

Mr. Paul L. Kraft  
President  
Clarksville Town Council

Testimony  
Before the Subcommittee on National Parks  
United States House of Representatives

Hearing on the Bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition  
And the Potential Extension of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail  
October 4, 2006

DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENT  
Required by House Rule XI, clause 2(g)

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Organization: Civil Town of Clarksville

Offices or elected positions: Served on Clarksville Town Council since 1996. Currently serving as council president.

## TESTIMONY

My name is Paul Kraft and I am the President of the Clarksville Town Council, a seven-member council that represents the over 22,000 citizens of the Town of Clarksville.

The area of the Town of Clarksville has a rich history extending over thousands of years, millions of years if you include the Falls of the Ohio fossil beds. An important part of that history is the connections between the Town and the Corps of Discovery. George Rogers Clark, the first Clarksville Town Council President, was the brother of William Clark. Meriwether Lewis and William Clark met at Clarksville, trained men here, and inducted them into the Army of the West. William Clark himself served on the Clarksville Town Council both before the expedition to the northwest and after his return.

The Clarksville Town Council today has a deep commitment to our history and to remembering the part that Clarksville played in the success of the Corps of Discovery. We have purchased land for the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Park, have renamed a main thoroughfare Lewis and Clark Parkway, sponsor and support the Clarksville Historical Society and are working with them to reclaim historic sites in the Town.

Some support by the council was more personal. The late John Minta, former council president, was a participant in re-enactment activities. He also attended several Bicentennial signature events and other Lewis and Clark commemorations. Other council members as well have been actively involved in Lewis and Clark Bicentennial activities.

The willingness of the Town Council to remember our history and heritage will not end with 2006. We are fully committed to continue our support to preserve and protect our historical legacy.

I urge the National Parks Service to extend the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail, in order to recognize the important part that Clarksville and this area played in the success of the expedition.