

of Salem Lutheran Church in Toledo, Ohio. On Sunday, November 4, 2001, the congregation will celebrate its 160th anniversary. Such an occasion is truly a monument to faith.

Salem is Toledo's first and oldest Lutheran church, having been founded in 1842 in one of Toledo's most historic neighborhoods, the near North End. Originally made up of the German, Greek and Syrian immigrants in the neighborhood at that time, the church's congregation changed through the years and remains reflective of the diversity of its neighborhood yet today. Particularly in its second century of life, Salem Lutheran Church has been a place of constancy in a neighborhood and for a people who welcome many newcomers. Comfort is found within its walls for local people, but also those who are poor and often beaten down by serious struggles of life. The church's building houses not only a place of worship but also provides a place for its neighbors to come together to eat and for other community services and church-based programs benefiting them.

Salem's pastor and parishioners have been active in the Toledo Area Lutheran Coalition, a cluster of churches dedicated to a cooperative relationship. It is a teaching parish, serving as a host site for Synod youth interns and seminary interns several times since 1994. In the words of its current pastor, today "Salem serves as a model for central city multicultural ministry, offering an ecumenical ministry site . . . to grow in service." She describes the congregation's move toward the future noting, "there is a sense of gratitude we are still here, an awareness of the resurrection power of God, and a renewed sense of mission with the people of our neighborhood."

Following Christ's admonition, whatsoever you do to the least among us, that you do unto Me, the congregation of Salem Lutheran Church flowered in the neighborhood in which these He described have lived. In its past, its present, and into its future, Salem Lutheran Church will always be a place of faith, hope, and love, and a testament to Christ's Word and the perseverance of His followers. As today's congregation reflects on its past and is inspired by its future, I am pleased to offer my voice to the chorus of congratulations on its 160th anniversary.

INTRODUCING THE NATIONAL OFFICE FOR COMBATING TERRORISM ACT OF 2001

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2001

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to establish the National Office for Combating Terrorism within the Executive Office of the President. With more than three dozen different federal agencies tasked with countering terrorism, an umbrella agency with responsibility for coordination and communication is sorely needed. It is not enough for our government to be united in word. We must also be united in deed. If we are truly fighting a sustained and long-term battle against terrorism, then we must produce an efficient and effective system to wage a full-scale war.

This bill, the House companion to legislation introduced by my friend and colleague, Sen-

ator BOB GRAHAM, creates the National Office for Combating Terrorism under the direction of the President. This office has the responsibility for developing a comprehensive national strategy for the prevention of, and response to, acts of terrorism. This encompassing strategy will be known as the "National Terrorism Prevention and Response Strategy." Priorities must be set, and clear and effective policies, goals and objectives must be delineated. This office will coordinate, oversee, and evaluate the implementation of this strategy, which will include joint efforts with both state and local governments to ensure clear communications. The National Office for Combating Terrorism will also have the responsibility for developing an annual budget for the national strategy, including the budgets of departments and agencies within the National Foreign Intelligence Program that deal with international terrorism. However, military programs and projects will not be incorporated into this budget. Personnel will be appointed by the President with proper and timely Senate confirmation.

Mr. Speaker, the Bush Administration continually emphasizes the multifaceted front of this war on terrorism. Our military forces are stronger and better trained than the terrorist forces. Our economic livelihood is light years ahead of theirs, our intelligence network is more capable, and our resolve is more powerful. On all fronts of this war we have the upper hand. So let us make sure that our organization is more effective than theirs. Our counter terrorist agencies are making the right moves. Let us ensure that they all move in the same direction. I sincerely hope that my colleagues will work with me to ensure the passage of this important legislation. Thank you.

THE 41ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2001

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to commemorate the 41st anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Cyprus. On October 1, 1960, Cyprus became an independent republic after decades of British colonial rule.

Over the last decades, Cyprus and the United States have established close political, economic and social ties, developing a valued friendship. Both countries gained their independence from Great Britain, and now each country celebrates the anniversary of that independence as their national holiday. More significantly, Cyprus and the United States share a deep and abiding commitment to democracy, fundamental human rights, free markets, and the ideal and practice of equal justice under law.

