



# Ambedkar Times *Weekly*

Editor-in-Chief: Prem Kumar Chumber

Contact: 001-916-947-8920

Fax: 916-238-1393

E-mail: [chumbermedia@yahoo.com](mailto:chumbermedia@yahoo.com), [editor@ambedkartimes.com](mailto:editor@ambedkartimes.com)

VOL- 17

ISSUE- 3

March 26, 2025

California (USA)

[www.ambedkartimes.com](http://www.ambedkartimes.com)

[www.deshdoaba.com](http://www.deshdoaba.com)

## AMBEDKAR TIMES REMEMBERS

# SAHIB KANSHI RAM JI

**Prem Kumar Chumber Editor-in-Chief:  
Ambedkar Times & Desh Doaba**

**S**ahib Kanshi Ram was born on March 15, 1934, in Khawas Pur village of Ropar District of Punjab. He was the eldest of eight siblings. He belonged to the Ramdassia (Ad Dharmi) community of the Scheduled Caste group, which is the largest group in Punjab. He was named Kanshi because after his birth the mid-wife placed him in a tray made of kansa metal. His father owned some land and his uncles were in the armed forces. In Sahib Kanshi Ram's own words, "I was born and brought up amongst those who sacrificed themselves but never betrayed the country..." Despite his low caste background, he earned a bachelor's degree in science from the Government College at Ropar (Punjab).

His upbringing was modest. During his education years there was nothing special about him to suggest that he would mature into great social revolutionary. It was only after he took up a government job in the western Indian state of Maharashtra that he began to be influenced by the writings and life of Baba Sahib Dr. B.R. Ambedkar who voiced the concerns of India's low caste community and worked hard throughout his life for their empowerment. Soon after his graduation, Sahib Kanshi Ram Ji joined the research staff of Kirki's Explosive Research and Development Laboratory (ERDL) in Pune 1957. While working in Pune, he quit his job after becoming involved in the famous Deena Bhan case. Deena Bhan, a Rajasthani Scheduled Caste employee and senior colleague of Sahib Kanshi Ram Ji was suspended. His fault was that he protested against the decision of ERDL management for the cancellation of holidays for Ambedkar and Buddha Jayantis and their replacement by the Tilak Jayanti and one additional holiday for Diwali. Sahib Kanshi Ram decided to fight

against such a caste ridden and dictatorial behavior of the management. The fighter in Kanshi Ram got the suspension orders of Deena Bhan revoked and Ambedkar and Buddha Jayantis holidays were restored.

norities into it.

He criticized the post-Ambedkar leadership of Dalits in India. For that he declared Poona Pact as the main reason. He said that "Poona Pact made Dalits helpless. By reject-

down-trodden in electoral democracy in India. In, the Chamcha Age, "he focused very much on the Poona Pact which was a point of a rather decisive Gandhian victory over Dr. Ambedkar after a long duel between the two at the Round Table Conference". In the mid-1960s, Sahib Kanshi Ram Ji began to organize Dalit government employees to fight against what he saw as the deeply entrenched prejudice of higher caste peoples. It was around this time that he decided that he would not marry and dedicate his life to the cause of Dalit improvement. By the mid-1980s, he decided play a crucial role in the politics of the country.

The result was the formation of the BSP (the Common Man's Party) in 1984. As a politician, he became very popular among his people, who found a new hope and vision in his style of functioning and sincerity. Suddenly he became a national figure. He was a master strategist and a meticulous organiser. He used his strengths to carve out a niche for Dalits. This was done by deploying an often combative and aggressive strategy, with virulent attacks on other political parties which he claimed only represented the interests of higher caste Hindus. He was sharply different from other politicians of the mainstream. He used to communicate before he spoke.

