

DONALD R. SANDOR: TEACHING  
GOD'S MESSAGE FOR 26 YEARS

**HON. JAMES A. BARCIA**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2002*

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Donald Sandor as he prepares to retire after 40 years of faithful, accomplished teaching and music ministry leadership, the past 25 years of which were spent at Immanuel Lutheran Church and School in Bay City, Michigan. Don's devotion and joyfulness in sharing the good news of God's love in Christ with his students and our congregation has made him an invaluable part of Lutheran education in our community.

A native of Akron, Ohio, Don is one of two children born to Mary Sandor and the late Julius Sandor, from whom he received the love and support that helped mold him into the wonderful educator he is today. Don is a product of Lutheran schools in Ohio. He later earned a bachelor's degree from Concordia Teachers College in River Forest, Illinois, and a master's degree from Saginaw Valley State University.

Since 1962, as a Lutheran school teacher, Don has shared with children the basics of reading, writing, arithmetic, music and especially our faith in the Lord our God and Savior. His faith and submission to God's call first led Don to Lutheran schools in Cincinnati, Ohio; St. Louis, Missouri; and, Lincoln Park, Michigan. Don came to Bay City's Immanuel Lutheran Church and School in 1977, first as a seventh-grade teacher and then teacher of the fifth grade. Throughout his 25 years at Immanuel, Don has been active as a leader in both the church's and school's music ministry, serving as parish music coordinator, organist and choir director. He also assisted as a school choir director and organist.

Don has always found ways to use his God-given talent outside his own classrooms and parishes. Organizations including the American Guild of Organists and the Saginaw Valley Chapter of the A.G.O. Executive Board, the Michigan District North and West Teachers Conference Executive Board and the Midland Music Festival Committee have benefited from Don's input and influence. Of course, Don's wife, Kathy, and daughters, Julie, Jill and Laurel, have been a large part of his success and they, too, deserve our thanks.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I wish to praise Don for setting and maintaining high standards of excellence in education and in his faith. The elementary and middle school years set the groundwork for future success and Don's teaching ministry has served his students and our community well. I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing gratitude to Don Sandor for his dedicated service to our children and in wishing him an enjoyable retirement.

COMMEMORATING ASIAN PACIFIC  
AMERICAN HERITAGE  
MONTH "UNITY IN FREEDOM"

**HON. PATSY T. MINK**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2002*

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to rise today to commemorate May

as APA Heritage Month. It is a time not only to honor the many Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders that have made contributions to our great society. It is also a time to remember that this greatness is based upon the richness and vitality of a culture that embraces diversity.

The month of May was chosen as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month to mark the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States in 1843. The freedoms that were sought and acquired then are the same freedoms that draw the many immigrants to our country today. And it is our welcome that defines the "unity in freedom" we so desire.

If not for our hospitality we would not have Yo-Yo Ma, who, in 1963, attended Juilliard School of Music at the age of nine and has since enchanted the world with his brilliance as a cellist. Or we may not have the Viet Nam Memorial designed by architect Maya Ying Lin, whose parents emigrated to our country from China in the 1940s. When, as a student at Yale, she created the memorial's design.

We look at the accomplishments of Asian Americans and Pacific Island athletes who have changed the face of sports with their extraordinary abilities. Duke Kahanamoku, a native Hawaiian, won three gold and two silver medals in swimming over the course of three Olympics in the early 20th century. Tiger Woods, golfer extraordinaire, had the opportunities at a very young age to excel at a sport that was once thought of as elitist. Figure skaters Kristi Yamaguchi, gold medalist in the 1992 Olympics, and Michelle Kwan, the most decorated women skater in history, have turned the Olympian dream into reality. Just recently the world witnessed Apollo Ohno, a Seattle native, take the Winter Olympics by storm as he rose to the top of his sport, short track speed skating, by being the first American to win the gold and silver medal.

Perhaps a name less known to the world is Dr. David Ho, a molecular biologist, who, at the age of three emigrated with his family to our country in search of a better life. Dr. Ho's dedication as an AIDS researcher led to the development the anti-viral drug "cocktails," that has earned him Time Magazine's 1996 Man of the Year.

The grandeur of our universe is not big enough to hold the heroic deeds of our NASA astronauts. Two Asians have the distinction of being firsts. In 1996, Kalpana Chawla, a mission specialist on the space shuttle STS-87, was the first Indian American woman in space. Lt Colonel Ellison Onizuka, a Japanese American from the Big Island of Hawaii, loomed high as the first Asian American in space. Colonel Onizuka tragically lost his life in the 1986 Challenger explosion.

Lest we not forget the Asian American and Pacific Island veterans who lost their lives in the service of our country. Their courage and gallantry has preserved the freedom and democracy that all Americans enjoy.

RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF MAY  
AS ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN  
HERITAGE MONTH

**HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2002*

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the month of

May 2002 as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

In June 1977, Representatives Frank Horton of New York and Norman Y. Mineta of California introduced a House resolution that called upon the President to proclaim the first 10 days of May as Asian Pacific Heritage Week. That was later followed by a Senate bill introduced the following month by Senators DANIEL INOUE and Spark Matsunaga. On October 5, 1978, President Jimmy Carter signed a Joint Resolution designating the annual celebration. In May 1990, the holiday was expanded further when President George Bush designated May to be Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. The month of May was chosen to commemorate the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants to the United States in May 1843.

H. Res. 408, introduced by my colleague and the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus Chair, Representative DAVID WU, recognizes the contributions of Asian Pacific Americans to our Nation. As an original cosponsor of this resolution, I recognize and commend how Asian Pacific Americans have contributed to the prosperity and vitality of our society. Whether in government, business, education, the military, science, technology, or the arts, Asian Pacific Americans bring to our society a rich cultural heritage representing many languages, ethnicities, and religious traditions.

Diversity represents one of our country's greatest strengths. I am honored to represent the State of Hawaii in Congress. Much of the character of my State and district is a result of the great diversity Asian Pacific Americans have brought to our country. I hope all Americans recognize the contributions these groups have made to our national identity and culture.

A TRIBUTE TO FIRST LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2002*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor First Lutheran Church in Pasadena, CA. On Sunday, June 2, First Lutheran will celebrate its 110th anniversary with a day of prayer and celebration marking the extraordinary history of the church and its congregation.

First Lutheran was convened in 1892 at the Grand Hotel in Pasadena. Originally, due to the German congregation, all church business and services were conducted in German. The church's constitution was even written in German. It wasn't until 1914 that all services were conducted in English and it wasn't until the early 1920s that the church's constitution was translated into English.

Between the 1940s and 1960s, 800 to 1000 parishioners attended weekly Sunday services. The church had grown so large and so popular at one point that the services were broadcast for a time on Glendale radio station KIEV. First Lutheran's popularity was a direct result of the inviting atmosphere of the church's services and congregation. Parishioners from as far away as St. Louis, Missouri chose to attend First Lutheran as they settled in southern California and all of them remark that their decision was based on the feeling of

"being home," that First Lutheran gave to them.

The feeling of "being home" extended to, as the First Lutheran Mission Statement reads, "all people." While many churches around the nation fought against integration, First Lutheran embraced the call to treat all people as equals and it was in the 1940s and 1950s that the congregation began to integrate. Today, First Lutheran looks like America. It has acted and will continue to act as a refuge for all who come to worship together regardless of differences.

I am proud to be able to recognize First Lutheran for its 110 years of offering a place of solemn and joyous worship to the people of the San Gabriel Valley and I ask all Members to join me in congratulating the congregation for the years of remarkable achievement.

#### HONORING CONGREGATION B'NAI ZION

#### HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2002*

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a cornerstone of the religious community in South Florida, Key West's Congregation B'nai Zion. Founded in 1887, the B'nai Zion Synagogue has remained an integral part of the Key West community for over 115 years and is the oldest Jewish congregation in Key West, as well as one of the oldest in the state of Florida. I am saddened, however, to report that a fire nearly destroyed the synagogue of Congregation B'nai Zion in the early morning hours of April 16.

I come to the floor today to offer my deepest sympathies to the people of the Congregation. The synagogue, which serves as a sanctuary for 250 worshipers, also included a residence for Rabbi Joseph Hirsch. The fire destroyed the majority of its rooms, leaving Rabbi Hirsch without a home and a Congregation without a place of worship. Authorities determined that this tragedy was the work of arsonists.

The fire of April 16 may have damaged Congregation B'nai Zion's building, but I am pleased to report that it did not damage their spirits. People of all faiths in the Key West community have compassionately reached out to the Congregation and supported them in their time of need. Congregation B'nai Zion continues to have weekly worship services and Rabbi Hirsch has a roof over his head. The Congregation now has renovation plans in place, and Rabbi Hirsch and Congregation President Fred Covan are working hard to ensure B'nai Zion remains a fixture in the Key West community.

While the people of Key West have rallied behind their oldest synagogue, I am deeply troubled by the possibility that this incidence—which occurred on the eve of Israel's Independence Day—reflects the trend of anti-semitism we are witnessing on a global scale. Hate and prejudice rages against the Jewish people in the Middle East and Europe, and the United States must stand before the world as a people united, regardless of faith.

