

over the last 150 years. In 1865, Rev. J.A. Clark founded Add-Ran Male and Female College in the First Christian Church, but moved the institution for a time to a more sedate location south of Fort Worth known as Thorp Springs. Add-Ran College today is one of Fort Worth's most prestigious universities, Texas Christian University (TCU). TCU has been in Fort Worth since 1911. In 1878, First Christian built a "rock church" on a site at 612 Throckmorton Street. The property was purchased for \$1,500. First Christian Church continues at that site today in a sanctuary that was erected in 1914 to replace the rock church. The Renaissance Revival style church, designed by architects E.W. Van Slyke and Clyde Woodruff, was designated an official Texas Historical Landmark in 1970 and was placed on the National Register of Historical Sites in 1983.

First Christian Church has been blessed.

One of First Christian's early members and president of its board for 53 years, K. M. Van Zandt also was instrumental in transforming Fort Worth from a small, former military outpost into one of the major cities of Texas and the United States. Van Zandt, while serving his church, helped other Christian churches form in Fort Worth and provided leadership for construction of the present sanctuary. At the same time, he formed with other Fort Worth business leaders a construction company that brought the railroad to the city, co-created and led a bank that was the town's leading financial institution for almost a century and co-founded the community's first newspaper, as well as making time to serve on the local school board and in the Texas Legislature.

In 1912, Dr. L.D. Anderson became pastor. During Dr. Anderson's 49-year ministry, First Christian Church thrived with membership reaching 3,000. First Christian's historic church was restored and updated in the course of a seven-year renovation project that was completed in 1993.

Not only has First Christian Church withstood the test of time as a Fort Worth institution, it also has endured Mother Nature. First Christian is in the heart of the Downtown Fort Worth area that was struck by a devastating tornado in 2000. While neighboring buildings suffered extensive destruction, First Christian escaped with damage only to the rear of its sanctuary and the church dome. The dome had been restored only a few years earlier. Through hard work and dedication, the sanctuary and dome were again restored by 2001, while the church continued to service its members and to give strength to the community in trying times.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize First Christian Church as a church that began in the early days of Fort Worth and that, like the city which it calls home, has grown and evolved into a great institution. It is my honor to praise the past and the present leadership of this outstanding and companionate institution for serving their members well and for their role in making Fort Worth a truly great place in which not only to live, but also to work.

TRIBUTE TO CLIFFORD D. LINK

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 20, 2005

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) Special Agent Clifford D. Link, Assistant Director for Financial Management, who will retire after 30 years of federal service on October 1, 2005.

Assistant Director Link started his federal career in June 1975 as a GS-2 clerk with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in New York. Working full-time during the day and attending classes at night, Assistant Director Link graduated from the distinguished John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York. Subsequently, he was promoted in grade and joined the FBI Special Support Group (SSG) conducting counterintelligence surveillances.

In 1978, Assistant Director Link was introduced to the (then) Naval Investigative Service (NIS) during a joint NIS/FBI proactive counterintelligence operation "Operation Lemonade". As a member of the FBI SSG, then Investigative Assistant Link was providing surveillance support to the joint operation. Through that relationship, Assistant Director Link was convinced that NIS was a growing, dynamic and progressive worldwide organization and that a NIS career would be challenging and rewarding.

In October 1979, Assistant Director Link was offered a NIS Special Agent position with his initial assignment to NIS Resident Agency (NISRA) Washington, DC. Since then, Assistant Director Link has served as a Special Agent at NIS Resident Unit (NISRU) Bethesda, MD; NISRA Yokohama, Japan; and NISRA New York. Assistant Director Link also served in assignments as the Assistant Special Agent in Charge (ASAC) NISRA Point Loma, CA; ASAC NCIS Fraud Unit, San Diego, CA; SAC NCIS Fraud Unit, San Francisco, CA; ASAC (FCI) NCIS San Diego Field Office; RAC NCISRA Camp Pendleton, CA and DSAC San Diego Field Office. Assistant Director Link's NCIS Headquarters assignments included Program Manager for Defense Counterintelligence Integrated Information Systems, Executive Assistant to the Director for Planning and Strategy, Executive Assistant to the Director for Modernization, Executive Assistant to the Director for Transformation, and his current position as Assistant Director for Financial Management.

During the 26 years of his NCIS career, Assistant Director Link has engaged in practically every aspect of NCIS operations, including criminal investigations, special and undercover operations, counterintelligence investigations and operations, fraud, counterterrorism, antiterrorism, force protection, hostage negotiations and overseas deployments. He also participated in and led protective service operations that put him in the presence of Presidents, Vice Presidents, Cabinet Secretaries, Members of Congress, Ambassadors, Foreign Dignitaries, Flag and General Officers, and various other federal, state and local leaders. Assistant Director Link had the opportunity to travel all over the globe, to include Europe, the Far East, Middle East and Iraq.

After the bombing of the USS *Cole*, Assistant Director Link served as leader of the Sec-

retary of the Navy's Situational Awareness and Intelligence Working Group and as a member of the Department of Defense Counterintelligence Working Group. He continued as a member of these task forces after the 9/11 attacks.

Transitioning to his NCISHQ assignment, Assistant Director Link was a co-leader in the NCIS Zero Based Review, was a member of the NCIS Strategic Management Council, led the development of the new NCIS Management and Administration Office, participated in the NCIS Modernization effort and, for the past year, has led the Financial Management Directorate. Mr. Speaker, Assistant Director Link has served this nation honorably for 30 years and deserves the recognition of this body, his community and the United States of America.

WELCOMING PRESIDENT CHEN OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 20, 2005

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my constituents in the state of Georgia, it is a privilege to welcome President Chen of the Republic of China to the United States. As you know, the United States has a rich history of personal liberty, democracy, and republican government. It has been over 26 years since Congress passed the Taiwan Relations Act recognizing our nation's friendship. It is my hope that all of China will one day live in a peaceful Democratic society, enjoying free enterprise and personal freedom.

Our shared goals of democracy, increasing standards of living, peaceful association, and economic development are vital to the growth and security of our nations. The Republic of China is a strong example of the achievement of these goals. Mr. Speaker, Taiwan enjoys a democratic government that fully upholds human rights, where its citizens enjoy the freedom to assemble and practice their religion of choice. These attributes allow the Republic of China to benefit from the world's 14th largest economy and one of the world's highest standards of living.

I personally cherish the close relationship between the Republic of China and the United States. Thousands of Taiwanese students study at U.S. colleges and universities while Taiwanese tourists choose the United States as their number one overseas destination outside of Asia. Moreover, Taiwanese consumers make the Republic of China one of our nation's closest trade allies.

I would like to thank President Chen for the support and friendship of the Republic of China. I believe he deserves a great deal of credit and thanks for his leadership in successfully maintaining the peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you will join me in once again welcoming President Chen to the United States as our nation looks forward to working with his administration to promote peace, explore new economic frontiers, and expand our friendship.