

only civil rights but human moral rights for all people as expressed in his own words, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere"

Whereas, 40 years after the passing of Dr. King, we witness on this day the inauguration of Barack Hussein Obama as 44th President of the United States, filled with confidence in the dream of Martin Luther King, Jr., and the prayers and efforts of countless ordinary heroes who believed that this day would one day be possible, expressed in President Obama's words, "This is your victory!"

Whereas, in my capacity as a member of the United States Congress, I would like to acknowledge these behind the scenes efforts of one such extra-ordinary hero by recognizing, SGI President Daisaku Ikeda, as an Emissary of Peace and Justice.

HONORING SPECIAL AGENT
BENJAMIN KRAMER

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee will soon bid farewell to our Congressional Fellow, Benjamin Kramer, as he begins his next assignment as Special Agent for the U.S. Secret Service. Special Agent Kramer has proven himself to be an energetic and thoughtful contributor to the work of this Subcommittee, bringing with him the experience he has gained with the Secret Service and before that as a criminal investigator with the D.C. Inspector General.

Working as a member of my subcommittee staff, Ben helped the Subcommittee navigate what was often a frenetic path as we crafted our 2009 appropriations bill, and assisted in our work in overseeing the agencies and programs under our jurisdiction. In particular, Ben had lead staff responsibility for oversight of the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Inspector General.

Ben's unqualified professionalism, great sense of humor and cool head have helped our Subcommittee and the Congress address a wide range of policy and budgetary challenges. During his time with the Subcommittee, Ben researched issues for various programs, coordinated committee travel, and compiled materials on amendments. Ben also assisted in managing the database of requests to the Committee from Members of Congress, and in preparing for hearings and briefings. I am grateful for his hard work.

Special Agent Kramer has served me, this Subcommittee, and the House well. While we are sorry to see him leave, each of us on the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee wishes Ben all the best as he resumes his Secret Service career, and expect to continue to see great things from him.

CONGRATULATING THE PINK
HEALS TOUR FOR BREAST CAN-
CER RESEARCH AND FOUNDER
DAVID GRAYBILL

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Pink Heals Tour, which covered over 10,000 miles in 2008, to support the fight against breast cancer.

Breast cancer occurs in one out of every eight women in our country, and this cross-country tour in a decorated pink fire truck aimed to increase awareness of this disease and to raise funding for cancer research. In particular, this journey reached out to typically male-dominated organizations, such as police and fire departments, to encourage them to wear pink clothing in support of this cause. A second tour is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2009. The upcoming Pink Heals Tour will cross the United States in three pink fire trucks throughout September and October.

I am particularly proud, Madam Speaker, to recognize David Graybill, who founded the Pink Heals Tour to inspire citizens and community leaders to join in local breast cancer fundraising organizations and events. When I taught high school back home in Arizona, David was one of my students. So far, his efforts have had an enormous impact on his community and on millions of people across 21 states and 40 different cities.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Pink Heals Tour and its founder, David Graybill, for their selfless work to raise awareness and support the fight against breast cancer.

HONORING THE FIRST PARISH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH OF SCITUATE, MA

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today so that my colleagues in the House of Representatives can join me in recognizing the First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church of Scituate, MA on its 375th Anniversary.

The rich spiritual tradition of the First Parish Church dates all the way back to seventeenth-century London, when the Puritan separatist, the Rev. Henry Jacob, joined with others to establish the first non-Anglican church in England. In 1624, Jacob was succeeded by the Rev. John Lothrop, who led a small congregation in worshiping secretly in taverns, homes and fields. When the Bishop of London learned of their activities, Rev. Lothrop and his followers were arrested and imprisoned in the notorious jail, the Clink.

Upon his release two years later in 1634, Rev. Lothrop and a number of his congregation left England bound for Boston, thirsting for the freedom to worship that the New World promised. On January 8, 1634, Lothrop came together with 11 other men and women to officially form the First Church of Scituate. Rev. Lothrop's distinguished lineage has included

U.S. Presidents, Supreme Court justices, diplomats and prominent businessmen and women.

It is fitting that the anniversary of the Church's founding falls so close to the day we honor Martin Luther King, Jr., the greatest champion of civil rights and equality our Nation has known. Under strong ministerial and lay leadership, the Church has maintained a steadfast commitment to worship, provided spiritual guidance to parishioners, and sounded a clarion call for justice and human dignity.

