

now the largest Jewish movement in North America, with more than 900 congregations and 1.5 million people.

Congregation Sherith Israel's synagogue building is located at the corner of California and Webster Streets in San Francisco. This year marks the centennial of this historic building, whose cornerstone was laid on February 22, 1904. The building was designed by renowned Bay Area architect Albert Pissis, who was an important figure in the rebuilding of downtown San Francisco after the city's most famous disaster, the Great Earthquake and Fire of 1906.

The 1906 Earthquake and Fire left the city in smoking ruins and destroyed many public structures. Congregation Sherith Israel's synagogue withstood this disaster and was able to house many important events following the destruction. The building served as the city's Superior Court for more than 2 years and, in 1945, hosted one of the organizing sessions of the United Nations.

Today, this unique building has an austere exterior which hides a lavish and ornamental interior, complete with the finest stained glass, pews of rare Honduran mahogany, polished marble floors and beautifully detailed painted walls and ceilings. The synagogue is home to a working original Murray M. Harris Company organ. Harris was the pioneer Los Angeles organ builder who is generally regarded as "the Father of Organbuilding in the West." The chapel also contains Congregation Sherith Israel's original Holy Ark, built in 1970.

The blue-grey dome of the synagogue, taller than the dome of San Francisco City Hall, is touted as one of the highest in the city. The dome, visible from many vistas around San Francisco, is a wonderful reminder of this building's history and importance to San Francisco. Congregation Sherith Israel's sanctuary building also continues to represent the spiritual strength, diversity and pioneer spirit of San Francisco's Jewish community. A hallmark of Reform Judaism is "tikkun olam," or repairing the world, a desire to bring peace, freedom, and justice to all people. Congregation Sherith Israel is a wonderful example of tikkun olam in the San Francisco Bay Area.

I am very pleased to recognize this beautiful and historic building. I hope the people of San Francisco and the members of Congregation Sherith Israel continue to enjoy this building for many more years.●

IN HONOR OF DR. FELIX G. SHEEHAN

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise to speak in honor of Dr. Felix G. Sheehan, of Middletown, CT. Next week, on March 13, 2004, Dr. Sheehan will be receiving the "Irish Person of the Year" award from the Middletown division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the

oldest and largest Irish Catholic society in the United States.

Dr. Sheehan retired 2 years ago after 47 years in the medical practice. As a doctor, he was, in so many ways, a treasure from a bygone era. Even as health care became more and more of a business, and even as Americans increasingly dealt with the complicated world of copayments, referrals, and coverage networks, Dr. Sheehan was a doctor who built lifelong relationships with his patients and made house calls at all hours of the day and night.

His tremendous dedication, warmth, and kind spirit are legendary in Middletown, where many of his patients became just as devoted to him as he was to them. One of those patients described him as "the best doctor in the world."

Dr. Sheehan was born in Belfast and came to America with his family at the age of 6. He served his new country in the Pacific during World War II. During his service, he had an experience that would change his life—and the lives of many others. While stationed aboard the USS *Wasp*, he was asked one day to help out a nurse who was having trouble treating a patient. It was then that he first realized that medicine would be his calling.

After attending college at St. John's University in New York, Felix Sheehan spent the next 5 years in his native Belfast earning his medical degree from Queen's University. It was happenstance, he says, that he found Connecticut. But after seeing the slogan on Middlesex Hospital that read, "Caring and Kindness Always, All Ways," he knew that Middletown would be his home. Because although that motto belonged to the hospital, it could have easily been written to describe Felix Sheehan.

To Felix Sheehan, being a doctor meant so much more than examining patients and prescribing medicines. He offered complimentary medical services to local parochial schools. He took on needy patients free of charge. He hosted a wedding for one of his employees who couldn't afford it. He retained legal counsel for the child of one of his patients. And as his own career drew to a close, he served as a mentor and role model to young doctors entering the profession.

From the day he took up his practice until the day he retired, Dr. Sheehan gave so much of himself to so many people. In the words of his daughter Lauren, "in a very real and special sense, he was more than a physician—he was and is a healer."

From one Irishman to another, I offer my warmest congratulations to Dr. Sheehan on the honor he will receive next week. I wish him, his wife Marie, and their children many more happy years together.●

HONORING THE JOHN EHRET HIGH SCHOOL

● Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, from May 1-3, 2004 more than 1,200 students

from across the United States will visit Washington, D.C. to take part in the national finals of We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution, the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate young people about the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the We the People program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education by act of Congress.

I am proud to announce that the class from John Ehret High School from Marrero will represent the State of Louisiana in this prestigious national event. These outstanding students, through their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution, won their statewide competition and earned the chance to come to our Nation's Capital and compete at the national level.

The 3-day We the People National Finals Competition is modeled after hearings in the U.S. Congress. The students are given an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge before a panel of adult judges while they evaluate and defend positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues. Their testimony is followed by questions designed to probe the students' depth of understanding and ability to apply their constitutional knowledge. Columnist David Broder once described this annual competition as "the place to come to have your faith in the younger generation restored."