He was one of the few great leaders of Independent India who actually expanded the limits of Dalit politics. His political vision was never confined to Scheduled Castes only, as is often thought about him. All of the political organisations he founded were meant for the down-trodden of all sorts – SC, ST, OBC and Minorities. It would not be an exaggeration to say that he was the one who took a lead in making Indian democracy more competitive and practically open to the Dalit-Bahujan Samaj. (Mobile: USA 916-947-8920)



This was the beginning of the long battle for the emancipation of the Dalits in the country that Sahib Kanshi Ram had to lead till his last breath. He resigned from his job and totally dedicated his entire life for the cause of the community. He never married nor visited his home since then. His struggle was not for the home and family. He devised a new strategy to regain the lost glory of the original (Adi) inhabitants of Bharat. He gave utmost importance to the culture of work and democratic method of struggle. He also expanded the circle of the Dalits by incorporating other Backward Classes and Mi-

ing separate electorate, Dalits were deprived of their genuine representation in legislatures. Several and various kind of chamchas were born in the last fifty years. As and when India's so called high caste Hindu rulers felt the need of chamchas and when the authority of the upper castes got endangered by real and genuine Dalit leaders, chamchas were brought to the fore in all other fields".

In his "The Chamcha Age", a well-argued and polemical tirade against the pseudo Dalit leaders, Sahib Kanshi Ram Ji sharpen the contradiction for the legitimate acquisition of political power by the

## AD DHARM IN PUNJAB ELECTIONS

**Prem Kumar Chumber  
Editor-in-Chief: Ambedkar Times & Desh Doaba**

Ad Dharm movement of Punjab gained tremendous importance within a short period after its foundation in 1926. That it got recognition for a separate religion for the so called lowest of the low from the British Government speaks about its great strength. In 1931, about 500, 000 Scheduled Castes (SCs) got recorded Ad Dharm as their distinct religion. Thereafter, its record

victory in the 1937 Punjab Provincial Assembly elections reinforced its popularity among the SCs. Its victory in the 1946 Punjab Provincial Assembly election to the Punjab Legislative Assembly assigned it an independent political identity. Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia, the founder of the Ad Dharm movement, was elected from Hoshiarpur constituency. It contested both the abovementioned assembly elections in collaboration with the Unionist Party.

Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia also contested the Punjab Legislative Assembly Election of 1952, but as an Independent contestant from the Garhshankar Constituency.

He was offered a ticket by the Congress to contest the assembly elections as its nominee but Babu Mangu Ram Ji refused to contest the election on the Congress ticket and the same was given to Mr Kartar Singh of village Langeri of Hoshiarpur District.



# Bedford Council Recognises Ambedkar's Birthday, 14 April as Equality Day



Arun Kumar, Bedford

Another milestone accomplished when Bedford Borough Council took a historic decision on 19 March, 2025 to declare 14 April, birth of Dr Ambedkar as Equality Day. Bedford becomes the second town after Coventry in the UK to recognise Dr

Ambedkar's enormous contribution in the matters of equality and social justice. further discussions as one of the Councilors highlighted a potential conflict with Sikh community due to Vaisakhi. After lengthy consultations with various community leaders, the consensus was reached. On 19 March, Abu submitted another mo-

equality and inclusion was instrumental in making this recognition a reality. As Dr Ambedkar once said, 'The progress of any society depends on how it treats its most vulnerable members.' His words remain as relevant today as ever. This is not just a

powerful reminder of the progress made and the challenges that remain in creating a fairer and more just society. It would provide a platform to celebrate the contributions of those who have fought for the rights of marginalised communities, including labourers, women, and oppressed groups, while reinforcing the principles of justice, dignity, and equal opportunity for all." Talking on women empowerment, she quoted Dr Ambedkar, "I measure the progress of a community by the degree of progress which women have achieved."



Ambedkar Mission Society, Sri Guru Ravidass Sabha, Bhagwan Valmik Sabha and Nirankari Satsang Bhavan have been campaigning for recognising 14 April as Equality Day. Representatives from these organisations issued a joint statement, saying, "It is a proud moment for all of us that Bedford Borough Council has recognised 14 April as Equality Day. We thank all the councillors supporting this motion."

Ambedkar Mission Society, Sri Guru Ravidass Sabha, Bhagwan Valmik Sabha and Nirankari Satsang Bhavan have been campaigning for recognising 14 April as Equality Day. Representatives from these organisations issued a joint statement, saying, "It is a proud moment for all of us that Bedford Borough Council has recognised 14 April as Equality Day. We thank all the councillors supporting this motion."

