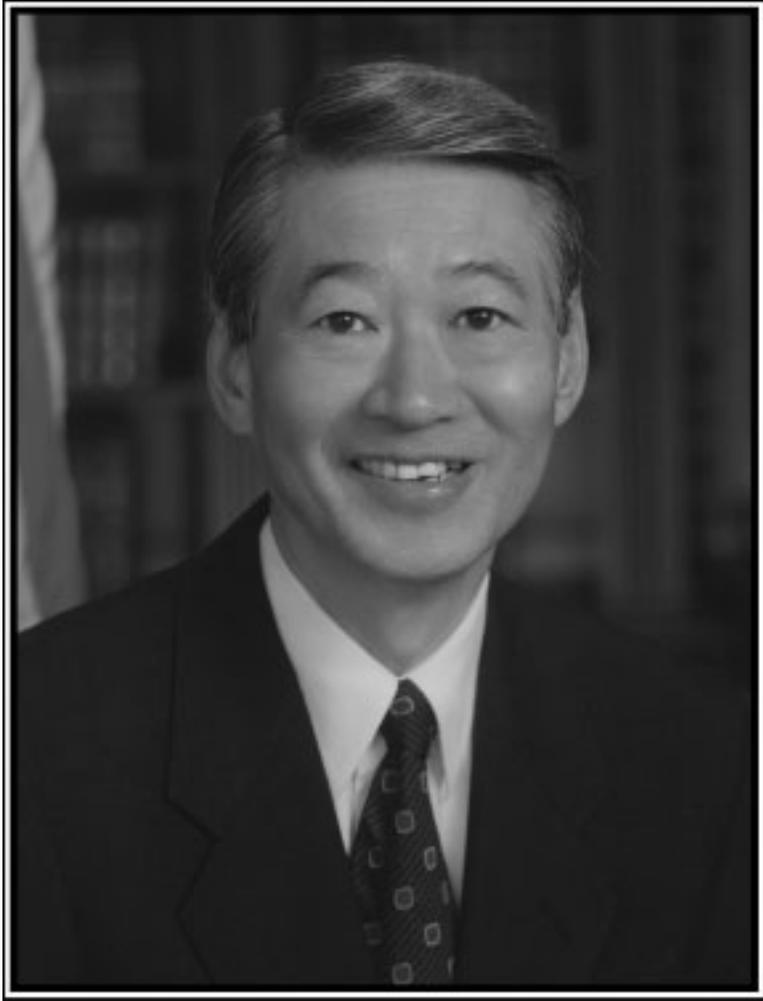


HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI — 1941–2005

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI — 1941–2005

(Trim Line)



Robert T. Matsui

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

Memorial Addresses and Other Tributes

HELD IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
AND SENATE
OF THE UNITED STATES
TOGETHER WITH MEMORIAL SERVICES
IN HONOR OF

ROBERT T. MATSUI

Late a Representative from California

One Hundred Ninth Congress
First Session



(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

*Compiled under the direction
of the
Joint Committee on Printing
Trent Lott, Chairman*

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

CONTENTS

	Page
Biography	v
Memorial Services:	
U.S. Capitol	1
Sacramento Memorial Auditorium	16
Westminster Presbyterian Church	34
Statement from President George W. Bush	57
Letter from President William J. Clinton	58
Proceedings in the House of Representatives:	
Tributes by Representatives:	
Abercrombie, Neil, of Hawaii	110
Andrews, Robert E., of New Jersey	121
Baca, Joe, of California	105
Becerra, Xavier, of California	85
Bono, Mary, of California	114
Bordallo, Madeleine Z., of Guam	99
Brady, Kevin, of Texas	135
Calvert, Ken, of California	97
Capps, Lois, of California	107
Cardin, Benjamin L., of Maryland	111
Cardoza, Dennis A., of California	101
Cummings, Elijah E., of Maryland	118
Davis, Danny K., of Illinois	119
DeLauro, Rosa L., of Connecticut	119
Doggett, Lloyd, of Texas	70
Doolittle, John T., of California	67
Dreier, David, of California	65
Emanuel, Rahm, of Illinois	98, 128, 137
Eshoo, Anna G., of California	81, 139
Faleomavaega, Eni F.H., of American Samoa	117
Farr, Sam, of California	79
Harman, Jane, of California	73
Hastert, J. Dennis, of Illinois	62
Herger, Wally, of California	69, 72, 79
Hinojosa, Rubén, of Texas	109
Holt, Rush D., of New Jersey	115
Honda, Michael M., of California	101, 131, 138
Israel, Steve, of New York	104
Jackson-Lee, Sheila, of Texas	88
Johnson, Nancy L., of Connecticut	134
Jones, Stephanie Tubbs, of Ohio	103, 137
Kind, Ron, of Wisconsin	121
Lantos, Tom, of California	97
Lee, Barbara, of California	76
Levin, Sander M., of Michigan	78, 136
Lewis, Jerry, of California	90
Lewis, John, of Georgia	83, 137
Lofgren, Zoe, of California	92, 126
Lowey, Nita M., of New York	89

(Trim Line)
|
(Trim Line)

	Page	
Proceedings in the House of Representatives:—Continued		
Tributes by Representatives—Continued		
Maloney, Carolyn B., of New York	124	
Matsui, Doris O., of California	138	
McCollum, Betty, of Minnesota	104	
McDermott, Jim, of Washington	136	
Menendez, Robert, of New Jersey	77	
Miller, George, of California	89	
Moore, Dennis, of Kansas	86	
Moran, James P., of Virginia	107	
Napolitano, Grace F., of California	115	
Norton, Eleanor Holmes, of the District of Columbia	96	
Oberstar, James L., of Minnesota	139	
Ortiz, Solomon P., of Texas	106	
Oxley, Michael G., of Ohio	113	
Pelosi, Nancy, of California	59, 93, 126, 142	
Price, David E., of North Carolina	87	
Rangel, Charles B., of New York	74, 135	
Roybal-Allard, Lucille, of California	112	
Ryan, Paul, of Wisconsin	132	
Sabo, Martin Olav, of Minnesota	110	
Sánchez, Linda T., of California	125	
Sensenbrenner, F. James, Jr., of Wisconsin	116	
Sherman, Brad, of California	117	
Shuster, Bill, of Pennsylvania	130, 131, 138	
Solis, Hilda L., of California	116	
Spratt, John M., Jr., of South Carolina	82	
Stark, Fortney Pete, of California	63, 134	
Tanner, John S., of Tennessee	120	
Thomas, William M., of California	72, 141	
Thompson, Mike, of California	67, 133	
Waters, Maxine, of California	122	
Waxman, Henry A., of California	68	
Wilson, Joe, of South Carolina	126	
Woolsey, Lynn C., of California	99	
Wu, David, of Oregon	75	
Proceedings in the Senate:		
Tributes by Senators:		
Baucus, Max, of Montana	147	
Boxer, Barbara, of California	149	
Corzine, Jon S., of New Jersey	145	
Feinstein, Dianne, of California	145, 150	
Frist, William H., of Tennessee	152	
Sarbanes, Paul S., of Maryland	148	
Unveiling of the Robert T. Matsui United States Courthouse		155
Matsui, Doris O., of California		156

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

BIOGRAPHY

ROBERT T. MATSUI first campaigned in 1978 for the congressional seat serving Sacramento, CA, persuading voters that he would bring to office “a new form of statesmanship.” Having entered the race as an underdog candidate, then-Vice Mayor MATSUI was carried to victory by a team of hundreds of committed volunteers. Through 26 years of service in the House of Representatives, Mr. MATSUI fulfilled his promise. He received accolades for bringing dedication, competence, innovation, and integrity to public service.

Mr. MATSUI was acknowledged for congressional accomplishment in service both to his district and to the Nation. With special concern for public safety in Sacramento, he drove a two-decade fight for safe levels of area flood control and secured Federal participation in the city’s transformation and growth during his congressional tenure. A senior member of the Committee on Ways and Means, Mr. MATSUI led the congressional fight to preserve Social Security until his death and also provided policy leadership on trade, tax, and social justice issues during a quarter century on the committee.

As the Democratic leader in the effort to preserve Social Security, Mr. MATSUI provided a strong public face and voice by standing sentry for the program. Congressional Quarterly’s *Politics in America* called him “one of the few lawmakers in either party with a deep understanding of the complexities of the program.” As on tax and finance issues, Mr. MATSUI frequently traveled with detailed charts and graphs to explain the nuances of Federal budgeting, and he gained a reputation among both his congressional colleagues and his constituents for his thoughtful, intelligent, intellectually honest approach to Federal fiscal policy. He was part of the Ways and Means Committee effort in 1986 that resulted in fundamental fairness reform of the Tax Code.

For his long-standing commitment to and achievement in free and open international trade, Mr. MATSUI was also viewed as an effective, strategic leader and one of the best vote counters in the House. While he served as acting chair of the Trade Subcommittee in 1993, President Clinton

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

turned to him to lead one of the most heated congressional battles of the decade: the fight to pass the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Working in concert with Republicans and Democrats, Mr. MATSUI was a driver in enacting this keystone of modern American trade policy. He also spearheaded successful bipartisan efforts to gain congressional approval of the Uruguay Round Agreements, which led to the establishment of the World Trade Organization (WTO), and the 2000 approval of permanent normal trade relations (PNTR) with China.

The first two bills Mr. MATSUI introduced in Congress sought to strengthen enforcement of child support payments. He especially believed that all children in the United States should have guaranteed access to health care, and he drafted legislation in 1991 that became the backbone for child welfare reform, with its proposed expansion of the social services available to at-risk children and families in the child welfare, mental health, and juvenile justice systems. In 1994, Mr. MATSUI was a leader in the fight over welfare changes. He argued that adequate job training and education programs were essential to helping parents achieve financial self-sufficiency without hurting the Nation's disadvantaged children. He was part of a bipartisan team that introduced the CHILD Act in 1997, which ultimately became the basis for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).