In colonial times, the Church's ministers and laity fought for religious tolerance on behalf of Quakers and Baptists. They spoke out against the shackles of slavery, and provided care for Union soldiers during the Civil War. During the 19th century, Church leaders advocated vociferously for the economic rights of workers. As an integral part of our community and the global public square, the First Parish Church of Scituate has left an indelible mark for generations to come.

On this momentous occasion, I congratulate the Church's current leader, Rev. Richard M. Stower, and its entire congregation. I wish them all the best for continued success in the years ahead.

EGMONT KEY CELEBRATING 150
YEARS OF "LIGHTING THE WAY"
INTO TAMPA BAY

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, the Tampa Bay community I represent celebrated the 150th anniversary of one of the key aids to navigation on all of Florida's west coast last November, the Egmont Key Lighthouse.

The Lighthouse has a rich history and includes being destroyed once by a major hurricane, being rebuilt and staffed by a long list of dedicated keepers, being at the center of civil war intrigue, and now being home to a national wildlife refuge. Throughout its storied history it has stood tall as the only lighthouse between Key West and the Florida Panhandle and marks the entrance to Tampa Bay, one of our Nation's busiest waterways.

Because its history is so interesting Madam Speaker, I will include, following my remarks a column from the Tampa Bay Soundings newspaper by Captain Richard Johnson, the past President of the Egmont Key Alliance. He and the members of the alliance have not only worked hard to share the history of Egmont Key and the Lighthouse, but also to preserve structures on the island. Also I will include with my remarks further information about the legacy of Egmont Key from the Web site LighthouseFriends.com.

Madam Speaker, we continue to protect Egmont Key and the lighthouse, which was added to the Register of National Historic Places in 1978, by providing Federal funds to renourish the shoreline surrounding the island and by studying a way to provide a long-term solution to protect the island's original buildings.

In the meantime, the Egmont Key Lighthouse will continue its mission to ensure the safe navigation along the Gulf of Mexico and

into Tampa Bay just as it has throughout the past 150 years. Please join me in thanking all those who have served to keep its beacon lit and who continue to serve today with President Jim Spangler and the Egmont Key Alliance to keep its history alive and its structures sound.

LIGHTING THE WAY: THE EGMONT KEY LIGHTHOUSE, TAMPA BAY SOUNDINGS

(By Captain Richard Johnson)

It has been 150 years since light keeper Sherrod Edwards first carried cans of lamp oil up the spiral staircase of the lighthouse on Egmont Key. But this magnificent beacon, rebuilt "to withstand any storm" after a hurricane in the late 1840s, still stands guard at the entrance to Tampa Bay, welcoming mariners and visitors.

The 71-foot-high lighthouse has been vital to the safety of commerce on Florida's west coast for more than a century. First constructed in 1848 to support commercial trade along the nation's Gulf Coast, it was the only lighthouse between the Panhandle and Key West. While guiding ships along the coast, it also marked the entrance to the increasingly important port of Tampa.

The first lighthouse was built with brick and cost \$10,000. It was located about 100 feet northeast of the existing structure on the north end of the island. The keeper's house, also brick, was constructed nearby for Edwards and his family. The lighthouse was first lit in April 1848 when they moved in. Less than six months later, in September, a hurricane ravaged the lighthouse. Stories say Edwards and his family took refuge in a rowboat tied to a palm tree as water rose over the island.

With the first tower damaged beyond repair, a new, taller lighthouse—which still stands today—was constructed in 1858 for \$16,000. Other buildings were added over the years. A small brick building was constructed in 1895 near the lighthouse to store lamp oil; a larger brick building erected in the 1920s housed the island's radio transmitter.

Other structures have since been torn down. Two large sheds near the bayside dock served as a depot for navigational buoys along Florida's Gulf Coast in the late 1800s. For a time, all buoys between St. Marks and Key West were maintained and stored on Egmont Key. An assistant light keeper's house was added in 1899. All that remains of that house is a cistern, which is still used today.

Over the years, numerous improvements were made to the light station and the dock was rebuilt several times. Almost every recorded annual report to the Lighthouse Board includes some reference to repairs, improvements or rebuilding, mostly to mitigate damage from storms.

The life of the lighthouse keeper was not easy. For the most part, the light keeper, his assistant and their families were the only people on the island. Bulk supplies like oil for the light were brought in just once a year, and the families raised much of their own food, while traveling by small boat to Bradenton or Tampa for other supplies.