This year, the September 11th terrorist attacks cast a heavy shadow over the celebrations for Cyprus Independence Day, as the shock and grief continues to be felt. The leaders and the people of Cyprus have expressed their abhorrence and their strong condemnation for the terrorists and those who support them, while voicing their solidarity with the American people. In a moment of true friendship, the Republic of Cyprus declared Sep-

tember 14th as a Day of Mourning for the victims. Flags were flown at half-mast, flowers were laid at the American Embassy in the capital of Nicosia, while high-ranking officials and ordinary people signed a book of condolences.

The government of Cyprus has pledged to cooperate fully with the Bush Administration in the battle against terrorism. Cyprus shares our belief that the horrendous act of violence on September 11th did not constitute just an offensive against America, it was an assault against democracy and freedom. Cypriots do not stand indifferent and passive in responding to heinous acts that target our sense of security, our civil liberties and our faith in the democratic process. Having achieved its independence after a bitter fight to uphold freedom and democracy, Cyprus understands that great determination and unity are needed in order to safeguard the treasured ideals we share.

As the Republic of Cyprus celebrates its 41st Independence Day, I share their joy for having created a prosperous, open society based on solid foundations. Furthermore, I believe this is an opportunity for the United States of America and Cyprus to come closer together, as they stand united in their resolve to fight the battle on terrorism. As we move forward, I am confident that our friendship will continue well into the future.

IN MEMORY OF IMAM KHATTAB

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2001

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of the Imam Abdelmoneim Mahmoud Khattab, Imam Emeritus of the Islamic Center of Greater Toledo. Imam Khattab passed from this life on September 15, 2001 after courageously battling cancer.

The Imam was born in a village near Cairo and eventually attended Al-Azhar University in Egypt. He received both undergraduate and graduate degrees in that ancient institution of learning. After graduating he worked briefly for the Egyptian consulate in Calcutta, then returned to Al-Azhar to lead the Institute of Foreign Languages. In 1964, the university appointed him to direct the Canadian Islamic Center in Edmonton, Alberta. While there, he received a second graduate degree, in Sociology, from the University of Alberta and completed work toward a doctoral degree from the University of Waterloo.

Prior to his arrival in Northwest Ohio in 1980, Imam Khattab was the director of London, Ontario's Islamic Center. His arrival in Toledo preceded the groundbreaking of our own community's Islamic Center, and he guided its construction and philosophy. A decade later, he led the effort to establish a chair of Islamic Studies at the University of Toledo and he established a training center at the Islamic Center for students of Al-Azhur to train to become Imams for American Muslim communities.

Imam Khattab was truly a man of enlightenment. His wise and thoughtful counsel could be counted on even in the most troubling of times, and he was both friend and mentor to many. Quietly persistent, combining his sense

of humor and powers of persuasion, he led the Islamic Center of Greater Toledo on a path of prominence not only in our community but our country. Imam Khattab's successor, Imam Farouq Aboelzahab, described his theology: "When he talked about Islam, he talked about Islam as a religion of love and humanity. He represented Islam as a religion that cares about human beings, regardless ethnicity, national background, or religion. He committed himself to that goal." Noted as an original thinker, Imam Khattab was a true religious scholar whose teachings put him on the cutting edge of Islam in North America. Years ahead of many of his contemporaries in terms of interpretation of Islam, The Islamic Center's President noted, "He's done so much for Islam. He never had any barriers. Nobody was ever categorized. He didn't differentiate between men and women. . . . He wasn't just the religious leader. He was in our homes. He was our friend, our father, our brother, our uncle."

Able to make religion both global and personal, Imam Khattab earned an international reputation for bringing disparate groups together. Not only did he bring together the 22 ethnic groups that made up the families of his mosque, but also he promoted unity among all religions, focusing on the common themes between Islam, Christianity, and Judaism.

Although he retired and returned to Ontario in 1998, Imam Khattab remained an integral part of the Islamic Center of Greater Toledo, returning to the mosque weekly. He also served on many regional and national organizations including the Council of Imams of North America, the World Call Council, and Michigan's Interfaith Roundtable.

Our deep condolences to Imam Khattab's wife Fauzia, children Khalid and Huda, brother and sisters Muhamad, Soad, and Zuhrah, as well as the entire community of the Islamic Center of Greater Toledo. The Imam may be gone in body, but his spirit lives on through the millions of lives he touched and his legacy is carried through our own work now and in the future as we build on his foundation of faith.