A third-generation Japanese American, Mr. MATSUI was 6 months old when he and his family were taken from Sacramento and interned by the U.S. Government at the Tule Lake Camp in 1942, after Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor. In 1988, Representative MATSUI helped shepherd the Japanese American redress act (Civil Liberties Act of 1988, P.L. 100-383) through Congress, by which the United States formally apologized for the World War II internment program and offered token compensation to victims. He was also instrumental in the designation of Manzanar, a wartime relocation center 200 miles northeast of Los Angeles, as a national historic site and in obtaining land near the National Mall in Washington, DC, for the memorial to Japanese American patriotism in World War II.

Mr. MATSUI was a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley (A.B., 1963), and the University of California, Hastings College of Law (J.D., 1966). He was inspired to enter the legal field by reading the autobiography of famed trial lawyer Clarence Darrow and to public service by President John F. Kennedy's speech challenging Americans to ask

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

what they could do for their country. He founded his own Sacramento law practice in 1967, won a seat on the Sacramento City Council in 1971, and became vice mayor of the city in 1977. In addition to his congressional service, Mr. MATSUI chaired the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee during the 2004 election cycle and had previously served as treasurer and deputy chair of the Democratic National Committee. He was also a regent of the Smithsonian Institution from 1999 to 2005.

In 1966 he married Doris Okada, who served as Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of Public Liaison for President Clinton and who was elected on March 8, 2005, to complete Mr. MATSUI's 14th term of office and serve California's Fifth Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives. He is also survived by his son and daughter-in-law, Brian Robert Matsui and Amy Matsui, and by his granddaughter Anna Matsui.

Mr. MATSUI died on January 1, 2005, and is buried at East Lawn Memorial Park in his hometown of Sacramento, CA.

(Trim Line)



A Celebration of the Life of

**THE HONORABLE
ROBERT T. MATSUI**

September 17, 1941–January 1, 2005

MEMBER OF CONGRESS
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA
1979–2005

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

We send the message that bigotry and hate will not be tolerated and that we choose to stand together as people who celebrate and embrace our freedom and join with those who would heal our communities when others seek to divide us.

—Representative Robert T. Matsui
June 29, 1999

With all that Sacramento has to offer, some like to think of Sacramento as California's best-kept secret. True, it is the ideal place to live and do business. But I like to think of it simply as home.

—Representative Robert T. Matsui
September 13, 2000

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

United States Capitol, Statuary Hall
Wednesday, January 5, 2005, 12:30 p.m.

Program

Prelude

United States Air Force String Quartet

Presentation of the Colors

United States Capitol Police Ceremonial Unit

National Anthem

David B. Nelson

Special Agent, United States Capitol Police

Retiring of the Colors

Invocation

The Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin

Chaplain, United States House of Representatives

Remarks

The Honorable Robert E. Rubin

Former United States Secretary of the Treasury

The Honorable Charles B. Rangel

United States Representative

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton

United States Senator

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert

Speaker of the United States House of Representatives

Interlude

“America the Beautiful”

Remarks

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi

Democratic Leader, United States House of Representatives

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton

Former President of the United States

Presenting of the Colors to Mrs. Matsui and Family

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert

Speaker of the United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi

Democratic Leader, United States House of Representatives

Benediction

The Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin

Chaplain, United States House of Representatives

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

Rev. Daniel P. Coughlin. I am Daniel Coughlin, sworn in just yesterday as Chaplain to the House of Representatives. I wish to extend a word of welcome especially to Mrs. Doris Matsui, wife of the Honorable ROBERT MATSUI, from the Fifth District of California, to the Matsui family, Brian and Amy and their daughter Anna. I want also to acknowledge Members of both Houses of Congress and distinguished guests. I also want to welcome and commend the professional staff of Mr. MATSUI's office who have worked to bring us together today to celebrate the life, accomplishments and memory of BOB MATSUI. The news of the death of Congressman MATSUI stunned so many of us, so I am now pleased that all of you could gather here today in this honored hall where history is preserved, commemorated, and created by singular events such as this.

Yesterday was a poignant moment. It started for me and others with an interfaith service to which I had invited BOB MATSUI to be a part and offer a prayer for the American people. In his heartfelt absence I came to realize BOB not only could compose and offer a prayer for the diverse people of this country; he offered his life.

Together now, let us reflect on this good and faithful public servant. With profound respect and compassionate hearts in silence now let us remember BOB and pray for those most touched by his love and his loss.

Almighty and faithful Creator,
all things are of Your making,
all people are formed in Your image and likeness.
Today we commend to You
the Honorable ROBERT MATSUI.
His goodness, his expansive vision
and inclusive concern for others
have made a deep impression on us all.

May his sacrificial love for this country
and his genuine concern for others
live on in us, that we may be more disciplined
in our passionate commitments
and express ourselves with the gentleness
of his likeness.

We ask this of You, Lord God,
of all our yesterdays,
with us now and forever.

Amen.

Secretary Robert E. Rubin. To Doris, BOB's family and BOB's colleagues and BOB's many friends. Let me begin by of-

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

fering my deepest condolences. BOB's passing is an immense loss to all of us and to our country. The phrase a loss to our country is easy to say, but in BOB's case that is true in the most serious and meaningful way. BOB was not only deeply thoughtful on the complicated and hugely consequential issues that our country now faces, but he was also respected and liked by those who disagreed with him and by the members of both parties. This enabled him to work in a way that too few in Washington can to help bring people of different views and different parties together to move our country forward.

I first met BOB when I was still on Wall Street, when a mutual friend introduced him as an important younger voice for a forward looking approach to our Nation's policy issues and with respect to the future direction of the Democratic Party. And so he was and so he remained and that was the beginning of a personal relationship that lasted up to this very day. Later when I worked on the White House staff and then at Treasury, BOB became an indispensable colleague who kept our confidences on the many occasions when we asked him for advice even on measures he didn't personally agree with where we were. He provided enormous and effective leadership on fiscal, trade and poverty reduction measures that were so critically important to the future of our country.

It was once said of a great statesman, "As he could persuade so could he be persuaded." Open-minded with a focus on the facts and analysis rather than ideology and politics, and graciousness toward all, that's how I'll always think of BOB. I remember, for example, when President Clinton was working to secure enactment of NAFTA. On the one hand we believed that NAFTA was greatly in our country's interests, on the other hand it was immensely controversial politically, especially in the Democratic Party. BOB got deeply engaged in helping to think through the substantive issues around NAFTA and in working with both Democrats and Republicans to secure the necessary support and at the same time to focus on protecting those who might be adversely affected.

Later when I was at Treasury we faced enormous currency crises in Mexico, Asia, and Russia that came close to undermining our own economy. Once again BOB worked tirelessly with us both privately and publicly to foster public understanding and to develop support for engagement at a time when engagement was highly controversial.

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

Not everyone would agree with all of our policy choices, but I believe all would agree that BOB exemplified the best of public service: It is a deep substantive engagement with critical issues in working to accomplish purposes that he believed in despite political liabilities. And it is a tone of civility and goodwill toward those who disagreed with him. At a time when many feel that life in Washington has become harsher and when policy disagreements too often become personalized and dealt with through *ad hominem* attack, BOB was a gentleman and public servant in the best sense of those words. To put it very simply I think BOB may well be the most decent human being I ever knew.

We will miss BOB as a human being, as a legislator and as a man committed to making our democratic political institutions work effectively. BOB had a quiet voice, but it was a powerful voice that will be greatly missed from our national conversation and our public life.

Congressman Charles B. Rangel. Mr. Speaker, thank you for giving some of us the opportunity to tell Doris and Brian and Amy and Anna how much we loved your husband and your dad. At a time when so many lives are being lost all over the world, in the Middle East and in Asia, you try to find something that you can be thankful for and to thank God for. And those of us who were privileged to attend a dinner recently that our leader had would remember that it gave some of us an opportunity that other survivors of those loved ones that they have lost never had. And that is a chance to say “we love you, BOB.” That many of us do not have the burden of wondering, Could we have done more, could we have shown him how much we appreciated him, could we have treated him more kindly? BOB knew how much we loved him and we knew how much he loved the committee that he worked on, Ways and Means, we knew how much he loved the Congress and how much he loved our great country.

And so in talking with Members on both sides of the aisle, you wondered what could I, or anyone, say that we did not already know or that has not already been said. And so many Members said, You know BOB just should not be remembered as a kind gentleman, and how many people liked him and how he was willing to form partnerships. Charlie, you ought to talk about some of his passion, his lack of tolerance for fools, the fact that he had a concern not just for legislation, but for those he thought were taking away the God-given right and responsibility that we have as a Nation to

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

take care of our disadvantaged. He truly believed we have an obligation to our aged, to our sick, to our youngsters to make this country all that she can ever be. Charlie, do not let them forget that here was a man that knew how unfair a country could be and yet instead of cursing the darkness, sought to be as good as he could be to make this country better. To improve it so what happened to him and his family could never happen to anyone else. Let them remember that the legacy he leaves is that you can be a gentleman and have passion at the same time. You can be loved and cared for and at the same time never give up the principles you believe in. And he set an example for all of us that are privileged to serve in the House: No matter what party label you have, you can be liked for doing the right thing.

We are so fortunate to have his family here. He was one person that you never asked “How is the family?” and didn’t expect to find out. He loved you so much, Doris and Brian, and to be able to have a grandchild. We often talked about it because we were blessed with that. And you, like us, were able to talk with him and know how much he loved you, when we lost him.

And so we can thank God that we knew him, but more important I think, we can say we had the opportunity to thank him for the great contribution that he’s made not just to his colleagues but to this great country. And now with him gone, we—all of us—have to stand a little taller because we never thought that God would snatch him away from us the way he did. But since He did, we have to try to fill the shoes and to fill the vacuum. We will be able to replace him in the House and on the Ways and Means Committee, but never will we be able to replace him in our hearts for the high standards that he set for all Americans. God bless you, BOB.

Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton. Mr. Speaker and Leader Pelosi, all of BOB’s family and friends, this is such a difficult time for so many, and as we come together to pay tribute to someone who admired this institution so greatly, served with such dedication and in return, was given the love of those who care about the Congress and our country.

We have lost a public servant and a statesman of a generation of tradition whose talents we are sadly losing. It’s impossible for any of us to put into words the loss suffered by Doris, Brian, Amy, and Anna.

As I think about them I really grieve for Anna—who will not have more time with her grandfather, who will not get to know this extraordinary man and his story, who will not

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

enjoy those moments together that BOB grew to enjoy when he wasn't quite sure what to do with this little person who started her day with the family-authored bathtub song instead of the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*.

But he found indescribable joy in Anna and I hope all of us will join with Anna's parents and grandmother in sharing stories and memories of BOB in years to come.

There's so much to be said about BOB as a person and as a Congressman. He did fight for seniors and for children. He fought to protect the basic freedoms guaranteed to all Americans. He exemplified fair play and decency. And he spent a lifetime championing what is best about America. It's not at all clear that it had to turn out that way.

In 1941, when BOB was an infant, his entire family was shipped to a Japanese internment camp. His parents, second-generation American citizens, lost their produce business in Sacramento. He was 4 years old when his family finally regained its freedom.

But the shame of internment lasted so much longer. He reported that the experience of being tainted as a spy, as being un-American, as somehow not measuring up, and the dismissal of his parents' loyalty by their country still lived with him as an adult.

Now, in the face of that experience, BOB might have chosen cynicism or resentment. Instead, he responded to the injustices he personally experienced by seeking to make America a more welcoming and better place, a more tolerant and freer home for all of its citizens.

He heeded President Kennedy's call to public service. His record of achievement during 26 years in the House is just filled with so many accomplishments. He co-authored and fought tirelessly for the Japanese American redress act. That law provided financial compensation for those ripped from their homes and placed at the camps. But it was also, and perhaps more important, a formal apology to those victims from their government.

It placed the United States on the right side of history by finally acknowledging the wrongs of four decades earlier. As BOB said at the time, the act demonstrated that we as a Nation do believe in the Constitution and the rights of individuals. That's a timeless lesson and one that I think we heed today as well.

BOB MATSUI's commitment to our Nation's children was unwavering. The very first two bills he introduced were directed to strengthen the enforcement of child support obliga-

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

tions. He drafted the legislation that became the basis for child welfare reform legislation and for what ultimately became the Children's Health Insurance Program, and he fought hard to expand services available to at-risk children.

Now he is, as we all know, the expert on Social Security. He was passionate about protecting that compact between the generations and we will miss his voice and his leadership on this issue in the 109th Congress.

During the years of my husband's administration, BOB was, as Secretary Rubin just said, an extraordinarily thoughtful and intelligent counselor.

And we were so lucky to have Doris in the White House working on behalf of the Clinton administration and its goals.

The people of California's Fifth District, the Congress, and all Americans have lost a friend and a leader. Our thoughts and prayers not only will stay with BOB's family but also with our country because he was a model of how to get important things done, of how to bridge the gaps that too often divide us. And maybe we should in the months ahead of this new Congress honor his memory by invoking a "Matsui moment" from time to time, when people are not even seeking to find common ground or let alone, higher ground.

Maybe we could call for a Matsui moment and we could spend some time, once again, relating to each other as human beings on a level that recognizes our common interests and hopes for the kind of nation that BOB MATSUI gave his life to serve.

God bless you, Doris, and your family.

Speaker J. Dennis Hastert. Mr. President, distinguished guests, it is not very often that we gather in this great room in this type of manner, but with BOB's passing, I think that it is only fitting.

The Scriptures ask the question, "What manner of man is this?" What manner of man was BOB MATSUI? Now most of my activity was on the other side of the aisle, but BOB would come through almost on a daily basis as I was on the House floor. We would talk and chat for a minute or two, and he would inquire how everything was going, in his usual friendly manner.

I especially remember his family. The arrival of the Matsui Christmas card every year was a stage upon which the rest of us could catch a glimpse of a true American family and their obvious love for one another. With those cards, we saw the great family life that BOB and Doris had, including the

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

wedding Christmas card and the birth of your granddaughter and even this year, once again there was a wonderful and beautiful card from the Matsui family. It was something that stood out: You waited for it and it came. And it had a message. It was a message that you can be a Member of Congress, you can work on important issues, but yet you are a human being. You love your family. You serve more than just a purpose of coming here and legislating. And BOB was all of those things.

BOB was such a good person. I remember about a year ago or so, BOB called me up one day. I was in the office when I took the call, and he informed me that he was going to be the Democratic campaign chairman. I said, “Gee BOB, I wish you wouldn’t do that. But I wish you well.” See, like anything that BOB was ever involved in, he did the very best that he could. Someone earlier mentioned the word passion. Well, he did have passion. And he did everything with this gusto and energy that you do not see very often. And I can tell you as an observer on the other side of the aisle, when BOB MATSUI ever got involved with an issue you had better pay attention because he was going to make things happen.

So again, I ask the question, what manner of man is this? I think each of us reflects in our minds and our own lives how someday we will be snatched away just like BOB. And can we measure up to the same kind of measure that BOB could stand up to? BOB MATSUI was well liked. He was a good man. And he did his job with passion. He has left behind many, many great friends. And we will miss him on both sides of the aisle. God bless you.

Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi. Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, Doris, Brian, Amy, and Anna. Listening to the music of “America the Beautiful”—God truly shed his grace on America with the light and leadership of BOB MATSUI. In one of the further verses of “America the Beautiful,” it proclaims, “O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years.” That has always been my favorite line. How much it applies to BOB MATSUI, a true patriot who had a dream for America, a better America that saw beyond the years.

He was a true patriot. He loved America. He wanted to be an architect when he was young, and indeed he was an architect for a better America. Others have referenced his efforts to build a better future for America’s children, to expand opportunity for them, to have a more secure future for America’s seniors, and to protect our precious freedoms for all of us.

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

We all know about his work in 1988 on the Japanese American redress act, working with Norm Mineta and with Danny Inouye, who are both here. We know about it, and we hear about it, and we know what the provisions of the bill are. It's hard for some to remember, though, how really necessary it was, and what a struggle it was for a number of years. It's hard to understand how someone as a child who went with his family—he was third generation, they were second—to an internment camp and came out with this spirit, to love America enough to want to make it better.

And Danny Inouye, of the same Japanese American heritage, was fighting in World War II, defending the country—such a remarkable thing. But to listen to them during the debate—Norm, and Danny, and others; Senator Matsunaga. To listen to BOB during the debate speak from the heart and from the head on this subject was probably the most American thing we'd ever be involved in. It was saying: "We made a mistake. We'll make it right. We'll make the future better."

Can you imagine when his family was in an internment camp that they would ever have dreamed that their son would have a memorial service in the Capitol? That over the Capitol of the United States flags would fly at half-mast in his honor speaks to how special he is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for making that possible.

BOB was so proud of his Japanese American heritage, and I was proud to appoint him as the first Asian American in leadership in the House of Representatives. He loved his parents. He talked about them a lot lately. Maybe it was in relationship to the Social Security bill that was coming up. But whatever it was, he spoke with great pride, and we knew they had to be great people to have produced such a wonderful son.

We all know how much he loved Doris. They were a team. They worked together in public service, for awhile, in two branches of government. And I know he loved Doris so much. She was a source of strength to him, an inspiration to him. And Brian, as the Speaker said, we saw him grow up on the Christmas cards, and now we see him with Amy, so happy.

Yesterday we had the swearing-in, and BOB was going to bring Anna for the first time. She's 17 months old. The swearing-in was going to be a happy day for him and for all of us. When Anna is old enough to read about her grandfather—and according to BOB, that won't be long, this magnificent child and source of so much happiness to him—she will read of how respected he was, how talented he was, how

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

kind he was to people, this beautiful, gracious man. I hope it is a comfort to you, Doris, Brian, Amy, and Anna, that so many people mourn your loss and are praying for you at this sad time.

I just want to recall for some of you who may not have known BOB at the time when he ran for Congress 27 years ago. It was a really tough race. This was no easy thing. There were stiff competitors running in that race. He went into the race, and I remember being with him at an event in Chinatown in San Francisco where the Asian American community embraced him with such great pride. He was in his thirties. He had an aura about him of such grace. Perhaps it was from his parents, this self-confidence, grace, an aura of kindness and graciousness, which was lovely, but in a campaign it was very tough. It was a wonder to behold that he would be so gracious to his opponent, and that was before he won.

He had an aura of inevitability about him in that race, and he came to Congress to represent the people of Sacramento, whom he loved. And every day, he worked so hard for them, and bragged about them, and Doris was by his side all the time. They shared their love for the people of Sacramento, and they gave their all for them.

It might interest you to know that when he leaves here today, he will go home to California, to Sacramento, to a triumphant welcome. He will lie in state in Sacramento, the State capital, for a day and a half. He will be visited by so many people who knew him or respected him, and he will then have ceremonies, all kinds, to honor his memory. It will be very fitting. And he will be laid to rest in the manner of one who is revered. The love he had for his constituents was certainly returned.

The poet Longfellow wrote,

Were a star quenched on high,
For ages would its light,
Still traveling downward from the sky,
Shine on our mortal sight.
So when a great man dies,
For years beyond our ken,
The light he leaves behind him lies
Upon the paths of men.

BOB MATSUI's words, his deeds, his intellect, and his passion will serve as a light, one that will guide us to a better America that was his dream. He lived up to the words of the scripture, "I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith."

