

the city I represent here in the United States Congress. Friday, March 9, 2001 marked the 270th anniversary of the founding of La Villa de San Fernando, the settlement which would later become known as the City of San Antonio.

On March 9, 1731, the Spanish Government founded the first permanent civic settlement in what is now the State of Texas. On this day, under the stewardship of Spanish King, Philip V, sixteen Canary Island families arrived in the territory then known as Tejas to establish La Villa de San Fernando. It would become the first civic government in Texas.

In honor of the sacrifices and contributions of the founding families of the City of San Antonio, and on behalf of the Canary Islands Descendants Association of San Antonio, Texas, I hereby recognize the role of the Canary Islanders in the founding of the Villa De San Fernando in 1731—later named San Antonio, Texas.

The founding of the city of San Antonio was achieved formally under the law of the Council of the Indies which was the Spanish law governing Nueva Espana in 1731;

With the arrival of the Canary Islanders, having the required number of ten families, the number required by the Laws of the Indies, to establish a town, the settlers were thus entitled to organize their own civil government, to receive lands for the construction of their homes and the sowing and raising of crops, to have a church and town hall, and to build a town with a public square and regularly planned streets;

After reaching their destination, following untold hardships, the exhausted travelers were received by Captain Juan Antonio de Almazan of the Presidio of Bejar; on the following day they were lodged in the best houses of the soldiers;

Following the detailed instructions of Viceroy Juan de Acuna, Marquez de Casafuerte the survey and distribution of the lands for the establishment of a new settlement was made;

On March 12, 1731 Captain Almazan took the heads of families to the Arroyo (now called San Pedro Creek) and divided the lands among them for a later time when they might divide the lands with more care. He urged them to plant crops before June 30;

By July 2, 1731 the settlers gave their efforts to the establishment of the proposed town, the church, and the public square;

On the following day July 3, 1731 lots were distributed to the families to build their homes adjoining the church and Casa Real. Then a large cross was formed at the main entrance of the Church as the center. By completing each of the four squares of the four sides of the cross a perfect larger square two thousand one hundred eighty-six varas on each side was delineated. The corners were identified by four long rocks as markers. A deep furrow was plowed from corner to corner to indicate the boundary in accordance with the instructions of the Viceroy;

On July 20, 1731 the first civil government was established when Captain Almazan appointed the members of the city council and other officers.

The Canary Islanders who were sent by King Philip V to establish the Villa de San Fernando did accomplish and played an important

role in the beginning of the development of the magnificent City of San Antonio, in the region first known as Tejas, which developed into the great State of Texas.

#### TUNISIA 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE

**HON. MARK KIRK**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 20, 2001*

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to recognize a great ally of the United States, Tunisia, as she celebrates 45 years of independence. In 1797, the United States signed a Treaty of Peace and Friendship with the North African country of Tunisia. Over 150 years later, Tunisia peacefully gained independence from France. Today, we congratulate Tunisia for 45 years as an independent nation.

The Republic of Tunisia has remained a steadfast friend to the United States, joining Allied forces during World War II and continuing support throughout the Cold War. Today, Tunisia enjoys a burgeoning economy, as the nation's per capita income continues to grow substantially. One of Tunisia's most valuable assets has been its continued willingness to further the Middle East peace process. Despite being surrounded by nations engulfed in political turmoil, Tunisia continues to take an active role in fighting terrorism and international unrest.

I congratulate Tunisia on 45 years of independence and look forward to the United States' continuing strong relations with Tunisia for years to come. Please join me in celebrating the 45th Anniversary of Tunisia's independence.

#### NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK ACT OF 2001

**HON. BOB GOODLATTE**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 20, 2001*

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to introduce the National Right to Work Act of 2001.

This Act will reduce federal power over the American workplace by removing those provisions of federal law authorizing the collection of forced-union dues as part of a collective bargaining contract.

Since the Wagner Act of 1935 made forced-union dues a keystone of federal labor law, millions of American workers have been forced to pay for union "representation" that they neither choose nor desire.

The primary beneficiaries of Right to Work are America's workers—even those who voluntarily choose to pay union dues, because when union officials are deprived of the forced-dues power granted them under current federal law, they will be more responsive to the workers' needs and concerns.

Mr. Speaker, this act is pro-worker, pro-economic growth, and pro-freedom.

The twenty-one states with Right to Work laws, including my own state of Virginia, have a nearly three-to-one advantage over non-Right to Work states in terms of job creation.

Workers who have the freedom to choose whether or not to join a union have a higher standard of living than their counterparts in non-Right to Work states. The National Right to Work Act would make the economic benefits of voluntary unionism a reality for all Americans.

While this bill is about economics, it is more about freedom.

Compelling a man or woman to pay fees to a union in order to work violates the very principle of individual liberty upon which this nation was founded. Oftentimes, forced union dues are used to support causes that worker does not wish to support with his or her hard-earned wages.

Thomas Jefferson said it best, ". . . to compel a man to furnish contributions of money for the propagation of opinions which he disbelieves is sinful and tyrannical."

By passing the National Right to Work Act, this Congress will take a major step toward restoring the freedom of America's workers to choose the form of workplace representation that best suits their needs.

In a free-society, the decision of whether or not to join or support a union should be made by a worker, not a union official, not an employer, and certainly not the U.S. Congress.

The National Right to Work Act reduces federal power over America's labor markets, promotes economic growth and a higher standard of living, and enhances freedom.

I urge my colleagues to quickly pass the National Right to Work Act and free millions of Americans from the tyranny of forced-union dues.

#### TRIBUTE TO ALEX BRISEÑO FOR TWENTY-FOUR YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

**HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 20, 2001*

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, today it is my privilege to recognize Alex Briseño for his 24 years of service to the City of San Antonio. As Mr. Briseño retires from his current position as the City Manager to one of the largest cities in Texas we know that his hard work and dedication will be greatly missed by the people of our community.

Nobody understands San Antonio's government better than Alex Briseño. He began his career with the City of San Antonio in 1977 as assistant to the city manager. Within three years he advanced to become an assistant city manager. During his next ten years of service he learned the intricacies of different departments within the city, knowledge that would empower him to manage the city staff with the wise hand of experience. He supervised numerous different departments ranging from the Budget Department to the Information Services and Health Department. He was well prepared for the challenges he would face as