

of Directors. He served as the first Chairman of the California Agriculture Commissioners and Sealers Association's Food Safety and Agriculture Security Committee. For four years he served as Chairman of the Fresno County Department Heads Council. Currently, Mr. Prieto is a member of the Fresno County Farm Bureau, the Fresno County Council of Governments Farmland Conservation Steering Committee, Chairman of the Fresno County Council of Governments Farmland Preservation Advisory Committee, and the Fresno County Land Conservation Committee. He is the immediate President of the California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association and was the first Agricultural Commissioner to serve two terms as President. Mr. Prieto is the Chairman of Secretary Kawamura's AB 771 Honeybee/Seedless Mandarin Co-Existence Working Group.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Jerry Prieto upon being awarded with the "Fresno County Farm Bureau Distinguished Service Award." I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Prieto many years of continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF JEWISH
AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Jewish American Heritage Month.

In 2006, Congress unanimously passed H. Con. Res. 315, a resolution urging the President to issue a proclamation for the observance of an American Jewish History Month. I was an original co-sponsor of that important legislation, and following our action, President Bush proclaimed May as Jewish American Heritage Month as a means of celebrating the Jewish community's history in America in addition to their contributions to American culture. On April 29, 2008, President Bush reaffirmed his commitment of celebrating Jewish American heritage by making May 2008 Jewish American Heritage Month.

Since 1654, the American Jews have contributed to American life and society in all walks of life. The achievements of American Jews span all fields including medicine, law, entertainment, public service, technology, and literature. I take this time to celebrate those who have served our nation and propelled it successfully into the 21st century.

Throughout more than 350 years, American Jewish culture has become intertwined with American culture. The Jewish faith and spirit in combination with Jewish history and culture serve as an integral part of what this nation is today.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to commemorate Jewish American Heritage Month and hope that my colleagues will join me in celebrating the American Jewish community and its commitment to enriching American society and culture.

TRIBUTE TO RITA AND JACK
SINDER

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate my dear friends Rita and Jack Sinder for their invaluable and outstanding service to Valley Beth Shalom Temple.

Jack and Rita have been two of the most productive members of the Valley Beth Shalom community, bringing guidance, spirituality and joy to the congregation. Jack, a former bond chair for the State of Israel Bonds, served as construction chair for the synagogue during its expansion in 1986. As construction chair, Jack planned and oversaw construction of the sanctuary, classrooms, administrative offices, chapel and the parking center. The parking center is now dedicated to the Sinders. Rita is a past president of the San Fernando Valley's Women Division of Israel Bonds and a past president of the Women's Alliance for Israel, and she continues to serve on its executive board. Jack and Rita are also founding members of the American Jewish University Wagner Program and patrons of the Wiesenthal Center.

Valley Beth Shalom continues to make extraordinary contributions to the San Fernando Valley through innovative programs that promote tolerance, increase learning, develop leadership skills, and foster social justice. Valley Beth Shalom has demonstrated a long-standing commitment to developing the community's understanding of the connection between religion and education. The temple empowers individuals, allowing their voices to be heard in our community and around the world.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize Jack and Rita Sinder for their outstanding service to the Valley Beth Shalom community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEAN HELLER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. HELLER of Nevada. Madam Speaker, on rollcall no. 241, Motion to Table, had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

SALUTING BLOOMINGTON, MINNESOTA, ON ITS 150TH BIRTHDAY
AND REMARKABLE ROLE IN MINNESOTA HISTORY

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. RAMSTAD. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a truly great community in Minnesota's 3rd Congressional District which has played a crucial role in the history and development of our region and State.

Bloomington is our State's 5th largest city and this special city will celebrate its 150th birthday on May 11, the same day the State of Minnesota was admitted to the Union.

Madam Speaker, we salute Bloomington for its remarkable success, pioneering spirit, record of public service to help people in need and role in positioning both Minnesota and the U.S. for a prosperous future in the global economy.

Bloomington is a place of historic importance situated near the confluence of the Mississippi and the Minnesota Rivers, and in close proximity to Historic Fort Snelling, completed in 1825. The soldiers of Fort Snelling mediated disputes between Minnesota's Dakota and Ojibwe Indians. In 1843, the first European settlers built a cabin near the current 10th Avenue Circle and taught farming methods to Dakota Indians. The territory to the west opened to settlers in 1851.

Bloomington is a city with tremendous historical pride and patriotism and we honor all of Bloomington's courageous members of our armed forces who have fought for freedom. Bloomington was also the home of Tom Burnett, Jr., one of the heroes of Flight 93 on September 11, 2001.

Madam Speaker, Bloomington is home to 85,172 wonderful people and it has been my pleasure to represent all of them in Washington the past 18 years. Bloomington natives have been leaders in commerce, technology, environmental awareness, sports and the arts. Control Data was born in Bloomington and was one of the pioneering supercomputer firms. For most of the 1960s, it built the fastest computers in the world.

It has been my great pleasure to work with the Bloomington Art Center on the 3rd Congressional District High School Arts Competition every year. Bloomington's public schools have produced some of our Nation's best and brightest. Bloomington is also home to the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, which has been so critical to preserving water quality throughout the Midwest and the Mississippi River Valley all the way to the Gulf of Mexico.

Madam Speaker, you could travel this entire Nation and not find a more caring, committed, hard-working and innovative community. Bloomington is home to Minnesota's first major league baseball and football teams and the world famous Mall of America, and it is adjacent to Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. Bloomington has been the face of Minnesota to many all across this great land. For that we thank all the people of Bloomington for helping boost Minnesota's image in the eyes of the world.

Madam Speaker, in recognition of the historic significance of the Sesquicentennial Celebration to the Community of Bloomington, to the State of Minnesota, and to the United States of America, we are pleased to dedicate May 11, 2008, as the Bloomington Sesquicentennial Day in Minnesota. Happy 150th birthday, Bloomington, Minnesota!

SENSE OF HOUSE OF ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL TEACHER DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY E. BOYDA

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, this week (May 4-May 10) we celebrate Teacher