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

President William Jefferson Clinton. Doris, Brian, Amy, Anna, Mr. Speaker, Leader Pelosi, ladies and gentlemen. The people who have spoken before so eloquently about our friend, BOB MATSUI, have told us things we all need to remember about him, and in the process about public life and about personal life.

Bob Rubin reminded us that in an era when politics is dominated by ideology and attack, he favored evidence and argument. Even when ideology and attack work better in elections, only evidence and argument produce good policy. And BOB MATSUI played an essential role in many of the policies produced when I was President, that I believe made America a better place. Certainly those policies were better than they would have been had it not been for him.

Charlie Rangel reminded us that for all of his kind demeanor and courtesy he was a passionate man who fought for what he believed. And my Senator from New York had the best line of the day when she said we'd all be better off if we had a Matsui moment now and again. And I hope we can remember that.

Speaker Hastert showed us something that is all too rare in Washington these days. First of all, Mr. Speaker, thank you for making these facilities available, thank you for honoring our friend. But I would like to thank all the Republicans who have come here to honor BOB MATSUI and the common endeavors in which you engaged. He was, like me, a Democrat who was for free trade, but thought we ought to do more for working families hurt by it, and thereby lift labor and environmental standards around the world. His position was clear, and yet the head of the AFL-CIO is here today out of respect for BOB MATSUI, and I thank him for coming. I thank everybody who is here who ever disagreed with BOB MATSUI on anything for coming, for reminding us that our common humanity counts for a lot more than the fleeting differences of politics, and that none of us is smart enough to know what is right to do all of the time.

I thank Nancy Pelosi for her heartfelt, emotional memories of young Mr. MATSUI, and for reminding us of his California roots and that he is going home to be honored by his people, whom he served so faithfully.

I would just add a couple of things. I'm probably one of the few people here who knew about BOB MATSUI before he knew about me. Because I was profoundly affected as a boy growing up in Arkansas by the fact that we had a Japanese American internment camp in my home State. It was a

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

source of great pain and regret to many of us. I have walked down the dusty long-forgotten lanes of that camp. I have imagined what it was like for patriotic Americans like Senator Inouye, who finally got the Medal of Honor he deserved over 50 years later. I saw not only their patriotism questioned but their freedom constrained and their children humiliated. I lived with it my whole childhood and adulthood. And I loved knowing BOB MATSUI, knowing a man who could have given in to bitterness but instead overcame it.

I spoke out in front of this great building almost exactly 12 years ago that there is nothing wrong with this country that cannot be fixed by what is right with it. BOB MATSUI represented everything that is right with America. And whether he was right on every issue or not, and whether every battle we fought together was the right position or not, he was the right sort of person. His attitude toward himself, his work, and his fellow human beings, toward his beloved wife, his son, and his daughter-in-law and grandchild—toward all of us—was the right attitude.

He even forgave me for asking Doris to come to work in the White House, so finally she had to work as long as he did. Maybe it's just because we are all affected by this recent tsunami in Asia, maybe it's because I don't have to run for anything anymore; nonetheless, I believe that there's a reason we all showed up here today, across all the lines that otherwise divide us. Down deep in our hearts, we know that the way BOB MATSUI chose to live, chose to work, chose to relate to us, chose to pursue public service, is the right way. He gave so much to all of us, as well as to his constituents back home. I only hope that in the days and years ahead, we will never forget him. We will never forget that he was what is right with America, and that by following him we can best do him honor. God bless you, BOB.

Rev. Daniel P. Coughlin. God of holiness and power, accept our words, our prayers, and sentiments of affection for your servant, ROBERT MATSUI. Do not count any misdeeds against him, for in his heart he desired to create only goodness for your people, and lasting justice for this Nation. Lord, comfort our sisters and brothers who now mourn; may your revealed word and promises of eternal life and love strengthen them. May aching hearts soon find solace in faith, family, and friends, and come to lasting peace. May your spirit descend upon all who have gathered here today so that they may walk in peace. One day, may we come again together to celebrate a lasting feast of compassion,

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

unity, and peace, for that is where you live, now and forever,
Amen.

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

Sacramento Memorial Auditorium
Sacramento, California
Saturday, January 8, 2005, 10:00 a.m.

Program

Prelude

Peggy Brown
Harpist

Presentation of the Colors

Governor and Adjutant General's Own Color Guard

National Anthem

Beth Miller
Staff Sergeant, 561st Airforce Band

Retiring of the Colors

Welcome

The Honorable Heather Fargo
Mayor, City of Sacramento

Remarks

Betty Riley Perry
McClatchy High School Teacher

Angelo Tsakopoulos
CEO, AKT Development and Friend

The Honorable Grantland Johnson
*Former Secretary, California Department of Health and
Human Services*

The Honorable Genevieve Shiroma
Board Member, Sacramento Municipal Utility District

Interlude

Sacramento Children's Choir

Remarks

The Honorable Phil Isenberg
Former Assemblyman, California State Legislature

The Honorable Emily E. Vasquez
Superior Court Judge, Sacramento County, California

The Honorable John Doolittle
United States Representative

The Honorable Phil Angelides
Treasurer, State of California

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

Mayor Heather Fargo. Thank you all for joining us today. I am Heather Fargo, mayor of the city of Sacramento. I want to welcome you to the memorial service for Congressman ROBERT T. MATSUI. It is my honor to begin this memorial service for our Congressman and our friend BOB MATSUI, who unexpectedly passed away last Saturday after serving us for 26 years in the House of Representatives following his 7 in the Sacramento City Council. We will miss his leadership, we will miss his guidance, we will miss his advocacy, we will miss his friendship, and we will miss him—this person we came to know.

This morning you will hear from a number of speakers who will share their remembrances, their memories, as they honor him. I know that each person has a memory, has something which has connected them to Congressman BOB MATSUI and that is why we are here today. And while we are here on a somber occasion, to remember and to grieve the loss of Congressman MATSUI, we are here also to celebrate his life and legacy. It's OK to cry today and it's also OK to smile as we remember our friend. We were lucky to know him. He was a good man. He made a difference to this Nation and to the community and to each and every one of us here today.

We are also here to show our love and support for BOB MATSUI's family—for his wife Doris, his son Brian, his daughter-in-law Amy and his granddaughter Anna. I would like to thank you for your years of support that you gave BOB, allowing him to do what he needed to do, and allowing him to do what he needed to do for us. We really appreciate your sacrifice and our hearts go out especially to you today. I hope that the love and compassion in this room today helps comfort you at this time.

I'd like to close by expressing my personal sadness, my respect, and my gratitude for everything he did for me and everything he did for Sacramento. Thank you.

Betty Riley Perry. Like everyone here, I face you with very mixed feelings. I am honored to be asked to speak. I am almost overcome with sadness as I realize that BOB MATSUI will not be here.

I have observed BOB for many years. I was a teacher at McClatchy High School when he was a student there. Although he was not in one of my classes, my good friend and fellow teacher, the late Esther Caldwell, a staunch Republican, was a strong admirer of BOB's and I heard about him often from her. His sister, Barbara Matsui came to our

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

school as an intern in the counseling center. BOB was the kind of student every teacher loved and as co-rally committee sponsor, I found he was the kind of committee member we could trust.

After 36 years of teaching and counseling at McClatchy, I renewed my acquaintance with BOB when I became a volunteer advocate for the Older Women's League, a national education and advocacy group for midlife and older women. We also supported good causes for older men. But it is the older woman who most often has a very hard time dealing with the health and financial problems of aging. Congressman MATSUI has been the principal supporter of legislation that has made life better for us.

We honor the strong stand BOB made to secure the reparations for the Japanese Americans who had been in internment camps. It provided important acknowledgment to people who had lost their honor and their worldly possessions. This was of great value to the recipients, but it has also been very important to those of us who had stood by and let this injustice happen.

BOB's work did not stop with the reparation payments. It was the sign of much good to come.

A few years ago Ruth Kletzing and I went to Washington for an Older Women's League conference on Social Security, and it is no surprise to you that BOB MATSUI was the featured speaker. When he acknowledged Ruth and me, we were really pleased and our friends were impressed. Ruth's husband was a lawyer with BOB in the Department of Water Resources when BOB had worked there.

Congressman MATSUI had been the leader for a number of years, working to maintain the benefits of Social Security that Americans have today. And you well know those benefits are not just pensions for senior citizens. They make the life of a widow with children tolerable. They provide income to men and women who must take an early disability retirement. The benefits go on and on.

In 2003, when he tackled the Medicare prescription drug issue head on, BOB came back to Sacramento to explain it to all who came to a townhall meeting. We learned from the beginning that the government would not be able to bargain for lower drug prices because of the terms of the bill. He pointed out that the payment plan was unfair and the cost to the government was damaging.

Those flaws still exist in a law which was passed in the dark of the night. Social Security and Medicare have been

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

key issues for BOB and for all Americans. He did not adulterate his support of these issues by becoming beholden to financial institutions or pharmaceutical companies. The benefits from these programs he supported went to all eligible Americans.

Another issue he worked on continually was flood control. As a native Sacramentan whose uncle worked for the American River Flood Control District, I have always been aware of the damages of flooding from the two rivers that skirt our city. We all must be grateful for BOB's persistent efforts to improve those levees.

As you look back on BOB's work, you know why McClatchy High School can have a no more outstanding alumnus than BOB MATSUI. He was not a flamboyant student nor was he a flamboyant Congressman. He became a conscientious man who did what Congressmen should do. He worked for the good of the country and the good of his district. He listened to ordinary people.

This is the ROBERT MATSUI that many of us knew, a noble man who continued to make the world a better place until the end of his life. We are unbelievably grateful for his work. Mrs. Matsui, we hope that remembering what BOB's accomplishments mean to so many people, you and your family will be comforted as you deal with these sad days.

