

Dixie Boys World Series Championship team and wishing them the very best in all of their future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE NAACP MID-MANHATTAN BRANCH 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS FOUNDING CHARTER AND IN CELEBRATION OF THEIR 10TH ANNUAL FREEDOM FUND ROY WILKINS AWARD LUNCHEON

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 20, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Mid-Manhattan Branch's 45th Anniversary as they celebrate their 10th Annual Freedom Fund Roy Wilkins Award Luncheon on Saturday, September 17 at the elegant Marina del Rey in the Bronx, New York.

In the mid 1960's a group of citizens, concerned that there was no NAACP Branch in the Mid-Manhattan area, met for several months to plan a branch. Over 500 letters co-signed by Roy Wilkins and Ralph Bunche, invited hopefully interested residents to a meeting at Freedom House (120 Wall Street, New York, NY). The meeting began the enrollment of members that continued until the 50-membership requirement for the Charter was obtained. On June 8, 1966, The Mid-Manhattan Branch received its Charter from the National Office of the NAACP.

Among those playing a key role in securing the Charter were Tom Allen, Harold Bailer, Gloster Current, Max Delson, Shirley Stewart Farmer, Bernard Leannan, Stanley Lowell, Morris Milgram, Bill Morrison, Frederick O'Neal, Betty Stebman and Roy Wilkins. In 1973, branch members agreed that a building was needed to maximize the services to the community. On May 25, 1978, Roy Wilkins and Benjamin Hooks dedicated the Roy Wilkins Center Building in a special ceremony.

For forty-five years, the Mid-Manhattan Branch has been an advocate for all its citizens in the struggle for civil rights and equality in playing an active role in confronting the gaps and disparities in healthcare, economics and education funding.

Today, under the leadership of Branch President Geoffrey E. Eaton, the Mid-Manhattan Branch has over 760 members, with ten working Committees—Act-So, Criminal Justice, Civic Engagement, Education, Fundraising, Health, Housing, Membership, Veteran Affairs and Youth Council. The NAACP, under the leadership of our Chairman Roslyn M. Brock, and President Benjamin Todd Jealous is more diverse and more active than before and the Mid-Manhattan Branch continues to be actively and directly involved with voter education, registration and mobilization, as well as youth development and enrichment programs like mentoring and mentorship.

The Mid-Manhattan Branch has brought their informative General Membership meetings closer to the community and to the public at large and are broadcast monthly on Manhattan Neighborhood Network Cable Television (MNN). This year, they held their second annual Criminal Justice forum featuring

the U.S. Secret Service, FBI, DEA, ATF, U.S. Marshall Service, NYPD, featuring the role of women in law enforcement at Wadleigh School for the Performing Arts. They are empowering more parents on issues of education and focusing more time on HIV/AIDS Awareness, Obesity and other health concerns. At the 102nd National Convention in Los Angeles, Mid-Manhattan took 2nd Place in the Thalheimer Award competition.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in saluting all the officers, executive committee and members of the NAACP Mid-Manhattan Branch as they celebrate their 45th Anniversary of their founding Charter and 10th Annual Freedom Fund Roy Wilkins Award Luncheon.

COMMEMORATION OF TAIWAN'S
100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 20, 2011

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, one hundred years is a long time. Much has happened in these last 100 years since a group of Chinese people, led by Sun Yat-sen, threw off the yoke of warlords and emperors to become the Republic of China (Taiwan).

China has a long history as one of the earliest centers of human civilization. It brought us the invention of paper, the written word and so many scientific developments, but it is during these last 100 years that we have seen the great progress of Taiwan developing into one of the strongest democracies in the world.

We congratulate Taiwan on its 100th anniversary and for its role in shaping the destiny of its people. We look forward to continuing Taiwan's partnership with the United States through the Taiwan Relations Act in promoting peace and progress for humanity.

THE ALAMO: THE THERMOPYLAE
OF TEXAS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 20, 2011

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, a plaque on the Alamo wall states: "The Alamo: The Thermopylae of Texas." The Alamo is a tribute to all those that are defiant against any form of tyranny. It is important for us to recognize all those that sacrificed for freedom, yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Remember who we are and what we stand for. This week, we "Remember the Alamo."

One hundred seventy-five years ago, 187 freedom fighters started assembling in an old beat-up mission in San Antonio. Juan Seguin 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 sur-

render was not an option. Retreat was never on the table. Victory or death.

On February 23, 1836, Santa Ana's army of 1,500 well armed troops unleashed on the defenders of the Alamo. During the siege, Travis sent out his famous call for reinforcements. Juan Seguin was the last messenger to leave, riding though enemy lines carrying the final message from the beleaguered mission. Unfortunately, the call for help was not answered in time. On March 6, 1836, Travis and 187 volunteers sacrificed their lives on the altar of freedom after thirteen glorious days at the Alamo.

It was at his final battle that my favorite Texas war hero, William Barrett Travis, penned the most famous letter in Texas history. From behind the walls of a besieged run-down mission in San Antonio, Travis wrote:

To the people of Texas and all Americans in the world, fellow citizens and compatriots, I am besieged by a thousand or more of the enemy under Santa Anna. I have sustained a continual bombardment and cannon fire for over 24 hours, but I have not lost a man.

The enemy has demanded surrender at its discretion. Otherwise, the fort will be put to the sword. I have answered that demand with a cannon shot. And the flag still waves proudly over the north wall.

I shall never surrender or retreat. I call upon you, in the name of liberty and patriotism and everything dear to the American character, to come to my aid with all dispatch.

If this call is neglected, I am determined to sustain myself for as long as possible, die like a soldier who never forgets what is due his honor and that of his country. Victory or death.

I could read this over and over. As a child, I was so intrigued by this letter. I would always be the first in my class to volunteer to play Travis at any given opportunity, if only just to read his words aloud. To me, he was the ultimate hero.

History teaches us everything we need to know, if we just look. This letter was written nearly two centuries ago and its message still rings true today. It's a story of "liberty and patriotism and everything dear to the American character." Freedom is still worth dying for. And to do so as a soldier, "is what is due his honor and that of his country."

Travis believed these words wholeheartedly. He believed that the cause for independence was worth his life. Our freedom fighters today understand these words as well, they know that America is worth fighting for and that defeat is not an option.

When I visit our troops over in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Texas boys, and gals, are easy to spot. They usually have a Texas flag flying on their humvee. (I have even seen one on a tank.) My personal favorite is the "Don't Mess with Texas" bumper sticker. And when you meet these modern-day freedom fighters, you know that no truer words have ever been spoken. There's just something about a Texas warrior.

As we continue to celebrate the 175th anniversary of Texas Independence this year, I will take a look back at those that put it all on the line for freedom. As much as some things change, the most important, thankfully stays the same. A century and half later, that same dogged determination that filled that little Spanish Mission is what continues to set us apart from all the rest. "God and Texas."—William Barrett Travis.

And that's just the way it is.