Most recently, the We the People program was highlighted at two national conferences held in 2003: the White House Forum on American History, Civics, and Service, and the first annual Congressional Conference on Civic Education. Evaluations and independent studies have validated the effectiveness of the We the People program on students' civic knowledge and attitudes. This innovative civic education program continues to be one of the best antidotes to apathy and cynicism in our Nation.

I wish these students the best of luck at the We the People national finals and applaud their achievement. We should all be proud that they are learning and advocating the fundamental ideals that identify us as a people and bind us together as a Nation.●

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARIN COUNTY CIVIC CENTER VOLUNTEERS PROGRAM

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to recognize the 25th anniversary of the Marin County Civic Center Volunteers program.

In 1979, the Civic Center Volunteers program (CCV) was established to help Marin County maintain its excellent public services by providing local government agencies with volunteers from the community.

During CCV's 25 years of service, over 10,000 volunteers have contributed countless hours of their time. Their

work translates into the equivalent of providing over \$60 million in services to Marin County's local government agencies. CCV provides a unique service by bringing energetic volunteers with a community perspective into almost all aspects of Marin's county government. By involving the local community, the county is able to run its programs more efficiently and with broader community involvement.

CCV has succeeded in enhancing civic participation by Marin County residents in their local government. Civic Center volunteers become advocates for the community by becoming a part of the governmental process. Over the years, programs that were initially started by volunteers, such as the Consumer Mediation Unit and Job Coach, have become a part of the county's regular services.

As one of the Nation's first centralized county volunteer programs, CCV has received numerous awards and accolades, including the United States Congress Achievement Award and the National Association of Counties' "Acts of Caring" Award for Public Education and Information. The CCV program has been successfully used as a model for volunteerism in local governments, both nationally and internationally.

For 25 years, the Marin County Civic Center Volunteers program has served as a national model for civic leadership. CCV's dedication to the community is inspiring and impressive. I congratulate the Marin County Civic Center Volunteers on their 25th anniversary and wish them another 25 years of success.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT RELATIVE TO MODIFYING DUTY-FREE TREATMENT UNDER THE GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES—PM 68

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

To the Congress of the United States:

Consistent with section 502(f) of the Trade act of 1974, as amended (the

"Act"), I am writing to inform you of my intent to designate Algeria as a beneficiary developing country and to terminate the designation of Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Bahrain, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Slovakia as beneficiary developing countries for purposes of the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP).

I have considered the criteria set forth in sections 501 and 502 of the Act. In light of these criteria, I have determined that it is appropriate to extend GSP benefits to Algeria. I have also determined that Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, and Bahrain have become "high income" countries, and I therefore terminate their designation as beneficiary developing countries effective January 1, 2006. Furthermore, consistent with the Act's prohibition on designation of European Union member states as beneficiary developing countries, I am terminating such designation for the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Slovakia when they become European Union member states.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, March 1, 2004.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. MILLER (for himself, Mr. CHAMBLISS, and Mr. DEWINE):

S. 2152. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide eligibility for reduced non-regular service military retired pay before age 60, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. EDWARDS:

S. 2153. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 223 South Main Street in Roxboro, North Carolina, as the "Oscar Scott Woody Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. DORGAN (for himself, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. COLEMAN, and Mr. CONRAD):

S. 2154. A bill to establish a National sex offender registration database, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. COLLINS:

S. 2155. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a manufacturer's jobs credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. SNOWE:

S. 2156. A bill to amend title II of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to enhance teacher training programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BAUCUS (for himself, Mr. COLEMAN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. INOUE, Mr. CARPER, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. BAYH, Mrs. CLINTON, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. BIDEN, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. REID):

S. 2157. A bill to amend the Trade Act of 1974 to extend the trade adjustment assistance program to the services sector, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WARNER, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. REED, Mr. SMITH, Mr. ENSIGN, and Mr. DEWINE):

S. 2158. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the supply of pancreatic islet cells for research, and to provide for better coordination of Federal efforts and information on islet cell transplantation; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. EDWARDS:

S. Res. 307. A resolution honoring the county of Cumberland, North Carolina, its municipalities and community partners as they celebrate the 250th year of the existence of Cumberland County; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 333

At the request of Mr. BREAUX, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 333, a bill to promote elder justice, and for other purposes.

S. 412

At the request of Mr. KYL, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 412, a bill to amend the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 to extend and modify the reimbursement of State and local funds expended for emergency health services furnished to undocumented aliens.

S. 491

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 491, a bill to expand research regarding inflammatory bowel disease, and for other purposes.

S. 595

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 595, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the required use of certain principal repayments on mortgage subsidy bond financings to redeem bonds, to modify the purchase price limitation under mortgage subsidy bond rules based on median family income, and for other purposes.

S. 596

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. CHAFEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 596, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage the investment of foreign earnings within the United States for productive business investments and job creation.

S. 633

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 633, a bill to modify