

CONGRATULATING THE SPRING
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL CONCERT
BAND

HON. JACK FIELDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 2, 1996

Mr. FIELDS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this opportunity to congratulate the Spring Senior High School concert band in Spring, TX, on recently winning the Sudler Flag of Honor, which is presented to the most outstanding high school concert bands in the United States and Canada.

Under the direction of Mr. Bill Watson, Jr., the Spring Senior High School concert band is just the 34th band to have earned the Sudler Flag of Honor in the 14 years that it has been awarded. And it was one of just two high school bands nationwide to have been selected for this honor this year. The award is presented by the John Philip Sousa Foundation and is intended to recognize and salute high school concert band programs of international-level excellence.

Winning the Sudler Flag of Honor proves what many of us have known for a long time: that the Spring Senior High School concert band is among the very best concert bands in North America.

The Sudler flag is designed in red, white and blue and feature the logo of the John Philip Sousa Foundation. The flag becomes the property of the band. Each member of the band receives a personalized certificate and the band director receives a personalized plaque.

To be eligible for the Sudler flag, a high school must have maintained a fine concert band for at least 7 years. Although the band's concert activities receive the most attention in the selection process, the high school's band program must be a complete one and must include a marching band, small ensembles, and solo participation by its members in contests and festivals. Also, the band conductor must have been at the same high school for at least 7 consecutive years and is expected to be involved in professional band and music education organizations and activities on the local, state and national level.

Clearly, the Sudler Flag of Honor is one of the most significant awards that a high school band can earn. It requires that band members and their director work together to achieve not just musical competence, but musical excellence.

Mr. Speaker, I know that you join with me in congratulating the young men and women of the Spring Senior High School concert band—as well as conductor Bill Watson, Jr.—on this significant achievement, and I know you join with me in wishing everyone associated with the band continued success in the years ahead.

TEMPLE EMANU-EL'S 135TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 2, 1996

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, this weekend, San Jose will commemorate the 135th anni-

versary of Temple Emanu-El, the city's oldest synagogue, and I know that all the Members of this House will want to join me in marking this historic event.

A few dedicated families founded the Temple in 1861, originally named Bickur Cholim, to care for the sick and needy, to ensure proper burial for the dead, and, as their original articles read, to "[further] their Holy religion and language." The Temple has continued to serve this mission through this day.

Temple Emanu-El has a long history of service to both the Jewish community and the San Jose community at large. Through Interfaith Sabbaths, the congregation's work with the homeless through the Coalition of Churches and Synagogues, and their community outreach through concerts and pulpit exchanges, the Temple Emanu-El community is active in San Jose cultural and civic life. As current Rabbi Mark Schifftan remarks, the Temple provides a beacon for Jewish values and ethical imperatives for the entire community.

The history of Temple Emanu-El truly mirrors the development of San Jose. In 1861, the fledgling Temple relied on the strong support of the community's churches and civic organizations to construct its synagogue and build its congregation. Over the next 80 years, it grew with the city until a fire in 1940 destroyed the sanctuary. I am proud to tell you that, once again, the community responded enthusiastically, helping the Temple continue its services and programs. The new sanctuary was completed in 1948.

Temple Emanu-El's last 50 years have been a whirlwind of rapid growth and community development. I believe that, like San Jose, this synagogue will remain an active center of our vibrant Silicon Valley community. One of the Temple's former Rabbis, Joseph Gitin, reminds us that although the Temple has grown, its fundamental role is unchanged. "Here," he says, "we learn that our faith and discipline of Jewish ethical values prepare and equip us to live meaningful lives."

Mr. Speaker, I believe that no matter what our particular religion may be, we all strive for a similar goal. I would invite my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Temple Emanu-El's 135th anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO CLARA MacNAMEE

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 2, 1996

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my district's more dedicated and caring individuals, Clara MacNamee. Clara is being honored as Marin County Teacher of the Year for 1996. I wish that I could be with her colleagues, friends and family to celebrate her remarkable accomplishments.

Clara began working with the Marin Office of Education in 1976. There, she helped develop a classroom whose sole purpose was to serve students involved with drugs and alcohol. The success of this classroom, which focused on a variety of activities, such as peer coaching, and family involvement, expanded into a charter school called Sobriety High School. Student throughout the county are now attending this school and are being

touched by Clara's enthusiasm and love of teaching. Marin County and our Nation, owe a great deal to Clara for her tireless efforts in providing exceptional education to students with special needs.

I was not surprised to learn that Clara has been the recipient of many education awards. In 1992, she received the Marin County Golden Bell Award for Academic Excellence, and, in 1993, she was awarded the California State Golden Bell Award for Academic Excellence. I continue to be impressed by Clara's dedication to the students in our community and her vision for their success.

In addition to her work in education, Clara has been a committed member of the community. She served as a CPR instructor for the American Heart Association and the Red Cross for over 10 years and was a Braille transcriber for 5 years. Clara also served as a community representative to her local Community Service District for 17 years.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay tribute to Clara MacNamee during this special evening at the Marin Art and Garden Center. I extend my thanks and appreciation and my hearty congratulations and best wishes to Clara for continued success in the years to come.

HONORING ROGER TILLES

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 2, 1996

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with my colleagues and the members of Temple Beth-El of Great Neck, as they gather on the weekend of May 10 and 11, 1996, to pay tribute to their president, Roger Tilles.

The son of former Temple President Gilbert Tilles, Roger's devotion to Temple Beth-El stems from his childhood. In fact, his good work began early on when, as a teenager, he was president of the Junior Temple Club.

However, Mr. Speaker, it is his charitable contributions that have been most noteworthy. Roger has been chair of the Temple's social action, building, and grounds and development committees. In 1985, he was elected a Temple trustee, eventually going on to become vice president and president of Temple Beth-El. Roger has long been a champion of family values, and he has utilized his tradition of leadership in this regard. To name but a few of these beneficial organizations, he was instrumental in launching the Beth-El Connection, a program dedicated to welcoming new families into the congregation, as well as the Family Life Program, a group devoted to strengthening the Jewish family.

In fact, Roger's philanthropic activities extend far beyond the scope of the Jewish community to encompass the many faces of Long Island. He has been an active member of the Association for a Better Long Island. Furthermore, Roger has consistently been a strong supporter of the arts. It is his love of education and culture that led to the construction of the Tilles Center at Long Island University's C.W. Post campus.

Mr. Speaker, Roger Tilles has come to symbolize the American spirit of voluntarism and generosity. I ask all my colleagues to rise with the grateful people of the Fifth Congressional