Ambedkar Mission Society, Sri Guru Ravidass Sabha, Bhagwan Valmik Sabha and Nirankari Satsang Bhavan have been campaigning for recognising 14 April as Equality Day. Representatives from these organisations issued a joint statement, saying, "It is a proud moment for all of us that Bedford Borough Council has recognised 14 April as Equality Day. We thank all the councillors supporting this motion."

symbolic gesture—it is a commitment to action."

Speaking in favour of the motion, Cllr Harish Thapar said "Recognising 14 April as Equality Day is a commitment to the principle that make our borough talk-equality inclusion and respect for all. This motion is a celebration of our diversity and declaration of we as a council stand against discrimination of any form. This day will serve as a platform to educate, engage and inspire. This remind us of the progress we have made and the work to be done to ensure every resident feel valued and included."

Supporting the motion, Fauzia said, "April 14th represents a significant opportunity to reflect on the ongoing struggle for equality and social justice. Marking this day as Equality Day would serve as a

Special thanks to Cllr Abu Sultan supported by Cllr Fauzia Atiq and Cllr Harish Thapar who worked tirelessly to bring this success to Equality Day. This is a momentous step towards fostering a society where everyone, regardless of background, is treated with dignity and respect. The values championed by Dr B. R. Ambedkar—justice, equality, and inclusion—are universal, and this recognition reaffirms our Borough's commitment to these principles."

For the first time, 14 April, Dr Ambedkar's birth anniversary will be celebrated as Equality Day from 10 am 2 pm at the Council Chambers, Bedford Borough Hall. All are welcome.



## SKY TRANSPORT SOLUTIONS

STRIVE FOR MORE

ਟਰੱਕਾਂ ਵਾਲਿਆਂ ਵੀਰਾਂ ਦੇ ਲਈ  
ਸਕਾਈ ਟਰਾਂਸਪੋਰਟ ਸਾਲਿਊਸ਼ਨ  
ਦੀਆਂ ਵਿਸ਼ੇਸ਼ ਸੇਵਾਵਾਂ



SPECIAL BIT INSPECTION AND DOT AUDIT COMPLIANCE:

SPECIAL DOT COMPLIANCE  
FOR SAFETY, AUDITS AND  
RECORD KEEPING.

WE PROVIDE  
ALL TRUCKING  
RELATED  
PERMITS AND  
SERVICES

ICC, DOT, IFTA, IRP Plates,  
PERMITS, NYP, KYU, OR,  
Canada Permit, CORPORA-  
TION AND LLC FILLING  
SERVICES, 2290, PTI,  
Trailer plates.

NOTARY PUBLIC SERVICES.  
ON THE SPOT VIN VERIFICATION SERVICES.  
DOT OUT OF SERVICES??  
AUTHORIZED IRS E- FILE PROVIDER.  
WE HAVE COMPLETE SOLUTIONS  
FOR OUT OF SERVICE DOT.

PLEASE CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION

PHONE: 209-855-6938, FAX: 209-762-6540

Email: skytransportsolution@gmail.com

Give us a chance to provide you best services

121 E 11th St. Tracy, CA 95376

Postal Address of Ambedkar Times : 5101 Doe Hollow Pl, Antelope, CA. 95843

The opinions expressed in this newspaper do not necessarily represent the views or opinions of the staff or employees of "Ambedkar Times". All disputes subjected to Sacramento (California) jurisdiction.



# India's Soft and Cultural Diplomacy – International Day of Equality

India's is increasingly becoming an international player in the world affairs over the years and rightly so. MP Shashi Tharoor spoke about the Soft Power of India while delivering Dr. L. M. Singhvi Memorial Lecture and focusing on India's soft power, Dr. Tharoor observed, "As influence shifts increasingly from military and economic might to cultural and intellectual leadership, India's soft power stands as a vital asset. We embody the true ideas and a vision of India that transcends borders. India's multicultural, multi-ethnic, multi-party, pluralistic civilization and democracy have emerged as an attraction to many, especially our par-

