

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF WALLACE BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 29, 2005

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of Wallace Baptist Church in my district. Through several locations and many pastors, the church has continuously provided a place of worship for the people of northwest Florida.

Originally founded as the New Smyrna Baptist Church, a small congregation first met in Bagdad, Florida, in 1905. For nearly 40 years, the church met in that location, constantly adding new members to their congregation and establishing a reputation as a house where all were welcome.

The original 40 years added many people to the original congregation, and recognizing the need for more land, a group of 32 people in 1942 began meeting a short distance away in the Wallace Schoolhouse. The land had been donated to them by a local family interested in seeing the local community prosper. Less than a year later, the church had its own building constructed and continued to use the pulpit from their first building. The pulpit still exists to this day, though it is no longer used. In addition, wood from the original building was used for construction of the new podium, instilling a physical sense of tradition that the church carries with it as it continues into the future.

Approximately 20 years later, now under the name of Wallace Baptist Church, a larger auditorium was constructed to accommodate the increasing size of the church's membership. The previous building, adjacent to the auditorium, remained in use as a meeting place for Sunday School. A few years later, recognizing their long-term stability and consistent growth both in congregation size as well as services offered, the church voted to incorporate as Wallace Baptist Church.

The church continued to add facilities over the next several decades as it continued to flourish, so I much so that in 2003 the more than 300 members of the church saw the pressing need for a larger main sanctuary and voted to have one built. The groundbreaking on the new site occurred earlier this year. Under the present leadership of Rev. Lee Botts and having already shown consistent growth, I am confident that the church and its mission will continue to be recognized by many as a great place to worship, continuing to serve the community well into the future.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the U.S. Congress, I am proud of the success of Wallace Baptist Church over the last 100 years and look forward to its next century of service.

RECOGNIZING 94TH CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL DAY IN REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN)

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 29, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 94th celebration of National Day in the Republic of China (Taiwan).

Today, I join with the Taiwanese people as they celebrate their freedom. Taiwan has peacefully overcome authoritarian rule to attain democracy. It will hopefully constitute a model for the eventual establishment of a genuine democracy in China. The U.S. and Taiwan value human rights, civil liberties, a free press and the rule of law. Our shared values have produced a strong and dependable friendship for over 50 years. Today, the people of Taiwan determine their own destiny and government through free and fair elections.

Many of my colleagues will be surprised to learn that Taiwan is our 8th largest trading partner. A recent survey by the World Economic Forum ranked Taiwan fifth in the world and first in Asia for growth competitiveness. The Taiwanese have been increasing their demands for American goods becoming a more valuable trading partner. The Taiwanese people have also achieved economic prosperity with one of the highest standards of living in the world. It is impressive to find that less than 1 percent of the population lives below the poverty line. Now a strong member of the World Trade Organization, Taiwan's market-based economy is now the 12th largest in the world.

The government of Taiwan was one of the first to come to our aid after the events of September 11th and Hurricane Katrina. Taiwan continues to be our ally in the war on terrorism by cooperating with humanitarian assistance in Iraq and Afghanistan and providing intelligence. They have shown generosity and compassion by contributing to the Twin Towers Fund and Pentagon Memorial Fund, and now to the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

I hope that its neighbors, especially those in China, will notice Taiwan's celebration of freedom, democracy, and a market economy. I hope Taiwan and China will work together and cultivate a future based on respect, democracy, and freedom. I am encouraged by reports that Taiwan's President, Chen Shui-bian is willing to hold a summit with President Hu Jintao and resume dialog on cross-strait issues.

It is with great pleasure I congratulate Taiwan, our friend and ally, on the celebration of their 94th National Day, October 10, 2005.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT MENEDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 29, 2005

Mr. MENEDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from votes in the House on Tuesday, September 27th, due to a previous and unavoidable commitment. Therefore, I was unable to vote on H.J. Res. 66, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of "Lights On After-school!", a national celebration of after-school programs (rollcall No. 494); and H. Con. Res. 209, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Domestic Violence Awareness Month (rollcall No. 496). Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on both these measures considered by the House.

HONORING CAPTAIN RUSS KELLER, UNITED STATES NAVY

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 29, 2005

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Captain Russ Keller, United States Navy, as he retires upon completion of more than 26 years of honorable and faithful service to our nation.

A native of Pittsburgh, PA, Captain Keller was appointed to the United States Naval Academy in 1975 and graduated with the class of 1979. Following initial nuclear power and submarine training, he reported to his first submarine, USS *Trepang* (SSN 674), where he served as the reactor controls assistant and later as the weapons officer. His assignment on *Trepang* was followed by a shore assignment in the Pentagon as flag lieutenant and aide for the Navy's Director of Research, Development, Test and Evaluation. Captain Keller next attended Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, where he earned a masters in public administration degree. Following his tour at Harvard, he returned to sea as the Navigator on board USS *Simon Bolivar* (SSBN 641) (BLUE), where he completed five strategic deterrent patrols in the final days of the Cold War. Upon departing *Simon Bolivar*, Captain Keller remained at sea as the executive officer on board USS *Narwhal* (SSN 671), where he prepared the ship's crew to return to sea following a 37-month refueling overhaul. Following his tour as Executive Officer, Captain Keller was assigned to the Navy Staff in Washington, DC where he served in the strategy and concepts branch. In June 1995 Captain Keller received the most coveted and demanding of all naval assignments when he was selected for Command at Sea. He served as the Commanding Officer of USS *Springfield* (SSN 761) for 31 months, during which time the ship completed several independent submarine missions vital to national security.

Based on his successful command tour, Captain Keller was selected by the Navy's Chief of Legislative Affairs to serve in the Office of Legislative Affairs, where he was assigned initially as the submarine and strategic programs liaison officer. Following two years working these issues, he was promoted internally and assigned as the Director of Naval Programs, with responsibilities for all Navy procurement, operations and maintenance, and research and development programs. His tenure in the Office of Legislative Affairs spanned five defense authorization bill cycles and earned him the trust and respect of members of Congress, committee and personal staff members as well as senior officials in the Department of the Navy. A role model and mentor to those who worked for and with him, he made his impact on people as well as programs. Through his brilliant insight and dedication, he contributed directly to the future readiness of the United States Navy and the nation.

In September 2002 Captain Keller was selected for major command, and served his final tour on active duty as the Commanding Officer of the Naval Nuclear Power Training Command in Charleston, SC from July 2003 until July 2005. Under his supervision, thousands of future naval nuclear operators and