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.

COMMMEMORATING 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 Julliard 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 INOUYE 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