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Pittsburgh District

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ALLEGHENY RIVER LOCK AND DAM 3 RENAMED

PITTSBURGH – The Pittsburgh District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will rename an Allegheny River lock in honor of a veteran U.S. Congressman who was born in Harmarville, Pennsylvania and raised along the river.

Leaders from Congress and the Corps of Engineers will gather here tomorrow (May 7) to honor Florida Rep. C. W. Bill Young, by changing the name of the former Allegheny River Lock and Dam 3 to become the C. W. Bill Young Lock and Dam.

Young was born and raised in Harmarville, less than a mile from the lock and dam that will bear his name. He lived along the banks of the Allegheny River until the age of 15 when he and his mother moved to the St. Petersburg, Florida area, which he now represents in Congress. He still has relatives and friends in the Pittsburgh area, many of whom have been invited to be on hand for the ceremony Friday afternoon.

The invited guests will board a Corps of Engineers river barge with Rep. Young at the Rachel Carson Riverfront Park in Cheswick, beginning at 1:30 p.m. Friday. The party will then travel by river barge on the Allegheny River to the nearby lock, where a sign will be unveiled honoring the 17-term Republican Congressman.

Among the dignitaries expected to be on hand for the ceremony is Maj. Gen. Carl A. Strock, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Director of Civil Works. Colleagues of Rep. Young expected to attend include Rep. David L. Hobson of Ohio, the Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee, and Rep. Melissa Hart.

Last fall, Hobson included a provision in the Fiscal Year 2004 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill directing that the Corps name the lock and dam for Young in recognition of his ties to the local community. Young was born in Harmarville and attended Harmarville Elementary School and Oakmont High School. He and his family have a long history of involvement with commerce on the river. Young's mother, Wilma Hulings Young Wiley, the daughter of the late John W. and Flossie Wenzel Hulings of Wenzel Drive in Harmarville, will return from Florida to preside over the naming of the lock and dam. Her brother, Richard Hulings, helped build the dam in 1933 and 1934.

The family history on the local waterways dates back to the 18th century when Young's 7th great grandfather operated a ferry boat on the Juniata River. His 6th great grandfather operated a ferry boat across the Monongahela River at Fort Pitt in 1798 and owned a meeting house on the south side of the river. During the War of 1812, Young's 5th great grandfather transported naval supplies destined for Commodore Perry by keelboats from Pittsburgh to Lake Erie. Other descendants later became steamboat owners and operators on the river.

Rep. Young is the Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. He has served on the House Armed Services committee and chaired the House Appropriations Subcommittee on National Security for four years. His 14 years of service on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence are the longest tenure of any member.

The Corps' lock and dam facility on the Allegheny River is 14.5 miles upstream of the Point in Pittsburgh and it controls a 9.7 mile upstream pool that supports commercial navigation and recreational boating. The lock is one of 23 on the Three Rivers in the Pittsburgh District, eight of which are located on the Allegheny River.

The lock was built in 1932-35 and handles about 2.5 million tons of freight each year.

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NOTE TO ASSIGNMENT DESKS/NEWS EDITORS: Coverage of tomorrow's event is encouraged. Those attending will have the opportunity to interview Rep. Young and other attendees at the Riverfront Park in Cheswick, prior to the departure of the barge for the ceremony (approximately 1:45 p.m.). The park is located off old Route 28 at Cheswick.