

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF PENSACOLA

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 29, 2010*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of Pensacola's Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church. This remarkable milestone is a testament to the years of great work by the church.

The year 2010 is a relatively small occurrence on the timeline of Orthodox Christianity, a faith that traces its beginnings all the way back to the apostles and dates many of its earliest traditions back to the days of St. John Chrysostom. 2010 also marks the 100th anniversary of Pensacola, Florida's oldest Orthodox congregation. The first Greeks to come to Pensacola were seamen who migrated during the 1860s. As the Greek community continued to grow, it was decided to build a church where Greek ideals and customs could be preserved as well as a place where spiritual needs could be met. Today, the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church of Pensacola is a place of worship for more than 150 families of various ethnic backgrounds.

In thinking about the tremendous occasion before us and the countless good deeds that have been carried out in the name of the Father by this body, I am reminded of the words of the Apostle Paul. Paul wrote to the church of Galatia, "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." On this 100th year anniversary of the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church of Pensacola, I ask that they too heed the words of the Apostle Paul. After all these years, I encourage the church not to lose heart in doing what is good, but rather continue to serve the Lord and accomplish His work. I ask that they don't give up, but continue to show the fruit of the Spirit which is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Madam Speaker, it is my great privilege to honor Pensacola's Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church on their centennial anniversary. These 100 years have been a testament to the compassion and good will that exists among mankind.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION URGING THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA TO END THE COMMERCIAL SEAL HUNT

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 29, 2010*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution urging the Government of Canada to end the commercial seal hunt.

While the vast majority of countries have banned the commercial seal hunt long ago, Canada is by far the largest remaining seal killer in the world. Each year, about 300,000 harp seal pups are killed for their meat, oil and

pelts and almost exclusively traded internationally.

The United States and the European Union have banned both the hunting of seals and the importation of any seal products. Polling has shown that the majority of people in Canada oppose the commercial seal hunt and support foreign nations' ending their trade in seal products. A recent poll even reveals that half of Newfoundland sealers support a federal buyout of the commercial sealing industry.

Indeed, the few thousand fishermen who participate in the commercial seal hunt in Canada earn, on average, only a tiny fraction of their annual income from killing seals, with the remainder coming from traditional seafood. In recent years, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans of Canada has authorized historically high quotas for harp seals despite high pup mortality, low seal fur prices and reduced industry participation.

Madam Speaker, the commercial seal hunt is not only unnecessary but cruel. Ninety-seven percent of the seals killed are pups between just twelve days and twelve weeks of age, without any ability to defend themselves. Most of them have not even learned how to swim. They are either shot or struck on the head by a hakapik or club. Many are injured in the course of the hunt and escape beneath the ice where they die slowly and are never recovered. Seal pups can also be skinned while still alive.

Several reports concluded that avoidable suffering occurs during hunting, sealers fail to comply with regulations and authorities do not effectively monitor the hunt and enforce regulations. This slaughter has to come to an end.

My resolution will urge the Government of Canada to prohibit the commercial hunting of seals, while allowing subsistence hunting for aboriginal communities. It will also encourage other countries to ban trade in seal products.

Madam Speaker, wild animals are a very important part of our commonly held natural resources and contribute to the diversity and stability of our environment. We cannot let economic interests take over our moral values. Animal cruelty is an inexcusable abomination. The United States must continue to protect those animals that cannot protect themselves and ensure fair and humane treatment. It is essential to maintain a balanced and healthy ecosystem that allows for the coexistence of both human beings and the world's most incredible species.

I urge my colleagues to join me in protecting wildlife and environmental conservation across the globe by supporting this important resolution.

HONORING JAMES J. DOWLING

**HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 29, 2010*

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize James J. Dowling, for his lifetime of service and dedication to the United Way of Bucks County.

Since the 1970s Mr. Dowling has been an integral part of the United Way of Bucks County and since then has been a leader in the community and within the United Way.

During Mr. Dowling's time as Chair of the Community Investment Cabinet for the United Way of Bucks County, programs for children's education have flourished. He has been one of the driving forces here in the 8th District when it comes to strengthening early education.

Mr. Dowling has led the United Way of Bucks County through tough economic times and has never wavered in his commitment to the organization and to the community. He never lost sight of the hard work that needs to be done to support those who need help the most.

Madam Speaker, I am proud today to recognize James J. Dowling for his commitment to our community and for his vision as a leader. He's a true asset to Bucks County and I'm proud to be his Congressman.

COMMEMORATING THE RETIREMENT OF RICHARD CAROL (RC) SMITH

**HON. PHIL HARE**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 29, 2010*

Mr. HARE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the long and distinguished career of public service of Richard Carol Smith, known to family, friends and colleagues as RC.

A life-long resident of the Midwest, RC has been a fixture in Macon County and in particular Long Creek Township through his work in government service as well as his political activism. What is even more impressive is that while working diligently for the public good, he was employed by Wabash, Norfolk & Western and Norfolk-Southern Railways, for some 39 years. Yet he found the time to be an incredibly active and respected member of his community and our region.

His service and commitment to Long Creek is unparalleled. He currently serves as Long Creek Township Clerk, a post he has held since 1997, as well as being a former assessor for the town. He has also served Long Creek as the township supervisor and assistant supervisor.

His service to Macon County is just as impressive. RC served on the Macon County board for almost 30 years. He was first elected to the board in 1970 and served as chairman from 1985 to 1986 and as vice-chairman for 6 years. He also served as the Mt. Zion Township Supervisor and was the first Democrat elected to the post in 20 years.

In addition to a long career in area Democratic Party politics, Mr. Smith has been an ardent supporter of the labor movement, culminating with him serving as the executive director of Decatur Area Labor-Management from 1989-1997.

A man of faith, RC is active in his local church, where he is an ordained Deacon at the Tabernacle Baptist Church. He also served his country honorably in the U.S. Air Force from 1952 to 1956.

RC can't quite shake the pull of politics and will remain the president emeritus of the Long Creek Township Democrats as well as continue as the secretary of the Macon County Democrats. However, with all of the accomplishments and commitments, RC has earned a well deserved retirement from his service as