

What a GREAT DAY!



April 29 was a great day for all of Florida's lighthouses, and for the Cape St. George Light in particular.

The legislation creating a license plate for Florida's lighthouses was approved by the legislature tonight, and is now on the way to Governor Crist for signature. The Senate bill was approved by the House of Representatives by a vote of 118 to 1. The license plate, which was the Number One Priority of the Florida Lighthouse Association, will provide funds to the state's remaining 29 public lighthouses through an application process administered by FLA. Because of the state's difficult financial situation, the plate is a great way to raise funds for lighthouses without burdening the budget or the taxpayers.

The stucco work was completed and the scaffolding removed from the Cape St. George Light.

Many thanks to the Florida Lighthouse Association and

President Stan Farnham for the relentless pursuit of this goal. You were successful, and we thank you.

And now to our own special guy: Representative Will Kendrick agreed to be a co-sponsor of the legislation in response to the commitment shown by the St. George Lighthouse Association and the Carrabelle Lighthouse Association, representing two of the four lighthouses in his district. Rep. Kendrick, who is terming out after this year, was instrumental in gaining approval of the grants that made the reconstruction of our lighthouse and the refurbishment of the Crooked River Lighthouse possible. With tight state budgets making that kind of support unlikely in the near future, Rep. Kendrick agreed to help gain passage of the lighthouse license plate legislation. Thank you, Will, for this wonderful parting gift!

Now it is up to us to purchase the Lighthouse license plates, and encourage our Florida friends and family members to do so as well. The top selling tags raise about \$2 million annually. Just think of what that amount of money could do for our lighthouses. But it's all dependent on how many tags we sell, and we all are the sales force!

On the local front, another huge milestone was reached today. The stucco work on the Cape St. George Light was completed, and the scaffolding was removed. As the scaffolding gradually came down, island residents marvelled at the difference in the look of the lighthouse -- like a lovely butterfly emerging from a cocoon!

A white finish coat of paint will be applied when the stucco cures. Stay tuned for a couple of weeks. And meanwhile, welcome back, Cape St. George Light.