

May 25, 2000

talent and the international collaboration system it has pioneered with leading foreign companies.

Since 1980, the company has grown from a total of 16 performances of four operas to 80 performances of eight operas, while the budget has increased from \$2 million to more than \$25 million.

In 1980, the opera did not own a single opera set; by the spring of 2000 the company had originated and built 61 new productions, becoming one of the most prolific producing companies in the U.S. The company has averaged 98 percent attendance over the last fourteen seasons a remarkable sales record. It now earns approximately 65 percent of its total budget through ticket sales, raising the remaining 35 percent through contributions from individuals, corporations, and foundations. A sign of fiscal strength, this ratio of earned to contributed income is the highest of any opera company in the country.

The Washington Opera has requested that I introduce legislation to designate the Washington Opera as the "National Opera." There are precedents for granting private or quasi-private entities a "national" designation. For example, the National Aquarium in Baltimore and the National Aviary in Pittsburgh both received their "national" designation through acts of Congress. Such a designation does not bring with it Federal funding or a Federal subsidy.

Rather, it grants the entity national prominence, which may increase ticket sales and improve fundraising prospects.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO CHAIM DOV SACKS

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to an outstanding scholar and student leader, Chaim Dov Sacks. Dovi Sacks was recently named a Presidential Scholar, an award presented to two outstanding students from every U.S. state and territory. The award recognizes student leadership, SAT scores, and participation in the community. Dovi excelled in all these categories. He is the student body president, and a National Merit Scholarship Finalist who received a perfect 1600 on his SAT at Pine Crest Academy.

Dovi has brought further recognition to Fort Lauderdale's prestigious Pine Crest Academy. The school has had two Presidential Scholars in the past two years, and Dovi is the third in three years, an unprecedented feat. Just this year Pine Crest had 3 perfect SAT scores and 32 graduating seniors planning to attend Ivy League schools.

I know the House will join me in recognizing and honoring this outstanding scholar and wish him continued success as a future leader of the country. In addition, I would like to acknowledge Pine Crest Academy for their excellence in education and hope for continued achievement in teaching.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF THE RETIREMENT
OF JUDGE PHILIP A. CHAMPLIN

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Napa County Superior Court Judge Philip Champlin on the occasion of his retirement from this distinguished post. Judge Champlin has served as Napa's Superior Court Judge for 21 years and has been an outstanding community leader throughout our Valley.

Few people make an impact on their community the way Philip Champlin has improved and touched ours. Both on and off the bench, his integrity and intelligence have enhanced the quality of life for those around him. Be it through his judicial efforts or his community involvement with the Red Cross, Rotary, Boy Scouts and other civic groups, he has made contributions that will be remembered for a very long time.

Born in Annapolis, Maryland in 1939, he attended Yale University where he earned his B.A. in Psychology in 1961. He traveled to California to attend the Boalt School of Law where he received his J.D. in 1964 and later went on to attend the California Judicial College in Berkeley.

Judge Champlin began his distinguished career by serving as an associate for the law firm of Coombs and Dunlap in Napa, California in 1965. By 1967 Judge Champlin was a partner in the firm, where he remained until 1977. In 1978 Philip Champlin became Judge of the Municipal Court in Napa County. He only served in this post for one year before becoming California Superior Court Judge for Napa County in 1979. Judge Champlin also served as a Justice Pro Tem for the California Court of Appeals First Appellate District in 1996 and 1998.

The Napa County community has recognized Judge Champlin for his great work numerous times. In 1987 he was named the Napa Citizen of the Year by the Napa Chamber of Commerce and KVON Radio. He was named a Silver Beaver by the Silverado Council of the Boy Scouts of America in 1985 and was likewise granted the Award of Merit by the Napa District of Boy Scouts in 1984.

Judge Champlin has been a dedicated family man throughout his life. He has been married to Lynne McWilliams for 34 years and together they have two children, Christopher and Catherine Champlin.

Clearly, Mr. Speaker, Philip Champlin has been an outstanding lawyer, judge and citizen. Our Napa Valley community has been fortunate to have such a dedicated and distinguished man serve us throughout the last three decades. It has been my honor, first as a State Senator and now as a Congressman to represent Philip Champlin. For these reasons, I move that we officially honor Judge Philip Champlin for his meritorious service to the people of Napa County, California.

9423

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY RECOGNIZES THE JAMESBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Jamesburg Volunteer Fire Department's 100th anniversary. Over the last century, the members of this organization have made a tremendous contribution to their community by protecting their residents and assisting other local departments.

On March 19, 1900, a special meeting was held at the Jamesburg Borough Hall to discuss fire protection in Jamesburg. At this time, the Borough had allocated \$666 for fire protection. At this meeting, it was determined that there was a need to create a permanent organization to provide fire protection and prevention in the Borough of Jamesburg; The organization was named "The Jamesburg Fire Protective Association."

The next month, arrangements were made for the purchase of a Holloway Double Fifty Gallon Tank Chemical Engine for \$1,440. Later that month, an organizational meeting was held, and 55 volunteers attended to offer their services. The name of the organization was changed to "Jamesburg Fire Co. No. 1." The first fundraising event was held on May 15, 1900, and was a huge success, raising over \$100. The same night as the organizational meeting, the company responded to its first call—a fire that destroyed a local barn.

To summon the volunteers for a fire call, an alarm system was needed. The first was a flange of the rim from a locomotive wheel that was sounded by being stricken with a sledge hammer. This system proved inadequate and the company purchased a 1,100-pound bell in November of 1901. The alarm system was electrified in 1914 by placing an automatic striker in the bell.

Starting in 1901, local youth were allowed to assist the department by carrying water in pails to the scene of the fire. These youths affectionately referred to as the bucket brigade. The tradition still exists today in the form of a Junior Membership Program that allows individuals between 16 and 18 years of age to join the department and learn the skills of firefighting in preparation for becoming certified firefighters.

In 1982, the Borough of Jamesburg formed a fire district, allowing the department to receive some funding through a fire tax. Today, the Jamesburg Volunteer Fire Department is a completely volunteer staffed department that upholds the pride and tradition of their founders. In addition to providing fire protection in the borough, the department is contracted to respond to calls in Monroe Township and a stretch of the New Jersey Turnpike.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of the Kingston Volunteer Fire Company.