Maintaining a lighthouse with an oil lamp required constant attention to trimming and adjusting wicks, cleaning the chimney and lenses, and washing the windows of the lantern room. While the light was bright and well-focused for an oil lamp, it was not nearly as bright as an electric light, and scrupulous attention to maintaining the cleanliness of every part of the system was necessary to ensure that the light would not be obscured. Each day they worked from dawn until about 10 a.m. just cleaning up and preparing the light for the next night's work.

Curtains hung from dawn until dusk to prevent discoloration of the lens glass.

In 1939, the Coast Guard took over the lighthouse service and converted the newer light-keeper's house into a barracks for a small crew. A few years later, the lighthouse was renovated. With the upper portion of the brick tower deteriorating, the tower was trimmed several feet for stabilization, and an aircraft-style rotating beacon replaced the original oil lamp. Illumination surged from 3,000 candlepower to 175,000 candlepower, visible on a clear night from as far as 22 miles away.

But it wasn't until the late 1980s that the light was fully automated and the Coast Guard personnel reassigned. Shortly after that the Florida State Park Service joined the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in caring for the island's natural resources.

Through the years, a series of light keepers about whom we know very little, worked through heat and hurricane, battling mosquitoes and winter gales, to keep the Egmont light working and the station in good order. Even with modern advances in navigation, the light remains an important aid to mariners and aviators destined for Tampa Bay.

Capt. Richard Johnson, president of the Egmont Key Alliance, teaches sailing at the St. Petersburg branch of the Annapolis Sailing School. For more information on Egmont Key or the Egmont Key Alliance, call 727-867-8102.

EGMONT KEY, FLORIDA,
LIGHTHOUSEFRIENDS.COM

Description: When Florida was under British control, surveyor George Gauld named the small island found at the entrance to Tampa Bay Egmont Key, after John Perceval, second Earl of Egmont and First Lord of the Admiralty. Through the years, the island has served as home to two lighthouses, a fort, a movie theater, a cemetery, boat pilots, and a radio beacon. Today, all that remains on the island is a truncated lighthouse, crumbling remains of the fort, a small colony of gopher tortoises, and a park ranger to interpret the island's history.

In 1833, the Secretary of the Treasury received multiple petitions for a lighthouse at Egmont Key to assist vessels transiting Florida's Gulf Coast between Key West and the Panhandle. However, it wasn't until after Florida achieved statehood in 1845 and its legislature petitioned Congress in December of 1846, that funds were granted for the Egmont Key Lighthouse. Francis A. Gibbons of Baltimore signed a contract with the government to provide a lighthouse and dwelling at a cost of \$6,250.

The contract called for a 40-foot, brick tower, topped with an octagonal lantern that would shelter 13 lamps backed by 21-inch reflectors. The lighting apparatus was supplied by Winslow Lewis at a cost of \$1,330. The St. Marks customs collector, a Mr. Walker, who oversaw the construction, recommended that "in consequence of the heavy gales of wind in this country," the 34 x 20, one-story, brick dwelling should "be placed at least 100 feet from the tower, so in case of its prostration, the house and lives would not be endangered." Walker also insisted that the tower be built on a foundation of driven pilings rather than on a foundation of "dry shells and sand" as promoted by the frugal Stephen Pleasonton, Fifth Auditor of the Treasury.

Work began on the lighthouse during the summer of 1847, and the lamps were to be lit by January 1, 1848 according to the contract. However, the supply ship Abbe Baker, which was transporting bricks from New York for the lighthouse, ran aground on Orange Key, and roughly half of the bricks had to be tossed overboard to refloat the ship. By Feb-

ruary of 1848, the tower stood at a height of twenty feet, but work was halted until a new shipment of bricks arrived. The tower was officially certified on April 19, 1848, and shortly thereafter Sherrod Edwards, the first keeper of the Egmont Key Lighthouse, activated the light. At that time, the lighthouse was the only one between Key West and St. Marks.

On September 23, 1848 a powerful hurricane covered Egmont Key with several feet of water. Keeper Edwards and his family, according to local legend, survived the storm by seeking refuge in a small boat tethered to a Palmetto tree. Shortly thereafter, Keeper Edwards rowed his family ashore and resigned. It was likely due to Walker's pile foundation that the tower survived the storm. The lighthouse was subsequently struck by lightning, which opened cracks in the tower. In 1854, a concrete pad was poured around the base of the tower, but by 1856, it was apparent that a replacement tower was necessary.