Angelo Tsakopoulos. My name is Angelo Tsakopoulos, and I have the pleasure and distinct privilege to be BOB's friend.

Doris, Brian, and the rest of his family, I cannot express how sad we are that BOB left us so soon. We are all mortals, all of us will die, but he left us too soon and we will miss his wisdom.

Over the years, over 30 years, I had the privilege of knowing BOB. Quite often we would get together and philosophize about events that affected our community, our Nation, and the world. And BOB always cared about the people most at risk—whether they live in Sacramento, in America, in Asia, or in Africa or the other Americas. He always cared for the senior citizens especially, and the young people who should get an education so that they could achieve the American dream.

Along the lines with his care for the senior citizens, I would like to tell you a story that took place over 30 years ago when BOB and I were having breakfast at a coffee shop over at Broadway. We were discussing the classical Greek heritage and the Japanese heritage, their development which

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

were parallel, they were far apart but very similar. We were discussing the importance of taking care of our seniors—our parents, our grandparents. I remember at that time BOB was a 30-year-old councilman and I was about 40.

BOB went on to describe for me some experiences he had at that time with seniors who had emigrated from Asia, and they had gotten quite old and ended up in convalescent hospitals. And he said that it is so difficult for them, and the most difficult part of it is the food. He said, “You white people eat potatoes three times a day, and that’s not what the Asians like to eat. They like to eat rice and they like to have their vegetables cooked in a wok.”

The culture is quite different. The Asian culture—the Japanese like to visit their sick parents, grandparents quite often, and they like to take the whole family there—the kids, the grandkids, the nieces and the nephews. And most like to have a get-together, a party together. And they like to take the sick people home, if they can, for a weekend or a holiday. They could not do that in then-present day convalescent hospitals while being assured that the tenants would not lose their beds. I’m talking about convalescent hospitals 30, 40 years ago. They are not quite what they are today.

And he said that it would be so great if we could build a convalescent hospital for the Asian community. He said that there was this fellow with a great idea, and we’re looking for a place, a piece of land that is near a hospital, that had to be zoned commercial—because at that time, it had to be zoned commercial—or nearby, someplace that we could build a hospital. Here is a 30-year-old person, a young man, describing so clearly, with such pathos, the plight of seniors. He said that unless these seniors leave the hospital, they don’t do very well. They don’t survive for very long.

Because of that conversation and because of BOB’s idea, the hospital was built. It is existing now. The Asian community convalescent hospital was built primarily by the Chinese and Japanese communities and all the other Asians. And it is a beacon for how all other convalescent hospitals should be run in California. It has received many awards. However, at the annual dinners that the hospital has to raise money, all the speakers have tried to give BOB the credit, but he would never accept it. He never said, “Yes, I had a lot to do with it,” or even something to do with it. He said, “No, no, others did it.” He gave credit to other people. That was BOB’s way of doing things, and this is only one small event out of a myriad of good things BOB did for us.

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

We will miss BOB very much. His wisdom will be with us because he shared it with all of us. And we pray to God to give him rest and to give the family strength at this very difficult time.

Secretary Grantland Johnson. Good morning. My name is Grantland Johnson, and I am greatly humbled and honored to be here today. I am also greatly conflicted, like all of you. I am both sad and proud. This is not merely the loss and passing of a great public servant. For those of us who live in Sacramento and really knew him, we not only lost a great public servant but we lost a friend, a counselor, and in the case of a number of us, a brother—sort of the head of a family.

And so if I can respectfully suggest, we're not only to mourn his passing but I would also like to spend a few minutes celebrating his life and to say a final goodbye. Because we have lost an incredible person, a spirit who never let us despair, a spirit who never let us lapse into cynicism, a spirit who never allowed us to lose hope and to lose a sense of optimism. Because he believed that ultimately the arc of history bends toward justice.

My grandmother, who is 91, hails from the State of Mississippi. Mississippi was not a nice place when she was growing up. But she said, "Grantland, you cannot pick and choose your country's heritage and its history. You cannot just focus on the good and forget about the bad, nor should you focus solely on the beautiful and forget about the ugly. It's all a part of our collective legacy."

At the same time, she told me you can't allow our legacy, as conflicted and checkered as it perhaps can be, to be a source of a barrier in terms of hope and optimism for the future. Because while we cannot change what happened in the past, we can certainly shape what happens today and tomorrow. When I think about BOB MATSUI, I think about the fact that he taught us that, as profoundly as any other person could have.

I think about the fact that in 1978 he got elected to the Congress, the House of Representatives. Now I don't know about other communities, but that was a profound feat in Sacramento. But besides being a political feat, it was a very important political statement because we still have a difficult time in this country dealing with our past and figuring out how to deal with our future. We tend to process information based on assumptions and stereotypes and information that is oftentimes faulty and not based on anything concrete

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

or material but sort of what pops in our head or what someone has told us. Watching ROBERT MATSUI for over 30 years, as a member of the city council and as a Member of Congress, I think this community really began to understand the fact that no matter where you come from, no matter what your background, no matter what your capacity is, no matter what you have been taught about others, we had a chance to witness in real life a public servant who really fought for our collective interests in this community and in this country.

He really appealed to the best of us and not to our base instincts. He really believed in the possibility of hope and prosperity for the least of us in this country and this community. I can't tell you how many times I used to see him patiently talking to everyday people. Whether he was in the grocery store or whether he was in a movie line, he would take time to talk to that everyday person and listen to their concerns.

I remember during the welfare debate in 1996 when he maintained his principles against the stream of conventional wisdom because he felt passionately that we ought not to unravel the safety net for those who are most vulnerable. People oftentimes are dealt a bad hand and it's not any fault of theirs. They are not immoral, they are not somehow less than us, it's just that the circumstances are stacked against them. And it's our job as a country, as a community, as a national family, to extend a hand in order to assist them. They play by the rules and work hard to carve out a bit of life for themselves and for their families and to make a really important contribution, no matter how simple, no matter how plain and modest, to our collective benefit. That's how I think about BOB MATSUI and the kind of courage he exhibited.

You don't have to demonize people who have different ideas from you or people with different ideological or philosophical notions. The fact is that we are all Americans, we are all human beings, and we are all children under God's own sight. And that means that we are here to do the people's business and we are not here to demonize other people and to somehow trivialize their significance. When it's all said and done and we talk about all the contributions and accomplishments in his political life, I think that at the end of the day, it is important for us to be able to say, and we can say it with pride and with a great deal of joy, that this was a person who walked among us that we actually knew,

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

that we actually drew inspiration from, that we could actually see what it meant to be a good person, to be a good American, to be a good human being, to be a good neighbor. This was a person with strong convictions, a person with great enthusiasm but who also understood, tempered by soberness and responsibility, the importance of being a good person, of being a good neighbor and citizen.

We may have lost his body, but we have not lost his memory, and we have not lost the opportunity to pay homage to his memory in the future—by not lapsing into cynicism, by not lapsing into fatalism, by not giving up, and by promoting hope, and understanding, that one person can indeed make a difference. One person can indeed change a collective culture.

The contributions of ROBERT MATSUI were profound. I am deeply honored to be able to say today that he was not only my Congressman, he was also my friend, and he was also my brother. And I will always wear that as a badge of honor.

And Doris and Brian, thank you very much for being his wife and his son. And thank you very much for being supportive. God bless you all.

Hon. Genevieve Shiroma. Good morning everyone. My name is Genevieve Shiroma. I serve on the Sacramento Municipal Utility District Board of Directors. Congressman BOB MATSUI was a good friend and role model.

On his passing, my deepest condolences to Mrs. Matsui and his entire family. He will be sorely missed in our Sacramento community, but his legacy of lifelong public service, not only locally, but nationally, will sustain us through the ages.

I join all of you in memorializing, honoring, and celebrating BOB MATSUI's life. A Sacramentan, a grandson of Asian immigrants, a third-generation Japanese American, a sansei who was interned at Tule Lake 62 years ago with his parents and thousands of other Sacramentans, simply because of being of Japanese heritage.

Congressman MATSUI's story is remarkable—one of early adversity—he and his family uprooted, forced to leave behind a thriving way of life, a home, a business, to live in a far away desolate place, in cold barracks, for years not knowing what the future would hold. Then returning to Sacramento, rebuilding a life, drawing from the strength within, and going on with dignity and pride. He worked hard, studied hard, went to the university, became a lawyer, stepped for-

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

ward for public service to run for the city council, and then for Congress. He made the community very proud.

He never forgot his roots. In Congress he championed what we call redress, the apology by the United States of America for violating his rights and the other 120,000 Japanese Americans' constitutional rights by putting them in camp when they had done nothing wrong. I had the privilege of hearing him tell his story a number of times, always with dignity, with verve, and sometimes with tears.

I think this early adversity steeled him to become the great leader he was for Sacramentans, for the country, for those without a voice. As a man of color, he was inspirational, a role model, proof positive of the American dream—out of humble immigrant roots to rise to the House of Representatives—and then through dedicated, selfless work, sustaining that lifelong commitment to public service as we returned him to office resoundingly over and over again.

Congressman BOB MATSUI was our senior statesman, and specifically too for the Asian Pacific Islander community—he helped so many of us, mentored us, and advised us with that straightforward style of his.

I will always remember that style—articulate, smart, direct, strong, the firm handshake, the direct look in the eye. A man who wasn't afraid to get into it, whether on flood control, redevelopment of closed military bases, or Social Security and civil rights. During his 26-year tenure, he also consistently advocated for increased energy efficient tax incentives, electricity reliability, and development of renewable energy. At the Sacramento Municipal Utility Department (SMUD), we deeply appreciated his commitment.

He was a very strong man who could make his way gracefully and effectively through the tough politics and policies of Washington, DC, and rise out of over 400 other Representatives into top leadership for Sacramento and the country.

