

**Signing of the Sister City Agreement
between the Cities of Erlangen and Riverside
Friday 12th of June 2013, 15:00, Town Hall**

Dear mayer and colleague Bailey,
dear Consul General Moeller,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Erlangen and the United States of America share a long common history.

Johann von Kalb, or as he is called in the USA, Jean de Kalb and Baron de Kalb, born in the urban district of Erlangen, called Huettendorf, finally moved to North America, ten years after two exploring visits in 1767 and 1768. At the end of 1779 George Washington made the man from Franconia commander-in-chief of the divisions of Delaware and Maryland. However, already in August 1780 the German General lost his life during in the battle of Camden. Thus our compatriot became a hero of the War of Independence, though he did not live to see the capitulation of the English a year later. In the 19th century another "Erlanger" started its triumphal procession throughout the USA. The beer-town of Erlangen used to be very successful in exporting the products of its breweries, especially in the USA where the so-called brand "Erlanger" was available all over the country. After World War II the GIs, garrisoned here till 1993, were spreading the name of Erlangen in all regions of the United States. In between these times lies the darkest chapter in Erlangen's history, the Third Reich. During these disastrous years innumerable Jews emigrated to the USA, among them the mathematician Emmy Noether. We owe America a great deal of gratitude for having given a new home to all of those who managed to escape the Nazi terror.

In Erlangen World War II came to an end with the US Army's proposition to capitulate. Literally as a last-minute decision the then-rulers accepted the unconditional surrender and thus avoided our city's destruction. Already a week after the defeat without struggle Robert C. Adair, the 1st military governor of the US Army, arrived in Erlangen. And some months

later it was he who approved of the plans of the Siemens Company to establish their facilities in Erlangen. In retrospect, this was a decision of huge consequences for our city. A decision we will always remain grateful for to America.

The presence of the US-soldiers in the Ferris Barracks has left a substantial mark both in the common life and cityscape of Erlangen. Uncountable friendships, matrimonies and business contacts have been established. Today the territory of the former barracks is called Roethelheimpark and has turned into a gem in our urban development, where industry, retail and housing areas emerge in a fruitful symbiosis of sustainability and modern development. There we have a nature protection area of great impact, there we have a Martin-Luther-King-Drive and a square named after George Marshall, to whom Germany owes so much due to the Recovery Plan after Zero Hour.

The Company Siemens and a lot of other enterprises in Erlangen are tightly linked with the American market. Hence the enduring indispensability of transatlantic cooperation and division of labor for us in Erlangen. The numerous contacts of the University Friedrich Alexander Erlangen-Nuernberg with universities and institutes in the United States are of outstanding importance. The relevance of these scientific ties for our universities – concerning all fields from American literature to engineering – has been underlined by the Memorandum of Understanding that was signed in my presence in Riverside last year. I would also like to mention in this context the successful activity of the Bavaria California Technology Center, located in Erlangen.

A well-nigh constituent role I am very grateful for is played by the German-American Institute with their director Prof. Andreas Falke that, however situated in Nuremberg, like a light-house constantly sends out rays with all its events to the whole region and especially to Erlangen. Co-operations with the Adult Education Center, the Forestry Office and other institutions are self-documenting examples.

Last but not least we have a “cultural scene” that could not do without the American influence. I just would like to mention the exhibitions in our Palace of Fine Arts, the series of American movies in our Club International at the Adult Education Center, the contributions to our Comic Salon, or the American companies taking part in our Puppets’ Festival. We even have a Square Dance Club in Erlangen, the so-called Erlangen Rebels, and an American Football Club.

During my inaugural visit in spring 2011 together with Chancellor Thomas Schoeck, vice-mayor for environmental issues, Marlene Wuestner, and Professor Andreas Falke, I could already feel in all our meetings the deep-rooted wish of our friends in Riverside to initiate a close municipal and civic co-operation. We were welcomed as friends. And that is what I would like to thank you for right now once again.

It was the City of Riverside, initiated by a private contact of Karin Roberts and Thomas Stockmeier that has approached us and offered its friendship. Not just by chance as Erlangen and Riverside do fit together in a lot of aspects. It's as if they were even meant for each other. The universities, the economics, the focus on medicine, the caring for sustainability and environmental issues, e-government, culture, and the cosmopolitanism of both cities deliver a vast variety of possible co-operations.

Councilor Felizitas Traub-Eichhorn plays the formidable role of a trailblazer with her efficient exchange programs as a teacher of the Albert-Schweitzer-High-School, together with Ute Guthunz, a teacher of the Ohm-High-School. Their exchange of students is the foundation of future civic contacts. I would like to thank them both and all their colleagues, committed to this exchange, for their successful work.

I do not want to omit the opportunity of mentioning the important role of the Sister-City-Committee in Riverside that was founded four years ago and of its counterpart in Erlangen, the Friends' Club of Riverside which is now to be established as an association.

In October 2011 we have signed our treaty of co-operation in Erlangen. The drive of our partnership has proven our links intensive and vivid and full of potential and opportunities for further exchange. We, therefore, intend to conclude the "matrimonial agreement" between our two cities after two years of testing each other before joining forever. Based on this commitment the words my colleague Rusty Bailey and me will now recite together, we intend to do everything we can to strengthen the German-American friendship. Long live the new sister-city-relation of Erlangen and Riverside!

Dr. Siegfried Balleis
Oberbürgermeister

Ablauf des Festakts zur Unterzeichnung der Partnerschaftsurkunde Erlangen - Riverside

- I. Ort: 14. OG Rathaus
Zeit: 15.00 Uhr

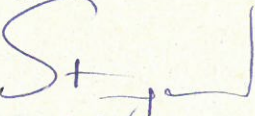
Ablauf:

1. Begrüßung der Gäste durch OBM, kurze Erläuterungen zum Stadtbild
2. Ansprache von OB Dr. Siegfried Balleis
3. Erwiderung von Mayor Rusty Bailey
4. Grußwort von Generalkonsul William E. Moeller
5. Unterzeichnung der Partnerschaftsurkunde
6. Eintrag ins Goldene Buch
7. Überreichung der Geschenke
8. Gelegenheit für Gespräche, geselliges Beisammensein, Ausklang

Nächster Termin: gegen 17.00 Uhr Abfahrt zum Albert-Schweitzer-Gymnasium

- II. OBM z.K. ^{mlcz} ^{WV z.T.}
III. Kopie an <13-AL>, <13-4, Fr. Klein>, <13-4, H. Ott> z.K.
IV. Kopie an 13-4 z.V.

I.A.


Peter Steger