

The First Christian Church of Napa was founded in 1857 by G.O. Burnett. Its success built on the work of "Stormy John" McCorkle, who had founded the first congregation in the valley under a Madrona tree near modern-day Rutherford. With the motto "Let's go Forward through Faith", the Church has expanded well beyond the original eight families who formed the charter group. In 1872, members of the congregation came together to purchase a piece of land for the church building, and began construction. Lacking a resident minister in these years, four men worked in concert to lead the Church. These "Four Horsemen", who helped provide spiritual guidance and leadership in the church were A.A. Whitman, T.N. Mount, A.D. Butler, and W.P. Prall.

In 1951, the First Christian Church moved to its current location on First Street in Napa. While promoting an active spiritual life in the congregation, the church has reached out to the community and the world. Members of the church have worked on Christian humanitarian missions on six continents in a wide variety of different countries. Additionally, church members have worked in inner-city Los Angeles and San Francisco, and locally volunteer time with the Napa Valley Food Bank, Church Women United and other community benefit groups.

The First Christian Church has always taken pride in the sense of community among its members, and the work that goes in to helping members of the congregation have full lives and strong interpersonal relationships. By emphasizing the importance of family and fidelity, the church has drawn membership from families for many generations.

Madam Speaker, at this time it is appropriate that we congratulate the First Christian Church of Napa on its 150th anniversary, and thank the congregation for all it does in our community.

IN TRIBUTE TO SISTER ANN
HALLORAN

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 5, 2007

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sr. Ann Halloran, a community leader, co-founder and executive director of the Dominican Center for Women located in the Fourth Congressional District. The Milwaukee Archdiocese has recently presented Sr. Ann Halloran with the 2007 Vatican II "Service to Society" Award.

Sr. Ann Halloran and Sr. Anne-Marie Doyle founded the Dominican Center for Women in 1990 in a near north-side Milwaukee neighborhood with no formal clubs or community-based organizations. The mission of this human service agency is to help create a beautiful and safe central city neighborhood by providing services in three programmatic areas: Education, employment and housing. Sr. Ann Halloran believes this three-pronged approach is essential to dismantling poverty.

The programs at the Dominican Center for Women are offered free of charge to approximately 120 area residents. Initially, the center began by offering educational programs and employment counseling. As a result of participant surveys and with the urging of residents,

a housing program utilizing a 12-block area surrounding the center was initiated in 1999. The housing program, designed to lead to home ownership, has become a primary focus of the center. The center leverages strategic partnerships and collaborations including Federal, State and local governmental agencies, faith-based organizations, sweat equity, volunteerism and the financial resources of a Habitat for Humanity loan, barter grants, IDA accounts and other resources found in the community, into affordable home ownership. Sixty-seven center program participants are now homeowners; they are primarily African-American women, single heads of households, who would not have been considered by mainstream conventional lending institutions.

The center continues to work with new homeowners after acquisition of the home by convening monthly meetings to encourage them to voice neighborhood concerns, take group action toward resolution, and ultimately ensure retention of their homes. The Dominican Center for Women and the participants in its program have been so successful that beginning in 2004 they hosted their first annual "Parade of Homes" in this previously blighted area.

Madam Speaker, for these reasons, I am honored to pay tribute to Sr. Ann Halloran's contributions to the Fourth Congressional District. She has helped to transform a neighborhood into a community.

CELEBRATING THE ACHIEVEMENTS
OF TOLEDOAN SAM SZOR

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 5, 2007

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, since 1953, Samuel Szor has been an integral part of Toledo's music scene, earning him the title of Toledo's "Mr. Music." Mr. Szor ends his 55th season as the conductor/music director of the immensely popular Music under the Stars summer concert series held at the Toledo Zoo Amphitheater. Each summer our community happily anticipates the inception of another summer of the concert series of Music under the Stars. Because of Mr. Szor, music-lovers can rest in the Toledo Zoo's amphitheater taking in the beautiful sounds and sights of Toledo. Besides his dedication to bringing a collection of classical, patriotic and spirited pieces to Toledo residents, he holds an extensive list of additional credits.

In his early years after graduating with degrees from University of Michigan, he played bassoon with the Toledo Symphony, Toledo Opera Orchestra and the University of Toledo Woodwind Quintet and Trio as well as playing jazz saxophone in area bands and clubs. His conducting credits include the Casual concert series and other concerts with Toledo Symphony, twenty years with the Perrysburg Symphony Orchestra, guest conductor with the famous Goldman Memorial Band in New York City, and conductor/music director for opera, musical comedy and ballet theatre in the Toledo area. In the choral realm, he has been conductor/music director of The Toledo Choral Society for 49 years and was a director of church music for over 40 years. In addition to his conducting credits, he was a music educa-

tor serving for 32 years in the secondary and college levels in Toledo.

Mr. Szor has received numerous awards for his distinguished work, most recently including a national award from the American Hungarian foundation and the Ovation Award from the Vocal Arts Resource Network of Ohio. Toledo garners much pride in his commitment to evoke a mosaic of melodies to our community for decades. Sam Szor is an inspiration to conductors and musicians everywhere by his grace, ease and spirit toward music.

HONORING COPPELL MIDDLE
SCHOOL NORTH BAND

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 5, 2007

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Coppel Middle School North Band on being named an Outstanding National Wind Band and winning the 1-A Middle School Division.

Coppel Middle School North was among 81 bands selected in the top 25 percent of recordings submitted to the National Winds Band Honors competition. Each band was judged once again and narrowed the selection down to the National Honor in each classification. Charles Peltz, director of the New England Conservatory of Music, and noted composer John Mackey were the judges for this event.

All National award-winner bands will be invited to perform in the prestigious National Theatre in Washington, D.C. in May 2008.

Coppel Middle School North's band is under the direction of Joey Ashbrook and assistant director, Jeremy Lindquist.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to represent Coppel Middle School North and their exceptional band department in the 24th District of Texas.

IN RECOGNITION OF T. J. LEE EL-
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND THE IR-
VING INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DIS-
TRICT FOOD SERVICE DEPART-
MENT

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 5, 2007

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate T. J. Lee Elementary School and the Irving Independent School District (IISD) Food Service Department for being awarded the coveted Gold School Award by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

T. J. Lee Elementary is the first school in Texas to receive this prestigious honor. As part of the USDA's HealthierUS School Challenge program, schools around the nation are awarded two levels of certification: Silver and Gold. IISD eagerly took on this challenge and assumed a leadership role to ensure that our students are being served healthy school meals in addition to providing nutrition education and a variety of physical activities. Given the variety of food available, particularly fast food and snacks in vending machines, the