I am honored and privileged to have known Congressman BOB MATSUI. His passing is an enormous loss of a good friend, but his legacy of selfless public service is timeless and inspirational. Thank you.

Assemblyman Phil Isenberg. BOB and I were elected to the Sacramento City Council in 1971. Later I served as mayor, a member of the Assembly, and I was a friend of BOB's for 34 years. My purpose in political life was to make BOB nervous, which I liked to do, and sometimes he even liked to be made nervous. I've been asked to talk a bit about the early BOB MATSUI, the BOB MATSUI before he became a

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

heavyweight congressional type, turned to public policy issues on the national level; became respected and loved and admired, and, by his political opponents, occasionally feared. I want to tell you a little about how BOB started in politics and what he was like way back then.

Imagine a Sacramento kid, one of the McClatchy High School mafia whose tentacles go throughout the community even today. He became a successful lawyer and president of the 20–30 Club—think *e campus vitas* for aging high school students. He married a gorgeous lady, Doris, and they had a smart son, Brian. These were all ingredients for a successful local politician in 1971.

I thought I would tell you four stories about BOB: “BOB and Cookies,” “BOB and the Sutter Club,” “BOB and the Streetwalkers,” and “BOB and Earl Warren.”

First, “BOB and Cookies.” It should come as no surprise that the young BOB MATSUI had difficulty adjusting to politics and campaigning. In his first political race in 1971, 34 years ago, we were all forced to attend candidates’ nights, where 40 candidates in various council district races appeared jointly. The interest groups asked us whatever they were concerned about, and we were expected to pledge undying loyalty to their causes.

In 1971 there were no women on the council although women were running for a position on the council, and Ann Rudin was soon to be elected. We were told how terrible this was and asked whether we thought women deserved to be on the council. BOB, for reasons that remain unknown, answered, “Well I think there ought to be women on the city council. After all, who else is going to make the cookies?”

This would not have been a terrible disaster if the press had been absent, but they were there. In later years, as BOB moved up the ladder of power in Washington, and Doris became a senior advisor to President Bill Clinton, I visualized the two of them sitting down at the table and saying, “Hillary, let us tell you about the role of women and cookies.”

Second, “BOB and the Sutter Club.” BOB was elected with four other new council members: Ann Rudin, Burnett Miller, Robby Robertson from North Sacramento, and me. BOB was shocked to find himself identified with us in a newspaper article where a prominent local attorney said, “The election of this new team has raised the red flag of rebellion over City Hall.”

This was not how BOB saw himself since he was close to the business community. He immediately tried to civilize the

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

rest of us. A local tradition was that the Chamber of Commerce would host a reception for the new members elected to the city council. BOB called to say, “Phil, I know you don’t like the business community, and they don’t like you, and you have said hard things about them and vice versa, but it would really be good for you and good for the council, and I really urge you to go to this reception.”

I grumbled a bit, but he finally convinced me that I should go to the reception, which was held at the Sutter Club—not an institution, then or now, that I attend comfortably. But the event never came off. The Chamber of Commerce called Ann Rudin, the newly elected council member, and said, “Well, Council Member Rudin, we really appreciate you’re going to join us at the reception, but you know the Sutter Club does not allow women to attend events in the evening, and so you just can’t come.” To his credit, BOB declared, “That’s terrible. I’m going to call them and say I can’t come.” For a man who had just announced that a woman’s role in politics was to bring cookies, it was a useful experience.

The third story is “BOB and the Streetwalkers.” BOB eventually purchased a historic house on 13th and H Streets for his law office. At one time in 1976 or 1977, the indignities of all indignities were occurring. Streetwalkers—young women, prostitutes—were actually soliciting their clients outside BOB’s law office. BOB announced with great solemnity that something must be done. The *Sacramento Bee* City Hall reporter, an innocent-looking guy named Steve Gibson, who looked like a cocker spaniel, acted as if every elected official was required to answer his questions—a fundamental mistake in politics. Steve asked Councilman MATSUI, “Well, Councilman, this is a very serious charge you’ve made. You said something should be done. Well, what should be done?”

BOB was quoted as saying: “Well, I think we ought to send them to West Sacramento!” That may come as a surprise to the West Sacramento mayor, Chris Cabaldon, who is sitting in the audience. To BOB’s credit, when he got called on the statement and began beating a hasty retreat, he never denied making the statement, but did blame the reporter for misusing the quote.

And then last, “BOB and Earl Warren.” One of the gut-wrenching political issues for new Councilmember BOB MATSUI was the fight over naming the Sacramento Convention Center as it was called when we were elected. As the story goes, Eleanor McClatchy, then alive and the owner of the *Sacramento Bee*, called Councilmember Burnett Miller and

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

said, “It would be nice if you named the convention center after Earl Warren, our beloved former Governor and Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court.” So Burnett prepared the resolution.

It will come as no surprise to you that for many, especially to Americans of Japanese ancestry, Earl Warren’s legacy is not as an advocate of civil rights. He was a defender, supporter, and urger of the relocation of Americans of Japanese ancestry in World War II. The political fight was intense. Over many council meetings we would hear from the John Birch Society, followed by the NAACP or the Republican or Democratic Party, and all the struggles of the 1960s and the early 1970s came to a head. Under great pressure, BOB ultimately agreed to vote for the renaming of the community center, even though it gave him considerable pause. You learn ironies and you learn lessons in politics, one of which is that fights sometimes get resolved on their own. Not long thereafter the voters of Sacramento, by referendum, removed Earl Warren’s name from the convention center.

Let me close with a reflection. When BOB MATSUI started his public career he was not a politician, nor was he familiar with politics, although he had been on the fringes of it. He learned his politics during his campaign—all the good, all the bad, all the fun, and all the pain. His tenure in Washington made him partisan, but it also made him a public official of substance. Throughout it all, he remained a little shy, respectful of others, and oddly vulnerable. You looked at BOB and he’s like Doris and Brian. They’re skinny, and you wonder if they eat anything at all. And you just think he is too nice for this business. Politics is usually for people with leather skins, not the BOB MATSUIS of the world. BOB was never full of himself, but found his way in public life, educated himself to the issues, particularly Social Security and reparations, and he became a national figure and a national leader, which grew out of his early years. He was at the beginning, and he remained to the end, intelligent, hard-working, honest, and practical. I don’t know how you can get much better than that.

Thank you.

Judge Emily E. Vasquez. Dearest family, friends of Congressman MATSUI, and, in particular, Doris, Brian, and the rest of the Matsui family: good morning to all. My name is Emily Vasquez and I am a judge of the Superior Court here in Sacramento. Congressman MATSUI was my friend and my neighbor. I am privileged to be asked to provide a tribute to

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

him. It is with great sadness and remorse that I convey my deeply felt loss at the passing of Congressman MATSUI. I was fortunate to have known him for a little over 20 years. But first, before I get started, I just want to say that it's not fair that I have to follow Phil Isenberg with all his witty stories.

Little did I know when my husband Ralph and I bought our home in a modest Sacramento neighborhood that BOB would be one of our neighbors. Our neighborhood is a very diverse community with single-family houses and rental duplexes and neighbors of every ethnic background, style, and persuasion. And BOB was one of our neighbors down the street. What better way to keep track of the ebb and flow of Congress? When Congress was in recess, BOB would come jogging past our kitchen window early in the morning. I would call out to my husband, "Ralph—Congressman MATSUI is in town—Congress is in recess."

The Nation, the State, and the Sacramento community have lost a great leader and a great American. He was an extraordinary Congressman. He was an unassuming man with a powerful intellect and a strong commitment to making things better in this world. Congressman MATSUI was a trailblazer, a leader, an intellect, a role model, and a compassionate man. He dedicated his life to making life better for the rest of us. As an infant, we all know that he and his U.S.-born parents were sent to an internment camp for Japanese Americans during World War II. The experience never left him or his family. His mother had nightmares about it for the rest of her life. And it took his father 40 years to finally be able to talk about it. Many, many years later, BOB would state that many internees simply could not believe that their country could do this to them. But BOB did not let this injustice stop him. Adversity made Congressman MATSUI stronger, and along the way he helped countless others find strength as well. In 1988, he helped pass legislation that apologized for the internment policy and provided modest financial compensation for the survivors. He served our district very well for 26 years in Congress.

In the mid 1980s, when I was on the Sacramento Regional Transit Board of Directors, we sought help from Congressman MATSUI to help secure Federal funding for the first legs of our light rail project. He fought very hard in Congress for that funding, and he was successful. And as we all know now, our light rail system is a huge success, and it is the envy of cities throughout the Nation. It would not be here without BOB MATSUI's help.

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

Throughout his career, he worked with civil rights groups to create opportunities for women and minorities. He reached out to the Hispanic community, as he did with all of the other diverse communities that make up our Sacramento area. His door was always open to all of us. He was interested in our views and he would listen to us. He was a champion for civil rights for all Americans. He demonstrated that the struggle for equality and justice is best waged when people, both men and women, from all walks of life, racial, religious, cultural, and economic status, work together for the common good. Time and time again I witnessed firsthand his ability to bring us all together. We were all a part of his family, and that is what makes him so special to us.

Growing up in a farm labor camp as a child—my parents were farm workers—I never dreamed that I would someday be a lawyer, much less a judge. It was inspiring for me to meet Congressman MATSUI and know that his early setback, due to the internment, did not stop him, and that he grew up to be one of the most successful Congressmen in our history.

We must never forget that we stand on the shoulders of those who came before us. I have been privileged to stand on the shoulders of others who went before me such as Congressman MATSUI and Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, who also died on New Year's Day. I have had the good fortune to know such courageous and inspirational people. Without these wonderful people I would not be where I am today. Yes, Congressman MATSUI was a trailblazer, a leader, an intellect, a role model, and a compassionate man, but he was so much more. He leaves a powerful legacy. We wish him Godspeed, and to invoke the words of Shakespeare's Hamlet, we say: "Goodbye, dear BOB, and flights of angels sing thee to thy rest."

