

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