

Requesting Member: Congressman VERN BUCHANAN

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Project

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Sarasota County

Address of Requesting Entity: 1660 Ringling Boulevard, Sarasota, FL 34236

Description of Request: I secured \$500,000 for the Phillippi Creek Septic System.

Obsolete septic tanks are a source of wastewater pollution in Phillippi Creek, and thus, all of lower Sarasota Bay, along with its estuaries. The Phillippi Creek Septic Tank Replacement Program is underway to replace failing septic systems and connect approximately 15,000 low-income homes and businesses to central sewer in the Phillippi Creek Basin.

Requesting Member: Congressman VERN BUCHANAN

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)—Health Facilities and Services

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Manatee Community College

Address of Requesting Entity: 5840 26th Street West, Bradenton FL 34207

Description of Request: I secured \$95,000 for a Medical Technology and Simulation Center at Manatee Community College (MCC).

Through state and private initiatives over many years, MCC has been able to secure funding to construct a Medical Technology and Simulation Center. What is now needed are resources to outfit the Center with the equipment to operate a functional teaching program and Community Health Clinic. The proposed expansion of MCC's nursing program will accommodate up to 48 new nursing students each year and help provide the community with additional health care services it requires. This investment in classroom and clinical infrastructure will allow the College to immediately expand its program in terms of both student enrollment and reach. Without additional funding the prohibitive costs associated with nursing programs would create an indefinite barrier to the College's ability to meet this community need.

Requesting Member: Congressman VERN BUCHANAN

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Department of Education—Higher Education

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: New College of Florida

Address of Requesting Entity: 5800 Bay Shore Road, Sarasota, FL 34243

Description of Request: I secured \$95,000 for a Smart Library for New College in my district.

Libraries are no longer about books and journals, microfiche and card catalogs. The libraries of the future will deal with the business of information management. They are becoming centers for community research and civic engagement. New College of Florida is poised to engage and enhance the digital assets at the Jane Bancroft Cook Library, a joint-use facility for New College of Florida, the University of South Florida Sarasota/Manatee, Manatee Community College, and citizens in the Manatee and Sarasota communities. The Cook Library/Smart Library plan will include:

Creating a variety of digital collections open to students, faculty, staff, and the community;

Acquiring basic sets of digital images to enrich the curriculum (environmental studies, art history, music, history, anthropology, biology, math, physics, business, education, criminal justice, etc.) and for use in educational and community outreach;

Purchasing equipment to digitize, analyze, and archive images and video created for research and teaching purposes;

Managing a full complement of digital assets, including audio, video, internet and metadata;

Developing educational, public outreach programs and facilitating public forums;

Providing a variety of workstation (PC, Mac) to allow for ease of access by faculty/students/staff/public;

Establishing Smart Collaborative Spaces where groups can interact using the best technology available.

Located on the Sarasota-Manatee county border, Cook Library is strategically placed to be an information hub for all the higher education institutions and the citizens of the counties they serve.

TRIBUTE TO VINCENT FEMIA

HON. MICHAEL A. ARCURI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mr. ARCURI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Vincent Femia—a resident of my district in Upstate New York—for his outstanding achievements at the 2009 Special Olympic Winter World Games held in Boise, Idaho. Vincent played an integral role in helping Team USA capture a gold medal during the 4x1K freestyle cross-country relay. He also earned a silver medal for his performance in the 7.5K freestyle cross-country race, and a bronze medal in the 5K cross-country race.

At only 24 years old, Vincent has a long and distinguished history of participation in the Special Olympics, earning eight gold medals in Nordic skiing over the past 15 years. Since first taking to the slopes at the age of five, Vincent's stamina and strength have earned him the nickname, The Machine.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Vincent's accomplishments in the Special Olympic Games, and look forward to tracking his future success. Please join me in congratulating Vincent on this occasion.

IN HONOR OF SHOLEM ALEICHEM
AND TO CONGRATULATE
LIMMUND FSU

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the life of acclaimed Russian-Jewish writer and humorist Mr. Sholem Aleichem, whose 150th birthday was this past Monday, March 2, and to congratulate Limmund FSU on the events it is sponsoring this week in New York City, Tel Aviv, and Kiev to commemorate this momentous event.

