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Recognizing the Pacific Coast Khalsa Diwan Society

HON. JERRY MCNERNEY: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Stockton, California's Pacific Coast Khalsa Diwan Society's 100th anniversary. Also known as the Stockton Gurdwara Sahib, it is America's oldest Sikh temple, and I am privileged to recognize its members' numerous achievements and contributions to our communities and our Nation over the last century.

Gurdwara Sahib serves as both a place of worship for Sikhs, and as a gathering place for all South Asian immigrants – a mission it has successfully accomplished since its establishment on October 24, 1912. Indian immigrants from the Punjab region, many of whom follow the Sikh religion, were instrumental in developing California's agricultural sector, which is now one of the world's leading agricultural regions. Khalsa Diwan's presence helped facilitate a more inclusive community as Sikh's further integrated into American culture.

Sikhs have made significant contributions throughout the Nation, particularly the Central Valley's farming sector. With the support of the local community, and through a strong dedication to improving our society, Sikh's have contributed in many fields including medicine, transportation, and politics. I am proud that Dalip Singh Saund, who served as a secretary of the Stockton Gurdwara, was also Congress' first Asian-American, Indian-American, Sikh representative. Sikhs in my district and around the country share their rich cultural heritage while continuing to contribute to American society. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and congratulating the Pacific Coast Khalsa Diwan Society on its 100th anniversary.