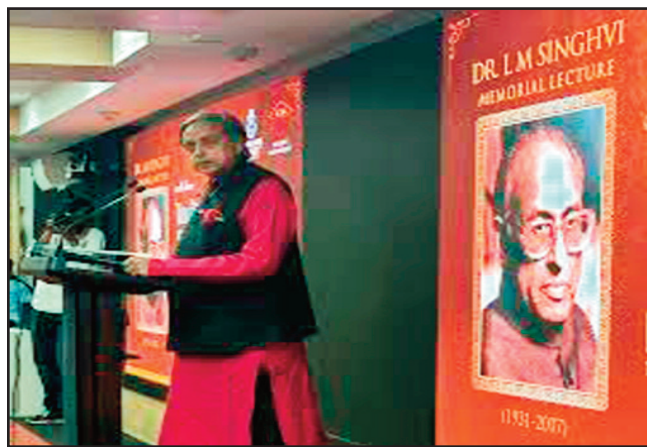
the world body, the UN. Describing B.R. Ambedkar, in April, 2016 at the celebrations of 125th birth anniversary of the leader as a global "icon" for marginalized people, a top UN official (UNDP Administrator Helen Clark voiced the world body's commitment to working closely with India to help realize the noted Indian social reformer's vision of empowerment and socio-economic equality. She added, "We are committed to continuing our very close partnership with India to help realize the vision of the 2030 Agenda and ensure that Ambedkar's vision becomes reality for the poor and marginalized around the

maxim of 'No Decision is also a decision' is at play. The ruling dispensation has their own thinking and agenda about Babasaheb Ambedkar. They cannot ignore Ambedkar on hand due to oblivious political reasons and on the other hand they tend to look the other way due to known socio-cultural and religious considerations. That preciously remained the factor that Ambedkar never got any recognition easily in the past too. But, as I wrote many a times in these columns earlier too, Babasaheb and his legacy is potent enough to steer clear his way and get his space. Anybody who tries to overtake Ambedkar will do it at his

Buddhist Organizations (FABO). It may not be out of place to add that many Cities and States in Canada, USA and in many more countries have already declared April 14 as the Day of Equality in their respec-



Ramesh Chander  
Ambassador - I.F.S. (Retired)  
91-99885-10940



liamentary institutions and procedures, conducting free and fair elections and our ability to involve the non-governmental sector and civil society in the quest for inclusive growth." Shashi Tharoor rightly mentioned about the International Yoga Day which added colourful feathers to the hat of India' Soft and Cultural Diplomacy. Similarly October 2, birthday of Mahatma Gandhi was declared as International Day of Non-violence on the initiative of India.



world." These assertions of Helen Clark were made in New York in pursuance of the proposal on International Day of Equality in the presence of India's then PR to UN, Syed Akbarudin and President of the Forum of Scheduled Caste MPs, Sardar Charanjit Singh Atwal who was nominated and sent by the GOI to present India at the function to felicitate the world icon, Babasaheb Ambedkar.

Since 2015, GOI is blissfully sleeping over the proposal to honour Babasaheb Ambedkar, one of the greatest sons of India in the contemporary times and shying away, it seems, from taking a decision and making a diplomatic demarche to UN to declare April 14, birthday of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, as International Day of Equality. It seems the



own peril. My immediate provocation to write this piece as reminder to the ruling dispensation and its mentors is that it has been reported in the media that the City Council of the City of Bedford in the UK has declared April 14, birthday of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, as the Day of Equality in that important town of UK on taking a cue from our proposal to GOI to declare the day as International Day of Equality as supported by the Indian diaspora in UK led by Federation of Ambedkarite and

ive areas. I bow my head to my fellow Ambedkar it es under the aegis of Chetna Association of Canada, the Ambedkar Times and the Desh Doaba of California in USA, FABO of UK among others who motivated their local interlocutors to declare the Day of Equality locally in the run up to realize our goal to honour Babasaheb Ambedkar as an international icon by the UN.

It goes without saying that the proposal to declare April 14, birthday of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, as International Day of Equality is bound to get an over-whelming international support at the UN as and when GOI decides to take the matter to the world body.

The proposal not only conforms to aims and objectives of the UN but also its agenda of establishing an 'Equitable World Order'. Soft and Cultural Diplomacy of India will come to the center stage once again as pleaded by MP Shashi Tharoor and rightly so.