We love you and we always will. Thank you.

Congressman John T. Doolittle. I'm John Doolittle, and I was elected to the California State Senate in 1980 and the U.S. House of Representatives in 1990. I must say that Julie and I feel deeply honored to be included here, today, as a part of this very fitting tribute to a truly great son of Sacramento, Congressman BOB MATSUI. It has been observed that we are not merely human beings having occasionally a spiritual experience, but rather that we are spiritual beings having a human experience. Sadly, BOB MATSUI's time in mortality has now concluded.

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

I remember the first time that Julie and I met BOB and Doris MATSUI. It was at a social function at the Sutter Club, I believe, and we were not yet serving with BOB in the House. We were in the State senate, but you couldn't be in Sacramento and not know the name of BOB MATSUI—first as a city councilman and then later as a Congressman. Both Julie and I were impressed, and have often talked about this first impression over the years, with the incredible charm, warmth, and graciousness of these two great people, BOB and Doris MATSUI. And that's something that has stayed with us through time.

In the media-dominated culture in which we live, you often find great distortions in these public personalities that we've all heard of. We become caricatures of ourselves in the media. One of the greatest pleasures for me was to come to know BOB MATSUI as a friend. Now, of course you've all heard about his fine contributions to flood control and the many other things of significance which he accomplished within this community, but the battle over water management in Sacramento has gone on for decades. BOB and I were very much at odds publicly over that for a long time. I just want you all to know that although the battle was very heated and raged for years, we never personally ever exchanged a cross word.

I look with fondness upon the occasions when the two of us would sit toward the back of the House Chamber and chat. We would either talk about what we were working on with regard to flood control, or, as time went on and that controversy was behind us, we would just visit about our families. I realized how deeply BOB cared about his family, and it is truly one of the great inspirational things that I remember about him.

He would always greet me warmly in the tunnels between Rayburn and the Capitol Building or when I would see him in the elevator. That is actually the last memory I have of him. We had one such greeting on an elevator near the final day of session in early December, and we wished each other a Merry Christmas. I left, and I'm sure he did too, fully expecting to see one another on opening day in January 2005, when we would be sworn in as Members of the 109th Congress.

Sadly, that expectation was not to be fulfilled. Doris shared something with me that is truly illustrative of how BOB was. He and his closest friends, of course, had known that he had something that he would not recover from. I

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

think we were all terribly shocked when this event occurred much sooner than anyone thought it would. I don't want to imply to you that I knew that he was ill. I didn't. But when it became clear and the doctors informed the family that BOB didn't have long, Doris shared with me that Brian, Amy and little Anna, I believe, were all present. BOB had a chance personally to talk with each one—to tell each one that he loved him and to say goodbye to each. After that, it wasn't long before he peacefully passed from this life.

I think on a bipartisan basis it is safe to say that Members of the U.S. House of Representatives are not overly fond of our sister institution, the U.S. Senate. And so for my fellow Representatives here, I apologize for quoting someone from the Senate. The Chaplain of the Senate, Edward Everett Hale, in a time long past, offered an inspirational thought that I'd like to share with you.

I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something. And because I can not do everything, I will not refuse to do the something that I can do.

BOB MATSUI fulfilled this injunction in his personal as well as in his public life. On this day, when we honor his memory, one of the greatest things that we can do is to take that inspirational thought into our hearts and each of us do what we can to make a difference. Thank you.

State Treasurer Phil Angelides. Good morning. I'm Phil Angelides. I am proud to be Treasurer of this State, and privileged to be BOB MATSUI's friend. For my family and me, for our community, and for our Nation, this is a moment of deep sorrow. Today we gather to bid farewell to BOB MATSUI, our friend, our Representative, and a moral leader of our generation. Doris and Brian, we share your grief and we offer our prayers. And I thank you for the extraordinary honor to allow me to say a few words in the remembrance of my dear friend.

Every 2 years we choose a leader from our midst to represent us in the halls of Congress. As a free people, it is easy to take this defining and wonderful act of democracy for granted. We too readily forget, until moments like this, the magnitude of the responsibility we place in the person we elect: to stand, to speak, and to fight for our hopes and our dreams. Every 2 years for the past quarter-century, we placed our faith and trust in BOB MATSUI. He honored that trust with his extraordinary commitment to public service and his undying devotion to our Nation. And he stood and

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

he spoke and he fought for us and the best ideals of America. Four months ago, BOB and I shared the sad task of eulogizing our good friend Steve Thompson, who, like BOB, was part of a generation who answered President Kennedy's call to service and Dr. Martin Luther King's call to justice. Our shared loss drew us closer together, and we talked often during the weeks that followed Steve's death. In those conversations I was lucky to have the chance to tell BOB how I felt about him. I told him how much I respected him for his public service and integrity. I told him how much I admired him for his willingness to fight for civil liberties, for opportunity, for fairness, and to stand up without reservation for those without power and without voice. And I told him how proud I was to tell people all over the State and Nation that he was my Congressman and my friend. But what inspired me most about BOB was this: the longer he spent in public life, the more passionate he became about protecting the things he believed in. While others grew weary and even cynical, BOB got stronger and more resolute. And in the last year of his life BOB criss-crossed the country, pushing himself endlessly, working to take back the House of Representatives for his best vision of what we could be. He fought for us until the end.

Now I confess I was not smart enough to have been a BOB MATSUI man from the beginning. I supported another guy named Phil over BOB in 1978 when BOB first won election to the House. But BOB never held my keenly astute political judgment against me. In fact, he became a political mentor to me. He was always gracious and generous in spirit to a younger man interested in public life, putting up with a lot along the way. The first time he honored me by inviting me to lunch in the Members' Dining Room in the Capitol, I returned the honor by being late and keeping him waiting alone at a table for a half hour. I remember the day as if it were yesterday because BOB, a man of impeccable decorum, never let me forget it. Despite my bad manners, he was always there to give me a hand up. And when I ran for State Treasurer, he was by my side, when I lost and when I won.

Tonight Sacramentans will gather at the annual dinner to honor the legacy of Dr. King, a dinner inspired by BOB's commitment to equality and civil liberty. Now you all know, BOB was a modest man and he would have strenuously resisted any effort to mention him in the same paragraph as Dr. King. But in one way we cannot miss the parallel between these two men. Like Dr. King, BOB saw and experienced the

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

worst of America, but he never stopped believing in the best of it. He lived his life's early years behind barbed wire, his family and community in prison simply because they were of Japanese ancestry. He saw his family and neighbors lose their jobs and their businesses and their homes to greed and hysteria. But just as Dr. King could see the promised land, BOB MATSUI could see the day when America would understand how wrong it was to have locked up the Japanese American community, and would recognize its duty to make amends to those who have been hurt and for the soul of our Nation.

BOB's passing grieves us deeply, yet we take solace in knowing that we have been blessed by his leadership and humanity, and that we have been inspired by the life he led. He has left us, but our love and respect for him fill this hall and our hearts.

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

Westminster Presbyterian Church
Sacramento, California
Saturday, January 8, 2005, 12 noon

Program

Welcome

The Reverend Dexter McNamara
Executive Director, Interfaith Service Bureau

Invocation

The Reverend Bob Oshita
Rinban of Sacramento Betsuin Buddhist Church

Remarks

The Honorable David Levi
Chief Judge, United States District Court, Eastern District

The Honorable Charles B. Rangel
United States Representative

Words and Prayers

The Reverend Canon James Richardson
*Trinity Episcopal Cathedral,
Chaplain, California State Senate*

Remarks

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader, United States House of Representatives

Eulogy

David Murphy
Friend

Remarks

Brian Robert Matsui
Son

Benediction

Rabbi Brad Bloom
Congregation B'nai Israel

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

Rev. Dexter McNamara. Grace to you and peace. Please be seated. Grace to you and peace in the name of that Holy God, through whom we were created, and through whom we are sustained in life, and in whom we trust about that holy unknown beyond life as we know it now, and into whose loving arms we entrust our dear friend ROBERT MATSUI. Grace and peace. Amen.

On behalf of the people of many different faiths in the Sacramento area, I welcome you to this service of remembrance and of hope. As Mr. MATSUI was genuinely concerned about the safety and well-being of people of all backgrounds, so people of all backgrounds join in being thankful for his life, and in mourning his death, and extending love to his family. And on behalf of the senior pastor and the session of Westminster Presbyterian Church, I extend their gracious welcome to all of you to this place of worship. They regret that they could not be present today, but their prayers and their love are here with all of us.

And on behalf of all of us gathered here, I want to express our appreciation and thanks to this congregation and its staff for so graciously and helpfully welcoming us here. Thank you, Westminster Presbyterian Church.

As those who feel a deep loss, and as those who would also hold on to hope and to love, let us join together in this time of worship.

Rev. Bob Oshita. Twenty years ago, when my wife Patti and I came to Sacramento, she became a part of Congressman MATSUI's district congressional staff. We knew even then that working for BOB enhanced our acceptance by the greater Sacramento community and we quickly began to forge friendships that we knew would be lifelong. Over the years, Patti and I have been honored to help with his campaigns and to have had BOB and Doris as a part of our lives.

There's a cloud of sadness that seems to just hang over our hearts, and our thoughts are filled with so many memories of what BOB MATSUI has meant to us.

Each of us will always remember exactly where we were when we heard that we had lost BOB. Since the morning of January 2 when we awoke, only to learn of his passing, it has been a week of disbelief for each of us whom BOB has touched with his life.

In the past days I've encountered so many members of his extensive family of friends, all of us unable to accept the reality that he is gone, feeling, "How can this be so?" Asking "Was there nothing more that could have been done?" We

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

have all moved numbly through the days, feeling this is just a terrible dream from which we cannot awaken.

How much more so for Doris and Brian, and for Amy. How much more so for you.

