

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2018

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th Anniversary of Memorial Baptist Church, located in the city of Baytown in East Harris County.

This area was mainly a farming and ranching community known as Goose Creek, until oil was found there in 1907 and it quickly became a rowdy and untidy camp. In 1918, Reverend J. W. Anderson felt that God was calling him to organize a church in Goose Creek. At this time a group of Christian women held a prayer meeting in their homes and the First Baptist Church of Goose Creek was organized with eight members. Reverend Anderson was named the pastor and the first building was built. In 1927, the church had grown to 614 members and Reverend J. D. Fuller became the new pastor. Due to their increased size, the congregation needed a larger building. This building cost \$50,000 and they had a hard time making payments during the depression. On December 7, 1945, the cities of Pelly annexed Goose Creek and Baytown. At this time, the church changed its name to Memorial Baptist Church and built a new sanctuary on Sterling Street.

In 2008 Memorial Church and Trinity Baptist Church voted to donate their church buildings on Highway 146 to Memorial. This new area became the North Campus of Memorial Baptist Church and Reverend Andrew McDaniel was named pastor. On 25 August 2017, Hurricane Harvey came ashore in Texas. It flooded Baytown and other areas along the coast. Memorial Baptist Church's gym was used as a shelter for over 180 people. A deacon of the church named Robby Davis along with a team of other church members helped to clean out homes to be repaired. They moved furniture, cabinets, flooring and sheet rock. Some people did day labor, furnished food, washed clothes and provided places for victims of the storm to stay. Memorial North Campus was also flooded and on November 4, 2017, they were able to worship at that location again.

On 25 February 2018, this church will celebrate being a century old. God has used Memorial Baptist Church as an amazing witness for 100 years and I am privileged to have such a place of worship in my district.

RECOGNIZING KEVIN MCALEENAN

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2018

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kevin McAleenan, Acting Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). Mr. McAleenan has been chosen as the United States' honoree for the prestigious League of United Latin American Citizens Council No. 12 (LULAC) Señor Internacional award.

Following his graduation with a Bachelor of Arts from Amherst College, Mr. McAleenan

earned a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Chicago Law School. Thereafter, he worked at a private law firm in California. However, he was motivated to work in public service after the events of September 11, 2001. He joined the Office of Anti-Terrorism at U.S. Customs Service, a legacy organization of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, where he was eventually named as the Director.

Mr. McAleenan became Acting Commissioner of CBP on January 20th, 2017. Prior to his role as Acting Commissioner, Mr. McAleenan held several leadership positions with U.S. Customs and Border Protection, including Deputy Commissioner of CBP and Assistant Commissioner at the Office of Field Operations. Upon Mr. McAleenan's appointment to Deputy Commissioner, former CBP Commissioner R. Gil Kerlikowske spoke of McAleenan highly, saying, "His dedication, his vision to transform CBP and to ensure that we remain the nation's premier law enforcement agency, is truly astounding."

Throughout his career, Mr. McAleenan worked to increase security at the border, improved terrorism detection and response tactics, and supervised the trade and travel at over 300 domestic ports of entry. In his current role, he has three core missions: counterterrorism, border security, and trade enforcement. Mr. McAleenan oversees 60,000 employees and directs the largest law-enforcement agency in the federal government. For his work, Mr. McAleenan received the Service to America Medal, Call to Service Award, and in 2015, he was honored with a Presidential Rank Award, the nation's highest civil service award.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize Mr. Kevin McAleenan. I congratulate him on receiving the prestigious LULAC No. 12 Señor Internacional award.

SAN ANTONIO'S TERCENTENNIAL YEAR—1718

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the City of San Antonio and its residents on the 300th anniversary of the city's founding. San Antonio has grown from a small farming community along the banks of the San Antonio River into the 7th largest city in the United States.

Its rich history and vibrant culture is what makes it truly unique. The first flag to fly over Texas was the Spanish flag. Spain laid official claim to what is now parts of Texas from 1716 to 1821, as part of the Viceroyalty of New Spain, or Colonial Mexico. On May 1, 1718, the Mission San Antonio de Valero—later known as the Alamo—was established.

The Tejanos' place in Texas history took root in the 1700s when the land was under Spanish rule. A group of mostly Spanish-Indians loyal to the Spanish crown pushed their colonial empire north from Mexico to found a military post and religious missions to establish San Antonio. As frontier people, they were mainly ranchers and farmers and developed a culture unique to them. Settling northeastern Mexico, the area of modern day San Antonio, many of their customs reflected that of tradi-

tional Mexican heritage, but with an independent Texas twist.

San Antonio is home to five missions established along the San Antonio River in the 1700s by Catholic missionaries. The five missions are all but three miles apart from each other: Mission San Antonio de Valero (The Alamo), Mission Concepcion, Mission San Jose, Mission San Juan, and Mission Espada. The missions served to make the American Indians into Spanish citizens. By entering the missions, the Indians pledged to follow the rules of Spain. They set aside their traditional life to learn a new language, accept a new religion and pledge allegiance to a new king.

Today the missions represent a connection with our past. The missions depict classic Spanish architecture, domes and bell towers, and sanctuaries that still have active parishes and cultural centers. The missions are a part of every Texan's history.

Military Plaza was first established in 1722 as a parade ground and market square for the Spanish troops stationed there. Today, the only noticeable evidence of the Spanish troops marching and living in the plaza is the Spanish Governor's Palace. The area has been the heart of the city and today is the commercial and government center of San Antonio.

Any Texan will tell you that water is very important to our state, and water is what contributed to San Antonio's rich history. The San Antonio River comes from the Edwards Aquifer Spring Field north of downtown San Antonio. With this natural resource, the missions and plaza were located close by. It provided a clean reliable source to the missionaries and soldiers.

The river supported agricultural operations at the missions through an irrigation system created by the early settlers. Portions of this water system remain used today, 300 years later.

Over the years, the Tejanos prospered and furthered their distinction from the Spanish crown and from other parts of Mexico. A failed attempt by the Tejanos against Spanish rule gained new hope when Mexico won independence from Spain in 1831.

By this time Texas had seen a significant influx of settlers from the United States, and like the Tejanos, had a culture unique as the land it occupied. As Texas' distinction from Mexico grew, so did the desire for local rule and sovereignty.

The passion for independence spread throughout Texas and San Antonio and on March 2, 1836, 54 delegates signed the Texas Declaration of Independence and the fight for freedom began. 187 freedom fighters started assembling in an old beat-up mission in San Antonio.

Juan Seguín and his company of Tejanos rode into the Alamo and readied for battle alongside William Barrett Travis, Jim Bowie and Davy Crockett. This rag-tag group of relentless patriots, made up of men from nearly every state in the Union and 13 foreign countries, including Mexico, readied for one of the most storied battles in our history.

Outnumbered by an overwhelming Mexican army, these Texas warriors knew that surrender was not an option. Retreat was never on the table. Victory or death.

On February 23, 1836, Santa Ana's army of 1500 well-armed troops unleashed on the defenders of the Alamo. During the siege, Travis sent out his famous call for reinforcements.