I close this with an Urdu couplet with the hope that the GOI under the stewardship of PM Narendra Modi and EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar, my colleague in the IFS fraternity will rise to occasion and take a decion to honour Babasaheb Ambedkar.

g j n n z a n f n y d l s j k a k e j k # y k n s  
c g l k t k t s i m g s ' k k n m u s t x k n s

## URGENT CARE CLINIC

### DR. TAKHAR'S FAMILY MEDICINE & URGENT CARE CLINIC

**8191 Timberlake Way, Suite # 400, Sacramento, CA 95823**  
**Phone: 916-688-8888 Fax: 916-688-8837**

Clinic Hours: Monday to Friday 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM, Saturday 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM & Sunday closed

**We speak your language: Panjabi, Hindi, Urdu, Farsi, Arabic and Spanish**



Dr. Paramjit S Takhar, MD



Goodie Takhar, PhD



# Assemblyman Hoover's Representative Report

## Vietnam Veterans Memorial Project

I am honored to share an important initiative that I, alongside Senator Roger Niello, am advocating for in our state budget. We have officially submitted a request for funding to support the Citrus Heights Veterans Memorial Project (CHVMP). This project is dedicated to honoring the bravery and sacrifice of the more than three million Americans who served in the Vietnam War, including the 58,281 who made the ultimate sacrifice.

The requested funding will enable the immediate construction of a West Coast replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall. This memorial will be a place of reflection and healing for veterans, their families, and visitors, providing a solemn space to pay tribute to those who served. Located within the Veterans section of Calvary Cemetery, the memorial will be visible from Interstate 80 and open to the public year-round.

This project is historic—it will be the only Vietnam Veterans Memorial west of Missouri and only the second to have the official support and partnership of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund. Additionally, it will serve as an economic and cultural asset for Citrus Heights and the greater Sacramento region, drawing visitors and fostering community engagement through special events that celebrate service and sacrifice. This memorial will honor all our veterans have given and ensure their service is remembered for generations to come.

## American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Advocacy Day

Advocates from the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) Greater Sacramento Chapter visited the State Capitol for their 2025 Advocacy Action Day, where I had the opportunity to meet with them and discuss the urgent need for suicide prevention efforts in California. AFSP is the nation's largest nonprofit organization dedicated to preventing suicide through education, research, advocacy, and support for those affected by suicide.

Suicide remains a critical public health issue, ranking as the second leading cause of death for young people ages 25-34 and the 14th leading cause of death overall in California. AFSP's efforts to provide prevention education, support communities, and advocate for policies that save lives are making a real impact. I truly appreciate the work of AFSP's advocates and their commitment to raising awareness and expanding access to mental health resources. I look forward to working together to reduce the annual suicide rate and ensure that those in crisis receive the support they need.

## City of Refuge Tour

Last week, I had the privilege of touring City of Refuge Sacramento, a remarkable organization dedicated to uplifting and empowering some of our community's most vulnerable individuals. City of Refuge provides critical support and services to those experiencing homelessness, individuals reentering society after incarceration, and women who have survived sexual exploitation,

trafficking, and abuse. Through their holistic approach, they offer not just resources, but a sense of belonging and hope to those seeking a fresh start.

During my visit, I witnessed firsthand the incredible impact of their programs, which range from shelter and counseling services to workforce development, youth mentorship, and life enrichment classes. City of Refuge is more than an organization—it is a beacon of hope, creating pathways for transformation and strengthening our community from within. My tour was led by Loren Ditmore, Co-Founder & Chief Executive Officer, and Tamika Hamilton, Development Director, who shared invaluable insights into the organization's mission and plans for an even greater impact in our region.



The dedication of the staff and volunteers at City of Refuge is truly inspiring. Their work is a testament to the power of community-driven solutions in addressing complex social challenges. I am committed to supporting efforts like these that prioritize dignity, opportunity, and second chances for all.

## UC Center Sacramento Students

Engaging with the next generation of leaders is always a rewarding experience, and my recent visit with the Winter 2025 cohort of UC Center Sacramento students was no exception. These bright and motivated individuals are eager to make an impact in public policy, government, and beyond, and I was honored to share my experiences with them.

During our discussion, I spoke about my journey to the California State Legislature, the realities of working in public service, and the responsibilities of shaping policy that affects millions. We also explored career paths in government, law, and advocacy, and I shared advice on how to navigate these fields successfully. It was inspiring to see the students' enthusiasm and hear their thoughtful questions about governance, leadership, and the future of our state. Programs like UC Center Sacramento provide invaluable opportunities for students to gain hands-on experience and a deeper understanding of the legislative process.

