

For Immediate Release

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**CORAL GABLES MAYOR DON SLESNICK
HONORED BY THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA**



Photos from left: Hon. Don and Jeannett Slesnick and Hon. Miguel and Isabel Tsao; Certificate of Award; Friend of Foreign Service Medal

(Coral Gables, FL) – During a reception that took place at the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in downtown Coral Gables on June 28, 2010, representatives of the Republic of China (Taiwan) honored Mayor Don Slesnick with the Friend of Foreign Service Medal “in recognition of his remarkable contribution to the friendship between the Republic of China (Taiwan) and the United States of America.” This important diplomatic tribute makes Mayor Slesnick the first Floridian leader ever to receive a medal for his contributions to the promotion of international relations with Taiwan, in the 21-year history of their Florida office.

The medal was presented to Mayor Slesnick by Miguel Tsao, Director General of the Taipei office on behalf of Timothy Chin-tien Yang, Taiwan’s Minister of Foreign Affairs. Present were the Consul General of St. Lucia Mr. Kent Hippolyte, Consul General of Honduras Ms. Lizette Hawitt, and Consul General of El Salvador Ms. Maria Teresa Pacheco de Gonzalez. Various other dignitaries, local Chinese nationals, as well as friends and family members were in attendance.

During his presentation speech, Mr. Tsao proudly declared that Taiwan was the supplier of 50% of all orchids imported by the United States, and also presented Mayor Slesnick with a beautiful twenty-bloom Taiwan orchid plant as a token of his nation’s gratitude.

Mayor Slesnick expressed his appreciation, paid tribute to the freedom-loving citizens of the Republic of China and said, “I thank Taiwan for this distinguished honor and for the great friendship and cooperation shared between Taiwan and the City of Coral Gables.”

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