

In 1993, when the Public Lands Corps was established through the good work of our late colleague Bruce Vento of Minnesota, there were huge backlogs in labor-intensive work needed on national park lands, forests, wildlife refuges, historic sites and Indian lands.

Today, we still face those challenges and more: years of inadequate funding have put these agencies further behind on vital maintenance work while infrastructure continues to crumble. Despite the best efforts of our underfunded agencies, natural and cultural resources have been neglected, and in many places the effects of climate change are magnifying earlier problems such as fire risk, damage by insects and invasive species and fragmented habitat.

We have started to attack this problem with the recently passed stimulus legislation, but that is only a start. Much remains to be done on public lands.

The Public Lands Corps is built on a long and proud tradition of conservation service on Federal lands that extends back to President Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Civilian Conservation Corps. That peace-time army, numbering some 3 million young Americans, planted trees, fought fires, maintained trails and built shelters across our nation. The Youth Conservation Corps has given hundreds of thousands of young people valuable skills and experience while undertaking valuable conservation work.

In fiscal year 2008 alone, over 4,000 young people spent countless hours on 289 projects at 111 national park units mending trails, cleaning up campgrounds, controlling erosion, restoring habitat, and other projects to repair and restore park lands, facilities and resources. That was in national parks alone; imagine what we could accomplish if more federal agencies harnessed that pool of talent and enthusiasm for the benefit of our public lands, waters, and coastal and marine systems.

My bill will amend the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993 to expand the authority of the Interior and Agriculture Departments (including such agencies as the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) to provide service-learning opportunities on public lands; help restore the nation's natural, cultural, historic, archaeological, recreational and scenic resources; train a new generation of public land managers and enthusiasts; and promote the value of public service.

Additionally, the bill adds authority for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to participate in the program. NOAA, an agency of the Commerce Department, manages the National Marine Sanctuaries System, and with this new authority will be able to offer Corps members a chance to work in restoring coastal and marine systems along our oceans and the Great Lakes.

The bill will reinvigorate the Public Lands Corps programs by modernizing the scope of Corps projects to reflect new challenges, such as climate change; and adding incentives to attract new participants, especially from under-represented populations.

The legislation will ensure that, during their service term, participants receive adequate training for the work they have been assigned, including agency-specific standards, principles

and practices. Language to ensure adequate housing, authorize participants in existing volunteer programs to contribute both as mentors and on Corps projects, expand the program for college and graduate students, and broaden preferential hire provisions is also included.

The bill would rename the corps as the Public Lands Service Corps, and remove the \$12 million authorization ceiling, paving the way for increased funding for this excellent program.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased that President Obama and Interior Secretary Salazar have made national service a priority, and I am delighted to be a strong supporter of the GIVE Act, which we are considering this week. I want to thank the gentleman from California, Chairman MILLER, for his very generous assistance in the drafting of the Public Lands Corps amendments I am introducing today.

I also want to thank the gentleman from West Virginia, Chairman RAHALL, the chairman of the other committee on which I am proud to serve, the Natural Resources Committee, for his support of this legislation. Other members have also indicated their interest in service-learning on public lands, and I look forward to working with them, and with members of the other body who have a long interest in the Public Lands Corps.

Madam Speaker, we know the tasks and challenges that confront our land and water management agencies are great. This bill will help us meet those challenges.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. MELINDA HSIA

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2009

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Melinda Hsia of South Pasadena, California. Every March we celebrate Women's History Month in recognition of the contributions and the sacrifices made by our nation's women. Accordingly it is my privilege to highlight Dr. Hsia as a woman whose extraordinary efforts are vital to my district.

Born in San Francisco, Melinda graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, with a major in Bacteriology and received her Doctor of Pharmacy at the University of Southern California. She began to master the art of multi-tasking while working at the Glendale Adventist Medical Center for 16 years, when in addition to her medical pursuits, she obtained her real estate license and sold houses part-time. By the time her children, Andrew and Chloe, were born and her husband, Tom, retired, Melinda had become a veteran at juggling multiple roles. Outside of her volunteer efforts Melinda is an avid gardener and a pharmacist at Costco Alhambra where she counsels everyone from pediatric to elderly patients.

Melinda's children have inspired her community involvement year after year. She began as a PTA member at their elementary school, helping to coordinate talent shows, musical productions, and promotions. Once her children entered high school, Melinda became the South Pasadena Music Boosters Club President and an active member of several other committees which coordinate fundraisers and competitions to support athletic and school clubs. She is currently South Pasadena High

School's PTSA Vice President of Programs. In this capacity, Melinda coordinates speaker forums such as "Over-the-Counter Drugs and Teens" and the Developing Capable Young People series. In 2007 she received South Pasadena High School's PTSA Volunteer of the Year award.

In addition to her PTSA involvement, Melinda serves her community as repeat President of the South Pasadena Chinese American Club, which raises funds for local public schools and community projects. The American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, Huntington Library's Chinese Garden, the South Pasadena Educational Foundation, and the Union Station Foundation's Adopt-A-Meal program have all benefitted from Melinda's exemplary philanthropic leadership. She has supplemented her already busy schedule with positions on South Pasadena School District's Real Estate and Budget Advisory Committees and sits on the Board of Directors for the City's Chamber of Commerce.