A new tower, twice as tall as the original, was completed in 1857 near the northern end of Egmont Key, and probably ninety feet inland from the previous tower. A fixed-light produced by a third-order Fresnel lens was exhibited from a focal plane of eighty-six feet starting in 1858.

In 1861, keeper George V. Rickard found himself caught in a struggle for control of the lighthouse. The collector in Key West was loyal to the Union, while the collector at St. Marks sided with the Confederates. Rickard feigned allegiance to Union blockaders near the island, until their absence allowed him to flee the island. After crating up the Fresnel lens, Rickard absconded to Tampa with the lens and as many supplies as he could transport.

The lighthouse soon fell under Union control and was reactivated using a makeshift light. After the war, a fourth-order lens was used until 1893, when it was replaced by a third-order lens with a red sector.

In 1898, during the Spanish-American War, Fort Dade, part of a comprehensive coastal defense system, was constructed on the island. Named for the army commander, who along with his detachment, was killed by Seminole Indians in 1835, the fort, along with Fort DeSoto on Mullet Island to the northeast, stood watch over the entrance to Tampa Bay. The fort was staffed during World War I as well, and by the time it was deactivated in 1923, a movie theater, bowling alley, tennis courts, and miles of brick roads were found on the island.

In 1944, the upper portion of the lighthouse was removed along with the Fresnel lens, and a Double Head DCB-36 Rotating Beacon was placed on top of the capped tower. The remaining keeper's dwelling was demolished in 1954 and replaced by a one-story barracks. In 1974, Egmont Key became a National Wildlife Refuge, managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The island was also added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1978, due to the lighthouse and remains of Fort Dade. The lighthouse was automated in 1989 when the present optic, a DCB-24 Rotating Beacon was installed, and today the Florida Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service work together to manage the island.

In November of 2008, a celebration was held on the island to commemorate the 150th birthday of the Egmont Key Lighthouse. In preparation for the event, the lighthouse received a new coat of paint thanks to the Tampa Bay Rough Riders and volunteers from the Coast Guard. A new plaque was unveiled at the base of the lighthouse during the festivities, and birthday cake was served to over 200 people. For the past several years, Christmas lights have been placed on

the tower by volunteers from the Egmont Key Alliance to bring a little holiday cheer to the island.

100 YEARS WELL SPENT—MARTIN
WISENBAKER TURNS 100 YEARS
OLD

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, this Saturday in Humble, TX, the eight children, numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Martin Lewis Wisenbaker are celebrating his 100th birthday. This Texan has played many roles in his accomplished life including athlete, farmer, deacon, husband, and father and he doesn't seem to be slowing down anytime soon.

Martin Wisenbaker was born in Graham, TX on January 17, 1909, and by the age of 16 he

had settled in Humble, TX. He started out working in the rice fields of southeast Texas until he was hired by Hughes Tool in 1929.

Just 4 years later Martin met the woman he would marry and spend his life with, Miss Wesley Belle Lee. Over the years they had eight children, including two sets of twins. In addition to his job at Hughes Tool, Martin had his own dairy farm and sold milk to local families.

In 1944 the family joined the First Baptist Church in Humble. Martin would go on to be baptized in the church and even serve as a deacon starting in 1960. Even with all of his commitments, Martin still found time to pursue another passion: sports. You could find him playing tennis or baseball and he even won a local tennis tournament and played 3rd base for the company baseball team.

After 38 years with Hughes Tool, Martin retired at the age of 62. His retirement years were spent with the church bowling league. Over the years Martin added numerous bowling trophies to his tennis and baseball awards.

After winning many times over at the Senior Olympics and a bowl of 200 on his 92nd birthday, Martin was forced to give up the sport when he was 99 years old due to knee problems.

In July of 2008 Martin lost his wife, Wesley, just after their 74th anniversary. They spent their last days together in the Park Manor facilities in Humble, where he still resides.

Madam Speaker, on Saturday that room will be filled with Martin Wisenbaker's loved ones who are no doubt celebrating the life of a great man who was born before the Titanic sailed, experienced the Great Depression, saw the first Olympic Games, lived through two world wars, entered the new millennium and watched as the U.S. was attacked by terrorists on September 11, 2001.

I want to commend Mr. Wisenbaker on a long life of hard work and service to his community. Congratulations to him and his family on this extraordinary achievement.