

US Congress Recognizes Sikh Leader's Contribution

In recognition of Giani Wadhawa Singh Gill's special contribution for promoting interfaith understanding of Sikh religion, Congressman Tom McClintock paid tribute to the great man in the House Chamber, Washington, D.C. on March 6, 2009.

"M. Speaker: I rise today in tribute to Rev. Wadhawa Singh Gill, who passed away last week at the age of 87. For many years, Rev. Gill was the spiritual leader of the Sikh

community in Northern California. He was an amazing man who not only ministered to the more than 100,000 Sikh faithful in the Sacramento region, he made himself a bridge between the Sikh community and the general public." The live video can viewed at Congressman's website <http://www.mcclintock.house.gov/>

Highly loved and respected Sikh spiritual leader of the Northern California Sikh Community, Giani (Reverend) Wadhawa Singh Gill passed away on February 24, 2009. He would have celebrated his 88th birthday next month on March 19th. He is survived by his wife, SwaraKaur Gill, 3 children, 8 grand children, and 6 great grand children, living within the Greater Sacramento and Modesto Area. Giani Ji received his B.A degree from Forman Christian College in Lahore, Pakistan and a Masters degree from University of Punjab, India. He served as a teacher and later as a member of the Punjab Language Department, Patiala,



India. He has written and published multiple books in English and Punjabi; including "Guru Nanak Dev and the Divine Message", "Introduction to Sikh Religion", "The Name of God", and "The Self Spirit".

After migrating to America in 1975, he became the Head Granthi (Reverend) at the historic Sikh Temple in Stockton. In 1987, he moved to Sacramento to be the Head Granthi at the Sikh Temple in West Sacramento. While in Sacramento, he became a Clergy Council member and Board member of the Interfaith Service Bureau (ISB) of Sacramento and served in that position from 1995 to 1998. He also served as President of the Sikh Temple, West Sacramento from 2000 - 2004 and remained a Religious Advisor of the temple for the remainder of his illustrious life.

Giani Ji was an enlightened man and a noble soul. He had deep understanding of the Sikhism and believed in the core values of Sikhism such as spirituality and meditation. His compassion and spirituality touched the lives of countless people. While preaching, he emphasized meditating on the name of the God, and promoted tolerance, peace and harmony among all human beings. As spiritual advisor, he was the guiding force for many interfaith events that were held at the Sikh Temple, West Sacramento, to promote understanding among the followers of various faiths. He was a member of the

Interfaith Team that was invited a number of times to the Governor's press events to promote peace within the community. He was involved in many important and news worthy events within the Sikh and Interfaith community. Under his leadership and guidance, Sikh Community of Greater Sacramento Area, in partnership with the other interfaith organizations, held a World Peace March in October 2008, where over

5000 persons participated. After hearing the sad news of his passing away, Rev. David Thompson, President of the ISB, wrote, "It is with a heavy heart that I have heard the news about Giani Ji. He was a good friend to me since 2001 and 9/11. His wisdom and the depth of his mind were legendary. He was always peaceful, gentle and appropriate. He was a great spiritual teacher and this whole community will miss him dearly."



BEGUMPURA SAHAR

For the first time, First Indian Punjabi Sikh in New Zealand parliament Mr. Kanwaljit Singh Bakshi MP mentioned in his maiden speech that he would like to see New Zealand as our Guru Ravidass Maharaj Ji said in his slok. (Begumpura sahar ko nao(u). Dookhu andohu nahee tihi thaa) He read the whole slok and he translated it into English for everyone to understand. You can listen to his speech on youtube . www.youtube.com

HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS



I congratulate all Sahib Shri Guru Ravidass & Baba Saheb Dr. Ambedkar's followers around the world on this special occasion of the launch of AMBEDKAR TIMES Newspaper. The credit goes to the chief editor Mr. Prem Kumar Chumber for setting this history by launching first newspaper under the banner of Dr. Ambedkar in abroad. My best wishes are with him.

I congratulate to all on auspicious occasion birth anniversary of Sahib Shri Kanshi Ram Ji who was the founder of BAMCEF, DS4 & Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and he was our great leader after Baba Sahib Dr. B. R. Ambedkar & Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia.

**PINDER PAL
(PRESIDENT)
CELL. 718-610-9192**

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**SATNAM SINGH
CHUMBER
(510) 909-5345**