Melinda's handiwork adorns the entire South Pasadena community, whether as a refurbished classroom or as a floral centerpiece, and her selfless service is an invaluable addition to the legacy of Women's History Month. Her devotion has even created a new generation of volunteers: daughter Chloe was recently named a Bronze and Silver Congressional Award Medalist. With gratitude and admiration, I ask all Members of Congress to join me in honoring an extraordinary woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Dr. Melinda Hsia.

IN HONOR OF EDWIN E. BLISS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2009

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American and community servant, Edwin E. Bliss of Carmel, California for his lifetime of achievements and service above self. Edwin is a highly respected long time resident of the Monterey Peninsula. All of us who have had the good fortune over the years to befriend him, know that Edwin always exhibits his core values of respect, truth, and goodness.

Edwin Earl Bliss was born in Ridgefield, Washington near Portland, Oregon on March 19, 1919. The son of a successful dairy rancher and respected school teacher, Edwin displayed uncommon leadership skills early and often. Editor in high school, fraternity president in college and manager of the Charlton Hotel in Cannes, France while serving as an Army officer during World War II, Edwin led others by example, humility and compassion.

After the war, Ed moved his small family from rural Washington State to quiet Carmel. Called back into the Army to serve in Korea he moved his wife and three children back to Washington to be near family and friends. Upon his release from the military, Ed returned his young excited family permanently back to the Monterey Peninsula.

Here Edwin lives the American dream, raising a wonderful family, building a beautiful home and selflessly serving his community. Edwin Bliss's sense of honesty and respect has guided and propelled him through a successful career in the insurance industry and

community service. Leadership with the Pacific Grove Kiwanis, the USO, YMCA and the Life Underwriters Association are just some of the many boards he has served on. But his greatest community love is the Monterey History and Art Association. As a long time board member and President from 1964–65 he was instrumental in laying the early groundwork to establish the Monterey Maritime Museum. While a board member for the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Edwin helped place the Cooper-Molera Adobe in Monterey on the National Registry of Historic Places. In addition, Edwin served on the first board to insure the preservation of Robinson Jeffers' Tor House.

Perhaps Edwin's greatest social love has been the Ancient and Honorable Society of Buckeye. Founded by close friend and then State Senator, Fred S. Farr, Ed has been its guiding light for over fifty years. This annual gathering of ranchers, fishermen, politicians, musicians, doctors, lawyers, educators and businessmen has given rise to local legends and many community events.

Madam Speaker, Edwin Bliss's accomplishments are distinguished and numerous. Edwin has lived an exemplary life grounded in truth, goodness and respect for others. I know my fellow members join me in congratulating him on his 90th birthday.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2009

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, in accordance with the February 2008 New Republican Earmark Standards Guidance, I submit the following in regards to the Fiscal Year 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act found in H.R. 1105:

ENERGY AND WATER—ARKANSAS RIVER FISH HABITAT, KANSAS

H.R. 1105, the FY 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act contains a line item for the Arkansas River Fish Habitat in the Army Corps of Engineers' Section 206 account. The entity to receive funding for this project is the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Tulsa District located at 1645 S. 101 East Ave., Tulsa, OK 74128.

The funding will be used to address the feasibility of improving 122 acres of various types of habitat along the Arkansas River in Kansas. This money could be used to complete Plans and Specifications for this proposed restoration site.

This project complies with matching fund requirements.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. JAMES F. SLOAN ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AFTER 34 YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2009

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a fellow Army veteran, a man of

great integrity and an unwavering sense of commitment to his Nation, Mr. James F. Sloan, on the occasion of his retirement after 34 distinguished years of public service.

I have had the pleasure of working with Mr. Sloan in his role as the Coast Guard's Assistant Commandant for Intelligence. When he assumed his duties in 2003, the Coast Guard had only two years earlier been designated a member of the Intelligence Community. In the years since, Mr. Sloan has been responsible for modernizing the Coast Guard intelligence program to keep pace with an ever-expanding and increasingly complex set of national security threats.

Mr. Sloan has also worked to cultivate extensive relationships and collaborative partnerships with other elements of the Intelligence Community. He has been an enthusiastic advocate for bringing the Coast Guard's wide-ranging expertise to bear in a variety of crucial national missions. Under his leadership, the Coast Guard has become an integral actor in the fight against terrorism, providing port security, conducting maritime interdiction, and supplying essential tactical and operational intelligence to a variety of other U.S. Government agencies.

I would be remiss if I failed to mention Mr. Sloan's 21 years of service with the United States Secret Service. During more than two decades, he served as the agency's Deputy Assistant Director for Protective Operations and later as the Senior Program Manager of the Anti-Terrorism programs, where he represented the Secret Service on the National Security Council.

The Nation is better and safer as a result of Mr. Sloan's service. For that, we thank him.

