



# SIKH COUNCIL OF CENTRAL CALIFORNIA

'RECOGNIZE YE ALL THE HUMAN RACE AS ONE'  
*Guru Gobind Singh Ji*



*Note: On behalf of the SCCC, this message was read out by Pashaura S Dhillon at the Business Lunch/Fund Raising for Hon. Senator George Runner, at the India Oven in Fresno on Tuesday May 25, 2010. The occasion was organized by Community Leader Harry Gill and other leading Business Owner friends of Fresno and Clovis cities.*

Senator George Runner – District SD17  
Santa Clarita City Hall  
23920 Valencia Blvd., Suite 250  
Santa Clarita, CA 91355

Good Morning Senator Runner,

Greetings from the Central Valley and a warm welcome from the Sikh Community of Fresno. My name is Pashaura S. Dhillon, a retired Agricultural Biologist from the Fresno County Department of Agriculture and currently Coordinator of Education for the Sikh Council of Central California, Fresno also known as the S.C.C.C. The S.C.C.C. is a non-profit organization representing ten main Sikh Temples in Fresno and Madera Counties, and has a combined congregation of approximately 40,000 Sikhs living in and around the Fresno and Madera areas.

Let me congratulate you and your wife, former assembly member Sharon Runner, for your distinguished service to the community. It is no small feat to be the first husband and wife team to serve simultaneously in separate houses of the Legislature. As a couple you served as honorary co-chairs of proposition 83, Jessica's Law, the most comprehensive sex offender law in the nation, as well as California's Amber Alert, which has resulted in hundreds of successful reunions of parents with their children.

On behalf of our community, I wish to thank you and congratulate you for your unwavering support and to make a request for your continued support.

I would like to talk to you about the induction of Congressman Dalip Singh Saund's name in the Hall of Fame of the California Museum of History, Women and the Arts. Dalip Singh Saund earned his Ph.D. from Berkley University in 1924, but because of the anti-immigration laws, he was unable to procure a teaching position and worked as a lettuce farmer and then a distributor of chemical fertilizer in California's Imperial Valley from 1930 to 1953. He was elected judge in 1952 from the Imperial Valley, Riverside County and served from then until he moved to Washington as a congressman in 1957. He served three terms representing the Imperial Valley.

Congressman Saund was a true trailblazer and helped to make a significant contribution and left a great legacy. The Federal Government named a Temecula Post Office Building after him in 2005, included him in the Prominent Foreign

Born Americans in The Citizen's Almanac (2006), and unveiled his portrait in the national Capitol building in 2008.

California, on the other hand, has done little to honor him. He richly deserves to be included in the Hall of Fame of the California Museum of History, Women and the Arts.

To rectify the situation, the Sikh Community greatly appreciates your continued support for jointly signing with Senator Denise Moreno Ducheny and 45 other legislators (making a total of 48), the letter originally prepared by assembly member, V. Manuel Perez.

The Hall of Fame is visited by student groups for educational purposes from all over the United States of America. Including Congressman Saund's name in the Hall of Fame will go a long way to help the Sikhs for not being misidentified and mixed up for what they are not. Kindly keep the effort going by winning more legislators on your side to impress upon the First lady, Ms. Maria Shriver, ensuring Congressman Saund a place in the Hall of Fame, which he deserves.

Another equally important issue which is very close to the hearts and minds of our community is the action required to ensure early adoption of the draft updated in 2010 of the History-Social Science Framework. It was a great pleasure for our S.C.C.C. members to participate and give testimonies in the process of updating the California's History-Social Science framework in Sacramento last year. Based on the hard work of four focus groups, and five meetings of the Curriculum Framework and Evaluation Criteria Committee, the Updated Draft HSS Framework satisfied all interest groups. The Curriculum Commission approved the Draft History-Social Science Framework for California Public Schools for Field Review on July 17, 2009, prior to signing of the 2009-10 Budget Bill (AB X4 2) by the Governor on July 28, 2009.

Consequent to Education Code Sec. 60200.7 included in ABX 4 2 however, progress of the draft updated HSS Framework towards adoption by the SBE remains suspended until 2013-14. This is unfortunate. Since there is no mention about the Sikhs in spite of their valuable contribution and having been in California for over a century. We need to adopt the draft updated Framework without further delay in order to make it possible for teachers to implement it into their lesson plans.

In order to proceed forward and for its early adoption, Senator Mark Wyland, Assembly members Wilmer Amina Carter and Torlakson have proposed SB 1278 and AB 2069 and AB 97 respectively. As you know having passed by the respective education Committees, these Bills are set for Appropriations Committee Hearing on May 27 and 28 respectively. Because these bills will take effect from June 1, 2011 and include a schedule for the adoption of Instructional material to help improve the teaching of updated history and social sciences for

our children, the SCCC fully supports these Bills. On behalf of the Sikh Community we urge you to use everything in your power to get these bills passed in the coming hearing next week.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Pashaura S. Dhillon

Coordinator, Education Committee, Sikh Council of Central California

559.708.4399

e: PashauraSinghDhillon@gmail.com