Born as Sholem Rabinovitch on March 2, 1859 in Pereyaslav, Ukraine, Sholem

Aleichem showed his writing talents at a young age. In 1879, he began publishing stories in Hebrew. Just a few years later, in 1883, he began publishing stories in Yiddish and, because Yiddish was not considered by some appropriate for legitimate writing, he adopted his now famous pseudonym: Sholem Aleichem.

This was the beginning of a long and distinguished literary career, in which Sholem Aleichem wrote and published dozens of short stories, plays, and novels in Yiddish, Hebrew, and Russian. He is best known for his writing in Yiddish and his role as one of the pre-eminent Yiddish authors. His efforts, through his own works and his promotion of the writing of others, did as much as anyone to promote Yiddish as an art form.

His works were widely popular, as they were both meaningful and humorous with an ability to teach and entertain. They also reflected the real lives and problems of their readers. Through his work, Sholem Aleichem left behind a rich portrayal of Jewish life and culture in Eastern Europe and Russia at the turn of the century. In fact, it was his stories that were the inspiration for the popular musical, *Fiddler on the Roof*. It is no wonder that he became known as the "Jewish Mark Twain."

Well after his death in New York City in 1916, his popularity continues to this day. His timeless works have been translated into many languages, including English, making accessible his unique literary talents to millions more. Monuments have been erected to him in Kiev and Moscow. And, in New York City, East 33rd Street, between Park Avenue and Madison Avenue, is named "Sholem Aleichem Place." It is only fitting that we pause on this, the occasion of his 150th birthday, to celebrate Sholem Aleichem and his contribution both to Jewish life and culture and to humanity as a whole.

Indeed, people will be remembering Sholem Aleichem all around the world thanks to the efforts of Limmund FSU. Limmund FSU is a volunteer organization whose goal is to help build bridges between Russian-speaking Jews and their Jewish history and culture. I want to take this opportunity to congratulate Limmund FSU on the events it is sponsoring this week to honor Sholem Aleichem. It could not have picked a better person to honor and I want to thank everyone involved for their tremendous efforts.

SUPPORTING THE JAMES A.
LOVELL FEDERAL HEALTH CARE
CENTER

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, today I join my colleague from Illinois, Ms. BEAN, in introducing legislation to enhance the innovative health care resource sharing underway between the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense in North Chicago, Illinois.

Ten years ago the VA was trying to close the North Chicago VA hospital, claiming it was underutilized and that veterans could easily commute 40 or 50 miles into Chicago for treatment. At the same time, the Navy was planning to close its 40-year-old hospital at Great

Lakes that had earned a reputation for being "30 stories tall with 30 patients." Even though there were four brand-new, unused inpatient wards at the VA hospital a quarter-mile away, the federal government was preparing to spend \$180 million to replace an outdated military hospital and close a VA hospital with an increasing number of patients. This simply made no sense.

In 2001 I began urging the Navy and the VA to examine ways they can coordinate their efforts and share resources in North Chicago. After four years of intense work, and thanks in large part to the efforts of then-Navy Secretary Gordon England and then-Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs Leo McKay, the two departments in 2005 agreed not only to share resources, but to fully integrate the two facilities. Last year, they announced that the joint facility would be named for a local hero, Captain Jim Lovell, hero of Apollo XIII.

This bold plan is now recognized as the model for future collaboration between the VA and DOD, and integration is well underway. They have already merged inpatient care, mental health, surgery and the emergency room. When the new facility opens in the summer of 2010, Navy and VA will fully integrate the two organizations by combining clinical and administrative operations.

In order to fully integrate the two institutions, though, a few statutory changes are required. This legislation would give the Defense Department and the VA the authority needed to open an integrated federal health care facility in 2010. The bill authorizes the departments to transfer property and personnel as needed and in a manner consistent with existing law governing transfers of civilian federal employees between agencies.

Our bill also extends the VA/DOD Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund until 2020 from its current expiration date of 2010. The daily operations at Lovell Hospital will be so integrated that it will be difficult to determine whose resources produced the care given, whether VA or DoD. This account is funded by both the VA and DOD, and both departments agree that it is the most appropriate mechanism to fund the joint facility and give its leadership the greatest flexibility to operate in a combined manner.

