on the "Comfort Women" issue. All these important accomplishments underscore Ambassador Lee's thoughtful diplomacy and willingness to engage Members of Congress, no matter how challenging the issue at hand.

Ambassador Lee did not limit his work to our nation's capital. He often traveled throughout the United States and, on many occasions, spoke to groups of American veterans of the Korean War, offering the gratitude of his people and thanking them personally for their service and sacrifice.

The strong friendship between the United States and the Republic of Korea has been immeasurably enhanced by the professionalism, cordiality, intelligence and friendship of Ambassador Lee.

Madam Speaker, while Ambassador Lee goes on to new responsibilities and new experiences, I ask that my colleagues join with me to offer our thanks and congratulations as we bid the Ambassador a fond farewell. We wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2009