

Address of Requesting Entity: 1 Aviation Circle, Washington, D.C. 20001

Description of Request: H.R. 1105 provides \$29.1 million to be used for extending the Metrorail system through Tysons Corner to Washington Dulles International Airport. Northern Virginia continues to be one of the country's fastest growing areas, but with that has come the distinction of being the second worst traffic congested region in America. Congressional funding to bring a much needed mass transit system linking the West Falls Church Metro station to Washington Dulles International Airport was first approved in FY 1999.

Additional Request: I also requested language in this bill that would prohibit the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) from reallocating previously appropriated funding for the Dulles Corridor Rapid Transit Project. Specifically, I requested that the funding from FY 2002, FY 2003, FY 2004, FY 2005, FY 2006 and FY 2008 be protected.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT BRACKIN

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the town of Loxley, Alabama, and all of southwest Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor Franklin Roosevelt Brackin and pay tribute to his memory.

Known to his many friends as Frank, he was a native of Covington, Alabama and lived in Loxley for over three decades. Frank was known to everyone in Loxley for riding his bicycle adorned with American flags through town. He took it upon himself to monitor the flags flown on the town's public property, and he would notify the staff at Town Hall if he spotted a problem.

Each day, Frank ate breakfast at the Loxley Civic Center with other seniors, and he visited the Fire Department, Police Department and merchants along Alabama Highway 59. As Frank grew older and traffic increased, he began making his daily visits on foot, at which time, Loxley police provided him with an orange safety vest to make him more visible as he traveled throughout the community.

Frank was also a member of the Association of Retarded Citizens of Baldwin County (ARCBC). Each year, he and other ARCBC members traveled to either Disney World or Dollywood, which was always a highlight of his year. Frank was also active in the Baldwin County Strawberry Festival, serving on the cleanup committee for many years.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a beloved friend to many throughout southwest Alabama. Franklin Roosevelt Brackin will be dearly missed by his family—his two brothers, his sister, and the entire town of Loxley—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

A LIFE LIVED FOR OTHERS: A
TRIBUTE TO GEORGE K. STEIL,
SR.

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a loving father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, a devoted husband, and a personal friend and mentor. George K. Steil, Sr. was a pillar of integrity and leadership in the Janesville community and the state of Wisconsin. George passed away less than a month ago at his home in Janesville, but not before leaving an indelible mark on the countless lives he touched—myself included. He will be sorely missed, but will never, ever, be forgotten.

George was born in Western Wisconsin in 1924, and served his nation with honor in World War II as a sergeant in the U.S. Army Amphibious Forces in both New Guinea and the Philippines. Shortly after his return from service, George married the beautiful Mavis Andrews in 1947 in Darlington, Wisconsin.

George is an institution at the University of Wisconsin—having received a Doctor of Law Degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1950, been named a lecturer at UW in 1974, and having received the law school's highest honor—the Alumni Distinguished Service Award in 1991. He was appointed by Governor Tommy Thompson to the UW Board of Regents, serving as the Board's President from 1992–1994, as well as Chairperson of the UW Medical Foundation and member of the UW Hospital Authority.

He had among the most illustrious legal careers of any in the State of Wisconsin, serving on numerous statewide—and international—committees and associations. George was elected president of the State Bar in 1976, and later honored by the Wisconsin Bar Foundation as the 9th recipient of the Charles L. Goldberg Distinguished Service Award for his outstanding public service as a citizen, an attorney, and a humanitarian.

His leadership in the community was also unparalleled. He has served as President and Senior Partner of Brennan, Steil, and Basting in Janesville, having been with the firm from 1960 until his death. George had been President of Janesville's Chamber of Commerce; Chairman of the Board of Directors of Bank One in Janesville; and took countless other leading roles in both the public and private sector. He had also been recognized for his commitment to the Catholic Church and the Diocese of Madison. George's commitment to faith was evident in all he did, as his service to God was manifest in his tireless service to others.

His long list of achievements and honors fails to do justice in describing the type of man George Steil was. My father was George's law partner, and I had the privilege of getting to know the Steil family during the formative years of my life. Because I lost my father at a young age, George became a mentor of mine. He gave me the kind of fatherly guidance and encouragement that I so desperately needed as I grew up and faced life's many challenges. Unlike any other, I looked to George as a role model, and was blessed to be taken under his wing.

George Steil dedicated his life to the service of others: to his fellow countrymen in the U.S. Army; to his neighbors—especially those most vulnerable—in Janesville, Rock County, and Wisconsin; to his clients, his customers, and fellow parishioners; and—most passionately—to his friends and his family.

To George's four children: George, Jr. and wife Patricia; John of Janesville; Michelle and husband Patrick; and Marcelaine and husband John. Your father will forever be one of Janesville's finest.

To his two great-grandchildren and ten grandchildren, including my former and future staffers Bryan and Allison Steil: your grandfather's zest for life and selfless commitment to service provides a guiding light for you to follow for years to come.

To his wife Mavis: For your unconditional love and support over the years, I will forever be in debt to you and to your husband.

My prayers and my eternal gratitude remain with the Steil family.

IN MEMORY OF ROBERT E. "BOB"
WHEELER

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Robert E. "Bob" Wheeler of Hot Springs, who passed away on April 16, 2009, at the age of 72. Affectionately called "Mister Hot Springs," Bob dedicated his life's work to Hot Springs, the city he loved and the city he called home.

Bob was a hard worker and an inspiring leader, and it was his vision that helped make Hot Springs the vibrant center of tourism, commerce and history that it is today. In response to the city's struggling economy in the 1980s, Bob was instrumental in passing bond issues that renovated and expanded the former Hot Springs Convention Auditorium into the Hot Springs Convention Center, a state-of-the-art conference facility that now hosts groups from across the country. He was also key in reopening the Magic Springs & Crystal Falls amusement park, as well as envisioning and seeing to completion Summit Arena, which now hosts major concerts and athletic events.

In an official capacity, Bob served as the City Director from 1986 until 2004, when he declined to run for re-election. He also served on the Hot Springs Advertising and Promotion Commission for 15 years, being named the commission's only "Commissioner Emeritus" upon his retirement.

Bob was a successful businessman heading Wheeler Printing, and he was the motivation for making Hot Springs the permanent home of the Miss Arkansas Pageant, where he served more than 40 years as the state pageant's Executive Director.

Realizing the city's important contributions to Arkansas over the years, Bob's vision included a city that recognizes and honors its past and traditions while embracing change and economic development. Today, as a direct result of Bob's efforts, Hot Springs is a year-round destination for conventions and tourists and a thriving community in which to raise a family.