

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 7, 2009

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I, KAY GRANGER, submit the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 3081, the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act of Fiscal Year 2010 for the language pertaining to "Sister Cities International Cultural and Economic Development Exchange Programs." Any funding granted by the Department of State Educational and Cultural Exchange Programs account would go to Sister Cities International, 1301 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Suite 850, Washington, DC 2004. It is my understanding that the funding would be used to support Sister Cities International's ongoing initiatives to increase the numbers of international citizen exchange opportunities through its network with Africa and Islamic communities. Once funded, there is a one-to-one match of local private dollars to re-granted federal dollars. The City of Fort Worth, TX, is an active partner in Sister Cities International, leading in U.S. public diplomacy efforts.

BLACK MUSIC MONTH

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

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 7, 2009

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 476, celebrating the 30th anniversary of June as "Black Music Month". I would like to thank my colleague Representative STEVE COHEN from Tennessee for introducing this important piece of legislation, as well as the co-sponsors.

I stand in support of this resolution because it is continuing to recognize the importance that black music has played in American culture. Many American made genres of music such as jazz, blues, gospel, rock and roll, and the rhythm and blues owe their existence to the contribution of black musicians in the past. Georgians such as Tenor Richard Hayes, born in 1887 to former slaves, was one of the most important African-American tenors performing in classical music during the first part of the 20th century. Hayes was one of the highest paid musicians of his time breaking down color barriers for other black classical performers such as Paul Robeson, Leontyne Price, William Dawson, William Grant Still, and even Duke Ellington. As well as other native Georgia artists like Ray Charles, one of the main creators of "soul music", who is well known for his unique version of "America the Beautiful". Charles' rendition of "Georgia on My Mind" was proclaimed the state song on April 24, 1979.

This resolution aims to continue to stress the importance of recognizing June as Black Music Month as it was formally declared in 1979. Celebrating the phenomenal work of black composers, musicians, producers, writers, and singers during one month of the year is the least that we can do to pay tribute to

contributions that they have made in shaping the musical art forms that we enjoy today. Celebrating and observing the 30th anniversary of June as "Black Music Month" is something that I encourage all Americans to do. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

TRIBUTE TO ANTOINETTE TRIFARI

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 7, 2009

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the life of an outstanding individual, Antoinette Trifari. She will mark her 100th birthday with a celebration, joined by family and friends, some of whom are traveling great distances to be part of this happy occasion.

It is only fitting that she be honored in this, the permanent record of the greatest democracy ever known, for she has brought so much joy to the lives of others throughout her lifetime.

Antoinette is a native of the great City of Paterson, NJ. She was born there on July 9, 1909 to Angelina and John Pescatore, and was the fifth of fourteen children. She attended Paterson schools, going first to School 19, then graduating from School 5. Then at age fourteen, she began working, sewing pearls and sequins onto fabric that was used for opera gowns. Antoinette soon went on to work for more than ten years in Paterson's world famous silk and textile mills.

Antoinette was married on June 9, 1935 to Edmund Trifari, also of Paterson, who had attended New Jersey Law School. The wedding was held at St. Anthony's R.C. Church and was officiated by the groom's brother, Reverend Aloysius Trifari, a Salesian priest. Two years later, the Trifaros welcomed twins, Edmund, Jr. and Nancy Angela. The young family soon moved to a new development of Cape Cod homes on the outskirts of Paterson, known as Colonial Village. Antoinette and Edmund lived there together until Edmund passed away on January 2, 2003, after sixty-seven and a half years of marriage. She remained in their home until 2005 when she moved to Connecticut to live with Edmund, Jr. and his wife Claire Elwood. Her daughter Nancy lives in England with her husband George Dowden.

Over the years, Antoinette has been blessed not only with her children, but with seven grandchildren; Conrad, MaryBeth and Michael Roncati, and TerriAnn, Edmund III, John and Brian Trifari. Now, she also has thirteen great-grandchildren; Conrad Maxwell, Dean, Mia, Dylan, Carissa Roncati and Jessica Bates, Abigail, James, Ryan and Michael Sands, Joshua, Nicholas and Tyler Trifari. She is also the loving aunt of countless nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

She is well known throughout the Paterson area for a business that she began. She made poodles out of commercial yarn; they were so creative and lifelike that the yarn company featured a story about her in their corporate magazine. She also continues crocheting, a lifelong hobby she still enjoys. Antoinette also has a passion for helping people and volunteering. She was a member of St. Mary's R.C.

Church in Paterson her entire life until she moved, and is a now a parishioner of Saint Peter Claver R.C. Church in West Hartford. Even into her nineties she was a volunteer at St. Joseph's Home for the Aged in Totowa, NJ. She made many lasting friendships and touched many lives through her involvement with the Little Sisters of the Poor. When she moved in 2006 to Middlewoods Assisted Living Home in Farmington, Connecticut, she immediately became an active participant in many of their programs. She is the assistant to the pianist in the Choral Group, attends Sunday outings visiting historic and cultural points of interest around Connecticut, and is a tutoring mentor for young children. She enjoys playing Scrabble with friends and playing solitaire on the computer, and most of all, sharing her joy of life and her love with all those she encounters.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to celebrating and recognizing individuals like Antoinette Trifari.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Antoinette's family and friends, everyone at St. Joseph's Home in Totowa, New Jersey, all those who have been touched by her, and me in recognizing Antoinette Trifari.

UPPER ELK RIVER WILD AND SCENIC STUDY ACT

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 7, 2009

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, at the request of the Pocahontas County Commission of the great State of West Virginia, today I am introducing legislation to provide for a study to determine the feasibility and suitability of including a segment of the Elk River as a component of the Wild and Scenic River System.

The Elk River is one of West Virginia's premier natural resource assets. It is the longest river in West Virginia with its boundaries entirely within the State. The study which would be authorized by this legislation, however, would focus only on that segment of the Elk where it begins at the confluence of two streams—Old Field Fork and Big Spring Fork—at the community of Slatyfork and flows North for approximately five miles to the Pocahontas/Randolph County line. The study would be conducted by the U.S. Forest Service.

The idea of preserving this river in its natural state is not something new. Indeed, I well recall conversations with one of West Virginia's visionary conservationists, former State Senator Robert K. Holliday, on this matter during the late 1980s and early 1990s. In 1989, the Senate of West Virginia passed a resolution calling for the development of the Elk River into a national recreation area by Federal and State governments. And in 1993, I did propose a Wild and Scenic study for a 57.5 mile segment of the river. For one reason or another, the enthusiasm over this endeavor dissipated.

The February 4, 2009, unanimous vote by the Pocahontas County Commission consisting of President Martin V. Saffer, David M. Fleming and Reta J. Griffith to request that a study be conducted on a much smaller segment of the Elk River resurrects this issue and makes it ripe for consideration.