REPUBLIC OF CHINA'S NATIONAL DAY

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2001

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I wish to join my colleagues in wishing the people of Taiwan the very best as they mark their National Day on October 10, 2001.

The people of Taiwan have demonstrated their dedication to human rights, political freedom, and democracy as they have consistently remained an important ally of the United States. Taiwan has expressed its support of and grief for the tragic events of September 11th and has indicated they will spare no effort in helping America win the war against international terrorism. We are deeply appreciative of their continued friendship as we extend to the people and government of the Republic of China on Taiwan our best wishes on this day of national celebration for our close ally.

CELEBRATING TAIWAN

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2001

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, the National Day of the Republic of China (Taiwan) is today, October 10. I would like to recognize this day of celebration.

Americans are thankful for our faithful friends in Taiwan. We appreciate all nations that stand for freedom and oppose terrorism. I wish to extend my best to the citizens of America who came from Taiwan as they recall this National Day of Freedom in their former homeland.

RECOGNIZING THE SUPPORT AND FRIENDSHIP OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON NATIONAL DAY

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2001

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank President Chen Shui-bian and Ambassador C.J. Chen of the Republic of China for their strong support of the United States in the aftermath of the hellacious acts of September 11. Taiwan was among the first to declare its unequivocal support for and cooperation with the United States, and Taiwan has offered us any assistance it can provide in combating terrorism.

Taiwan firmly believes the United States is on the right course in going after extremists and terrorists worldwide. Terrorism knows no national boundaries and seeks to destroy our democracy and way of life. Standing shoulder to shoulder with America, Taiwan mourns with America and unites with us in our mission to eradicate terrorism worldwide.

Taiwan will be celebrating its National Day today, October 10. In recent years, we have witnessed The Republic of China's campaign to return to the United Nations. I believe we should give Taiwan our support. The Republic of China is a true democracy, which guarantees fundamental rights to all of its citizens. Taiwan is also one of the most important economic entities in the world.

On Taiwan's National Day, I hope Taiwan and the Chinese mainland will one day be reunited under principles of freedom and democracy, thus leading to lasting stability and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I would like to once again recognize Representative C.J. Chen. Representative Chen is a distinguished diplomat who is always courteous and very sharp on issues. As so many of our colleagues know, his briefings on the Hill are always to the point—crisp, witty and intelligent. He has done a stellar job in representing the Republic of China on Capitol Hill, and I applaud him and Taiwan for their unwavering support.

TRIBUTE TO TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DAY

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2001

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Taiwan on the occasion of their National Day. The Republic of China on Taiwan is a true democracy that guarantees political freedom and civil liberty to its people. As we continue into the 21st Century, Taiwan's importance as an economic player in the world continues as they expect to become a new member of the World Trade Organization by the end of this year. Despite the relative small population of only 23 million, Taiwan has financial resources surpassing those of many Western countries.

On behalf of all of us, I would like to offer my thanks to President Chen Shui-bian of the Republic of China for Taiwan's support of our great nation in the aftermath of the September 11 attack. President Shui-bian expressed his condolences to the American people, and condemned those terrorist acts as shameful and cowardly. Taiwan was one of the first countries to declare their unequivocal support and cooperation with the United States. In addition, Taiwan has offered the United States and their allies in the war on terrorism whatever resources they have to share. In addition, President Shui-bian ordered all government flags to be flown at half-mast for two days as an expression of Taiwan's solidarity with the United States. And finally, President Shui-bian asked that all National Day celebrations be cancelled because this is a mourning time for the American people as well as for the people of Taiwan.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognition of the Republic of China on Taiwan's National Day. I thank Taiwan for their friendship and support of our great nation, and I wish Taiwan and its people continued prosperity and Godspeed on their National Day.

CONGRATULATING THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2001

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Republic of China on its 90th National Day and to commend her people on this occasion for their remarkable efforts to make Taiwan a leader in the world through peace and economic prosperity. Taiwan's people have reason to be proud, as they have achieved a high level of freedom in their lives due to their commitment to democracy, economic liberalization, and the rule of law. This commitment will undoubtedly lead to an even greater role for Taiwan in the 21st century.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank President Chen Shui-bian and his people for the support they have shown the United States after the terrorist attacks of September 11. President Chen and other leaders in Taiwan have strongly condemned terrorism and have expressed their