TRIBUTE TO 2009 JOHNSON COUNTY MOVERS AND SHAKERS AWARD WINNERS

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2009

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to note an important event in the Third Congressional District of Kansas. On April 14, 2009, the Volunteer Center of Johnson County in Overland Park, KS, will honor outstanding youth volunteers. Eighty young people have been nominated by school personnel and nonprofit organizations for their dedication and service to the community. Youth volunteerism continues to grow and be a strong force in Johnson County. These 110 young people exemplify the true meaning of volunteerism and giving back to their community. It is my honor to recognize each student volunteer and their schools by listing them in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

MOVERS AND SHAKERS CLASS OF 2009

Rana Aliani—Barstow; Colton Anderson—Prairie Trail Jr. High; Samantha Atwell—Olathe South High School; Amber Atwell—Olathe South High School; Sydney Ayers—Barstow; Katie Bauer—Mill Valley High School; Mica Bengtson—Olathe South High School; Terrance M. Benson II—Shawnee Mission North High School; Ben Berger—Blue Valley Northwest High School; Briana Bowen—Shawnee Mission West High School; Nathaniel Bozarth—Olathe North High School; Jessica Brown—Shawnee Mission

North High School; Tanner Buzick—Prairie Trail Jr. High; Sally Carmichael—Shawnee Mission West High School; Kristy Carter—Olathe North High School; Caitlin Carter—Shawnee Mission West High School; William Cleek—Olathe North High School; Patrick Connell—Shawnee Mission West High School; Elizabeth Cornell—Olathe South High School; Hannah Cosgrove—Shawnee Mission East High School; Arielle Daniel—Olathe Northwest High School; Rudy Date—Blue Valley Northwest High School; Ben Davis—Shawnee Mission Northwest High School; Tyler Day—Prairie Trail Jr. High; Allison Ens—Olathe Northwest High School; Miranda Erickson—Olathe South High School; Amy Esselman—Shawnee Mission East High School; Emily Feder—Blue Valley Middle School; Melissa Gaddis—Olathe South High School; Evan Gage—Blue Valley Northwest High School.

Jennifer Garren—Shawnee Mission West High School; Christy Garren—Westridge Middle School; Kevin Garrett—Shawnee Mission West High School; Michael Garrett—Shawnee Mission West High School; Andy Gottschalk—Westridge Middle School; Lauren Gregory—Heritage Home School; Jonathan Gregory—Shawnee Mission Northwest High School; Robert Hale—Shawnee Mission West High School; Gabrielle Hanna—Chisholm Trail Jr. High; Amneet Hans—Olathe North High School; Myra Hawkins—Shawnee Mission West High School; Rebekah Hayner—Olathe Northwest High School; Cara Heneger—Shawnee Mission East High School; Lauren Hiatt—Olathe North High School; Taylor Hiatt—Olathe North High School; Tyler Howard—Olathe Northwest High School; Liz Huston—Olathe Northwest High School; Shelby Johnson—Olathe South High School; Taylor Johnston—Shawnee Mission West High School; Chantal Jorawsky—Olathe North High School; Katie Kelter—Olathe Northwest High School; Sean Kennedy—Shawnee Mission North High School; Joshua Kennedy—Shawnee Mission Christian School; Jordyn Kittle—Mill Valley High School; Rachel Knapp—Shawnee Mission West High School; Nicole Knapp—Shawnee Mission West High School; Kelli Koch—Mill Valley High School; Jessica Kruger—Olathe North High School; Samuel Linan—Olathe Northwest High School; Danielle Lucido—Lakewood Middle School.

Jessie Lueck—Blue Valley Northwest High School; Olivia Mansheim—Olathe East High School; Connor McGoldrick—Shawnee Mission West High School; Ashley Mercer—Westridge Middle School; Ashlyn Midyett—Olathe Northwest High School; Collin Myers—Lakewood Middle School; Paige Nawalany—Shawnee Mission Northwest High School; Nicholas Nawalany—Shawnee Mission Northwest High School; Jack Nelson—Olathe Northwest High School; Lucy O'Connor—Shawnee Mission East High School; Alexandra Olsen—Olathe Northwest High School; Chris Ouyang—Blue Valley Northwest High School; Aalok Patel—Olathe North High School; Nisha Patel—Olathe Northwest High School; Alex Pentola—Olathe South High School; Wade Pittrich—Shawnee Mission Northwest High School; Matthew Ramirez—Olathe North High School; Andy Rao—Blue Valley Northwest High School; Gabrielle Rehor—Trailridge Middle School; Logan Reilly—Westridge Middle School; Rachel Riedel—Westridge Middle School; Angela Ritz—Olathe North High School; Anna Robb—Shawnee Mission West High School; Dayna Rucker—Shawnee Mission North High School; Bethany Ruder—Olathe South High School; Bradley Schmalz—Shawnee Mission Northwest High School; Courtney Schmitz—Olathe South High School; Taylor Schwartz—Barstow; Caleb Shelton—Olathe South High School;