Finally, our legislation designates Lovell Hospital as a military treatment facility, a technical designation needed to prevent military retirees under the TRICARE system from being forced to make costly co-payments when they receive care at the joint facility. Given that the inpatient, surgical, mental health, and emergency services are already combined, thousands of TRICARE beneficiaries in northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin are already subject to co-pays that should not come out of their pocket. The vision for Lovell Hospital is to provide care for active duty sailors, DOD beneficiaries, and veterans side-by-side in one fully integrated facility. The integration has been so successful, we need to update current law to recognize that Lovell Hospital serves both veterans and Navy personnel.

CONGRATULATING JAMES J. FLAHERTY, RECIPIENT OF THE 2009 W. FRANCIS SWINGLE AWARD FROM THE GREATER PITTSBURY FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mr. James J. Flaherty, the 2009 recipient of the W. Francis Swingle Award from the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick for his many years of dedicated service to that organization.

Mr. Flaherty was born and raised in Pittston, Pennsylvania. He graduated from St. John's High School in 1960 and Penn State University in 1963.

Mr. Flaherty joined Chamberlain Manufacturing Corporation's Scranton Division in July, 1963, as a draftsman in the engineering department. In July, 1972, he was promoted to Operations Manager and, in July of 1978, he was transferred to Chamberlain's New Bedford, Maine operation as Assistant General Manager.

In 1986, Mr. Flaherty was promoted to Vice President and General Manager of the New Bedford, Maine, operation. He served in that capacity until July, 1991, when the New Bedford operation ceased production and he relocated back to Scranton as Vice President and General Manager of that division. In 2003, Mr. Flaherty was named President of Chamberlain Manufacturing Corporation. In July, 2006, General Dynamics Ordnance and Tactical Systems acquired Chamberlain. Mr. Flaherty remained in Scranton as Vice President and General Manager.

Mr. Flaherty is a member of the ARMS Public Private Task Force Executive Advisory Committee and the Industrial Committee of Ammunition Producers. He is also past president of the board of directors of the Northeast Pennsylvania Industrial Resource Center; serves on the board of directors of the local chapter of the Salvation Army; is a member of The Lions Club and was an elected member of the Moscow Borough Council.

In February, 2009, Mr. Flaherty was inducted into the Ancient Order of St. Barbara, the patron saint of the U.S. Army Field Artillery, for 45 years of service to our soldiers. A son of the late James and Jean Joyce Flaherty, he and his wife, Sheila, have two children and five grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Flaherty on this auspicious occasion. His commitment to his family, his profession and his community has earned him widespread respect throughout the region.

CELEBRATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF SIAS INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY IN XINZHENG, CHINA

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate SIAS International University in Xinzheng, Henan Province, China on its 10th Anniversary as an institution of higher education.

Founded in 1999, SIAS International University is a new type of post-secondary experience striving to prepare students to be global citizens. Affiliated with Zhengzhou University and in cooperation with Fort Hays State University of Hays, Kansas, SIAS was designed to provide Chinese students with an educational experience that blends Chinese educational philosophies with western-style curriculum and techniques, offering students the skills needed to compete and prosper in our increasingly interconnected world.

Licensed by the Henan Provincial Education Commission, SIAS is the first Chinese institution permitted by the Chinese State Degree Office to offer core classes in Western Civilization, Sociology and Government, providing students the ability to explore new ways to think about business and liberal arts. SIAS International University is also the first solely American-owned University in Central China; thus, Chinese students earn both Chinese and American education degrees and are able to apply their skills within trans-national corporations and enterprises.

Fort Hays State University and all of Western Kansas benefit from this relationship. The university has seen an increase in the number of international students on campus which enriches the learning experiences for students, faculty, and administrators. Additionally, the community has benefitted from numerous programs that have been created to share music, art and culture with these international students.

The partnership between SIAS International University and Fort Hays State University is the perfect example of our world flattening—of east meeting west. Even the architecture on the SIAS campus, including the main administration building, symbolizes this marriage of cultures, with one side representing the Forbidden City in classical Chinese architecture, and the other modeled after our own United States Capitol Building. This western-inspired campus serves as an appropriate environment for a new way of thinking for the Chinese students and faculty.

The friendship between the United States of America and the People's Republic of China fosters an exchange of cultural richness and advances our mutual aspirations. The relationship between SIAS International University and Fort Hays State University is one part of this paradigm. Both China and America must work diligently to preserve this friendship and search for ways to recognize accomplishments when they are due. And today, recognition is due to SIAS International University for ten years of success.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in congratulating the Founder and Chairman of SIAS International University, Mr. Shawn