Mr. Speaker, Congregation B'nai Zion's synagogue has been destroyed, but the spirits of the people have endured. Today I wish to rec-

ognize the remarkable perseverance of Congregation B'nai Zion, and thank the national and local authorities and the people of Key West for their assistance in rectifying this terrible situation and ask for their continued support.

#### TRIBUTE TO RABBI AVIS MILLER

#### HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2002*

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to Rabbi Avis Dimond Miller in honor of her 18th anniversary as a Rabbi of Adas Israel Congregation in Washington, DC.

I have known Rabbi Miller for many years. She is an accomplished Rabbi, a talented teacher, and a good friend. I have appreciated first-hand the power of her sermons, the impact of her activism, and the great admiration and respect she has earned from congregants, colleagues, and community members.

As the first woman to serve a major Conservative pulpit, and the first woman ever appointed to chair a national committee for the Rabbinical Assembly of the United Synagogue for Conservative Judaism, Rabbi Miller is an impressive role model and a pioneer in the Conservative Jewish movement. In her tenure at Adas Israel, she has been instrumental in developing programs for young adults and young families, and she has authored training manuals to help other synagogues encourage unaffiliated Jewish families to participate in their communities. In her role as chairwoman of the Rabbinical Assembly of the committee on outreach, she has played a tremendous role in helping countless Jewish Americans embrace their Jewish identity.

Rabbi Miller has also inspired the congregation to have an ambitious social action agenda, on issues ranging from the plight of Ethiopian Jewry to the blight of homelessness. She is credited with organizing the congregation's Bikkur Holim Committee, a program for visiting the sick, and publishing the first Jewish guide on the subject. She has lectured extensively on medical ethics issues regarding, genetic discrimination, and she will soon put forth an anthology of sermons she delivered during Adas Israel High Holiday services over the past 18 years.

In Hebrew, the number 18 is the numeric equivalent of the word *chai*—life, and Rabbi Miller has truly been a lifeline for the synagogue. Through her involvement in life cycle events, births, bar and bat mitzvah ceremonies, marriages, and deaths, she has been a pillar of strength and compassion.

We owe Rabbi Miller a debt of gratitude for her service to Adas Israel Synagogue and the greater Washington Jewish community. On June 2, 2002, when Adas Israel celebrates Rabbi Miller's special 18 year milestone, it will be my pleasure to join Rabbi Wohlberg, her family and friends, and the entire Adas Israel community in paying tribute to her achievements and wishing her continued success in all of her endeavors.

#### A TRIBUTE TO FREEDOM

#### HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2002*

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, today, I have the honor of sharing with you a touching tribute to the victims of the September 11th attacks, to our Nation, and to our legacy of freedom.

I was visited recently by a gentleman from my hometown, Leo Smith. Leo is a graduate of the University of Central Arkansas and works as a safety manager at a plant in Hope, Arkansas. In his profession, he is concerned with protecting the lives of his coworkers, but after September 11th, he was concerned with the lives of many more.

We have all chosen our own method to deal with the tragedy of the attacks on our Nation. Leo chose to express his anger, helplessness, and also his pride through a poem entitled "Let Freedom Ring." Leo thoughtfully presented me a copy of this poem, and I was very moved upon reading it.

In his poem, Leo recognizes that "the land of the free will never be the same again, not for you or for me." The poem identifies the transformation of our country, the loss, but also the gain of something new. Leo knew that the attacks signified the start of a war to defend freedom, but the sudden display of patriotism, the tribute to those who have died throughout our nation's history to defend that nation, in his own words, "Let me know the battle has already been won."

It is with pride and gratitude that I share with you and submit to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD Leo Smith's poetic eulogy to the victims of the attacks. His words lament the loss we all felt that day, but express the hope that soon followed. As he puts it, What will happen next? The answer to this only God knows. But on that Tuesday, September 11th, Was born a new breed of heroes.

LET FREEDOM RING

(By Leo Smith)

America the Beautiful, the land of the free, will never be the same again, Not for you or for me.

Tragedy struck quickly, It rocked the entire world, Changing many of today's families, To widows and little orphan boys and girls.

Pictures of blood shed and destruction, On television night after night, People filled with compassion, Hearts filled with fright.

What will happen next? The answer to this only, God knows, But on that Tuesday, September 11th, Was born a new breed of heroes.

Everyone who helped was a hero, Giving blood or looking through the rubble, Or just saying a prayer for the victims, Or just telling your someone that you lov'em.

Our nation, one people, all helping for the cause, Made tears come to my eyes, And me to take a long pause.

Red, white and blue forever, U.S. flags flying everywhere as far as the eye can see, Respecting the battles of our fore fathers, Who fought and died for us to be free.

All our people pulling together, Let me know the battle has already been won, All races uniting and bonding, We are all one nation, just one.