I extend my sincere gratitude to Cindy Koga Simmons and the UC Center Sacramento team for organizing this event and fostering an environment where students can grow as future policymakers and changemakers. If you or someone you know is interested in public service, I highly recommend exploring

this outstanding program.

## Cordova Community Council's Community Volunteer Awards

Recognizing those who dedicate their time and energy to serving our community is essential, and the Cordova Community Council's 25th Annual Community Volunteer Awards was a perfect occasion to do just that. My staff was able to honor the amazing award recipients who exemplify the best of Rancho Cordova's spirit of service and community engagement.

The organizations and individuals who made up the list of honorees have all made an invaluable contribution to the betterment of our community, and our office was proud to present certificates of recognition in their honor. Their

dedication and passion are truly inspiring, and I commend their efforts to uplift and strengthen Rancho Cordova. I want to extend my gratitude to the Cordova Community Council for organizing this event year after year and for their commitment to celebrating local service. To all the volunteers—past, present, and future—thank you for making a difference. Your selflessness and hard work do not go unnoticed.

## AV Champion Award

I am delighted to have been recognized by the Autonomous Vehicle Industry Association (AVIA) with the inaugural AV Champion Award. This recognition reflects my commitment to supporting policies that advance autonomous vehicle technology, enhance safety, and drive economic growth in our state.

Autonomous vehicles have the potential to save lives, expand mobility, and create new job opportunities, and I am proud to support legislation that fosters responsible innovation in this field. Through bipartisan leadership, we are working to ensure that California remains at the forefront of transportation advancements while prioritizing public safety and accessibility.

I extend my gratitude to AVIA for this recognition and to my colleague, Assemblyman Marc Berman, for his shared dedication to this important issue. As we continue to embrace new technologies, I remain committed to supporting smart policies that benefit all Californians.

## District Ribbon Cuttings

This week, Assemblyman Josh Hoover's team attended several exciting ribbon-cutting events, marking signifi-

cant milestones for local businesses in our region. These businesses are not only enhancing the community's offerings but also exemplifying the entrepreneurial spirit that drives our region forward.

Shogun Sushi

The Carmichael Chamber held a ribbon cutting event at Shogun Sushi, located at 7330 Fair Oaks Blvd, Carmichael. Owner Alex, a dedicated restaurateur with over 11 years of experience, shared his heartfelt journey of bringing his dream to life. Inspired by his family's work in the restaurant industry since 1999, Alex's passion for sushi grew over the years. In early 2024, he was honored with the opportunity to take over Shogun Sushi, a beloved local eatery, and infuse it with his vision for an extraordinary dining experience. The ribbon cutting was an exciting celebration for both Shogun Sushi and the Carmichael community.

Carbon Health Urgent Care

My team was also in attendance for the ribbon cutting at Carbon Health Urgent Care, located at 4156 Manzanita Ave, Carmichael. Carbon Health is revolutionizing healthcare access with its modern approach to urgent care, offering services that cover a wide spectrum of needs, from illnesses and injuries to sports physicals and x-rays. Since opening in May 2021, the Carmichael location has become an integral part of the community, and this ceremony marked its four-year anniversary.

Mathnasium

Another exciting ribbon cutting was held by the Citrus Heights Chamber at Mathnasium, located at 1000 Sunrise Blvd, Suite 5A, Roseville. Mathnasium provides a specialized math learning program designed to help children improve their math skills and build confidence in their abilities. The event was a fantastic opportunity for parents and students to explore the services available and meet with the team who are dedicated to helping students excel academically. Heritage Community Credit Union

Lastly, the Heritage Community Credit Union is celebrating the grand opening of its newest location, located at 13385 Folsom Blvd, Suite 200, Folsom. This grand opening highlighted the continued growth of local financial services and the importance of community-focused banking. It's a celebration of not only a new location but also the ongoing commitment of Heritage Community Credit Union to support its members.

My office is proud to attend these ribbon-cutting ceremonies and support local businesses that contribute to the economic vibrancy of our community. These events are a testament to the resilience, creativity, and dedication of our entrepreneurs, and they reflect the growing prosperity of the greater Sacramento area. Let's continue to support these businesses as they thrive and shape our future!



Assemblyman Hoover