So young, at only 63, we cannot help but feel that he should have had many more years of life yet to fill; so much yet for him to do. It just doesn't seem fair.

We tend to feel that youth is synonymous with life. And the younger we are, the more we have a right to live. But as we are taught in Buddhism, from the time we are born there is no guarantee of even 1 day of life. Each day is a gift not to be taken for granted. We know this.

In our minds we all know this. Yet in our hearts, always we will wish it did not have to be so.

These past few months, as we all enjoyed the wonderful winter holiday season from Thanksgiving to Christmas and New Year's, BOB and Doris were facing the greatest adversity of their lives with the same unassuming dignity with which they have always lived, with the same gracious courage with which they have together accomplished so much. I know they held onto each other for as long as life would allow.

And on the late evening of New Year's Day, all of our lives were diminished when BOB MATSUI was made to let go of this life that he lived so very well.

Today we come together and miss him together, to help each other and hold each other, and together honor him with our tears of love and appreciation.

Within our sadness is a deep awareness that we must not take for granted even one opportunity to appreciate the people we love while we have them.

In knowing loss, our eyes of enlightenment are opened and we realize again that if someone has shown us kindness let us thank them now. If there is someone we care for let us love and appreciate them now.

Although born into a time that was not welcoming to those of Japanese ancestry, BOB MATSUI learned one of the great secrets of life. He knew that each of us was born with a wonderful and unique life, in a time not of our choosing. He knew that we must learn to accept our unique circumstances and do the best that we can. To live as best we can, doing always the best we can.

It is said that the greatness of a man can be measured by how much his life has touched the lives of others. When a baby is born, amid the joy, only the baby cries. But if one

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

has lived his life well and truly touched the lives of others, when such a person dies there will be many tears for many will cry.

The tears that we cry, the tears our Nation cries in losing BOB MATSUI, are loving testimony to the irreplaceable life of a remarkable man.

To Doris, I know there are no words to truly ease the pain of losing your best friend and lifetime companion. You were a mighty team together, and with Brian, Amy and Anna in his life, we know that BOB was never lacking for love.

I am honored today to be a voice, representing so many, expressing our gratitude for his life and our appreciation for all that he has done. I'd like to begin our service for BOB MATSUI today with a simple expression of gratitude beyond words that we call in Buddhism: *O-Nembutsu*.

Judge David Levi. Doris, Brian, Amy and Anna; esteemed leaders and Members of Congress; distinguished State and local government officials; fellow judges; friends and admirers of ROBERT MATSUI.

I speak for myself, for my court, and if I may, for the legal community in Sacramento. We have lost a friend, a colleague, and a statesman.

It has been such a wonderful privilege to come to know BOB MATSUI. His son Brian clerked for me for 1 year. But I really became part of the Matsui family when Brian and Amy asked me to officiate at their beautiful wedding in June 2002. And I know that I endeared myself to BOB and Doris when I dispensed some career advice to Amy, a talented young lawyer, about what she might do in Washington when Brian clerked for Justice Kennedy. I told her that my wife and I had a baby at a similar point in our lives and that it was a great time for a baby. And wonder of wonders, the following year they had a baby! Anna. Would that all officious intermeddling had such productive outcomes. Forever after, BOB playfully insisted that I was responsible for his granddaughter, and I would like to believe that, for all the joy she gave to him.

BOB was very proud of his family, and justifiably so. In Doris he was blessed with a wife who was not only a loving and supportive spouse but also a friend and an advisor. They had a true partnership. And BOB realized, as I did, that through Brian we had a special tie, one that was important and worth nurturing. Like his Dad, Brian has a seriousness of purpose and a gentle manner. They shared a wonderful

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

and sometimes even boisterous sense of humor and a love of life that is so attractive to others.

After my own father died, BOB wrote to me enclosing his copy of my father's book. He wrote:

It appears that your Father had made more of an impression on me than I realized. He was inspirational as Attorney General and that had influenced me about public service; but I had no memory that he influenced me about the law. I was cleaning out my collection of books and discovered "An Introduction to Legal Reasoning." I immediately recalled I read it while still an undergraduate at Berkeley.

And now BOB wanted me to have it because, as he put it, Your Father had a great influence on the father of one of your clerks.

It was so lovely of BOB to put us together in a chain of generations of interwoven families and influences reaching out over time and place and background.

BOB graduated from U.C. Hastings in 1966 and immediately came to Sacramento to hang out his shingle. This was a brave thing for a young lawyer to do. He started out at 4th and J in the old Hong Kong Bank building, just across from where the Federal courthouse now stands where he later had his congressional office. He had a general practice, handling whatever came in the door: criminal matters, civil cases, wills, the day-to-day business of the law.

I have talked to some of our lawyers and judges who remember BOB from those days. One of my colleagues, who was then a county prosecutor, may have captured BOB the best. He said that when BOB appeared to defend a drunk driver the prosecutors would agree to plead the case out because BOB was just so darned nice and also because he was just so tenacious.

I have an image of BOB from that period that puts him in the great tradition of American lawyers who cut their teeth by practicing in the seats of local and State government and then went on to do great things on the national stage.

Justice Robert Jackson, who was such a one himself, described these lawyers in a lyrical piece about the county seat lawyer. He said:

The county seat lawyer knows that in this country the administration of justice is based on law practice. Once enlisted for a client, he [takes] his obligation seriously. He ha[s] a real sense of dedication to the administration of justice. He render[s] and exact[s] courtesy, honor, and straightforwardness at the Bar. It [is] from [these ranks] that America has drawn its statesmen and its judges.

BOB could well have been a judge and a fine one, but he preferred politics and daily contact with people and so he be-

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

came one of our great statesmen, rendering courtesy and honor in the halls of Congress. He brought to this important work the same two qualities of kindness and firmness that were his hallmark as a lawyer and as a person. He also brought an understanding and respect for our different branches of government, their different roles, responsibilities and limitations. And he had the personal qualities and the deep understanding of our system to work through problems and to find solutions. How fitting, that it was through Congressman MATSUI's efforts Sacramento was able to build a beautiful Federal courthouse, just two blocks from where he first started in law practice, one that symbolizes the dignity and importance of the rule of law to a society in which kindness and firmness must each have their say.

Officiating at a wedding in 1931, Justice Benjamin Cardozo, my distant relation, spoke of the

[T]hree great mysteries in the lives of mortal beings: the mystery of birth at the beginning; the mystery of death at the end; and, greater than either, the mystery of love. Everything that is most precious in life is a form of love. Art is a form of love, if it be noble; labor is a form of love, if it be worthy; thought is a form of love, if it be inspired.

BOB MATSUI's life and work were noble, worthy, and inspired—other names for love. And this was the source of his great influence on all of us. He loved his country, his community, his profession, his many friends, and his family. And so we loved him.

Here in the Central Valley, in the bed of the ancient inland sea, we live between the mountains and the ocean, on the banks of two mighty rivers that merge at our core, amidst the awesome forces of nature and the works of man. As my old English teacher has written: "Eventually, all things merge into one, and a river runs through it. The river was cut by the world's great flood and runs over rocks from the basement of time. On some of the rocks are timeless raindrops." Under the rocks are the words, and some of the words are ROBERT MATSUI's.

Congressman Charles B. Rangel. I started my trip from Washington to California, rather Sacramento, at 3 a.m., and I was trying to figure out what could be said about BOB that hasn't already been said. I remember my mother, a Protestant converted to Catholicism, would always use the expression that "God is good." I never understood why, during the most difficult times in our lives, she would see fit to praise God. But as I got to know her and got older, I guess the idea

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

was that it's times like these that we have to thank God for what we have.

God is good because as we go through this emotional feeling, He gave us Doris, Brian, and Amy and Anna. Strong people who loved him. It makes our job so much easier as we cannot afford to talk about the pain that we feel, knowing what you are going through.

God is good because after a rough campaign for which BOB was director of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, Nancy Pelosi saw fit to bring us together to have a dinner where we had a chance to talk about how much we loved and appreciated BOB's work. God is good because He gave Doris and the family an opportunity to say "so long," which is very unusual, but God did make that possible at a time where human life almost appears to be worth almost nothing in the Middle East and in Asia.

Losing a friend makes you more aware of how good God really is. We had a chance on the Ways and Means Committee to talk with BOB about what he wanted to do with Social Security. Sandy Levin, Pete Stark, and I knew one thing: Whatever he wanted to do he had earned the right to do it.

And God is good because He gave us a chance to tell BOB how much we loved him. It's times like these you sometimes wonder why all the good guys are the ones that are snatched away.

And really what made BOB so very, very special? Could it have been that he suffered indignities when he was a child, an internment, and he wanted to make sure that no other American would have to go through that humiliation? His feeling about the Congress, could it be that he wanted the Social Security system not only to be there for him and Doris, but he wanted it to be there for generations to follow because he wanted the commitment, a covenant between the Congress and the American people. And when it comes to taking care of the aged, why is it that we would never have to worry about what BOB's position on Medicare would be and that we knew that he wouldn't be just speaking on the issue, but that he would be leading the debate on the issue?

God is good because you look at the faces and people that came from all over the country, just to say hello and to remind ourselves how fortunate we were to know someone like BOB MATSUI. What makes him so unique? One thing is abundantly clear—You don't ask how his family is unless you've got time. His love for the family was an encouragement for

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

all of us; there was no political issue that was so important that he didn't feel compelled to say how much he loved his family. And it just seems to me that if God is as good as my mother thought, then we have a special obligation to God, not just to complain about him snatching away that prince of peace, BOB MATSUI, but also to thank him for really making a difference in all of our lives and it is so very, very difficult to do that, but God blessed us all by letting us know and love BOB MATSUI.

Rev. James Richardson. Please let me extend my sympathy to Doris and your family in this difficult time. I am deeply honored to be asked to share a few words and a prayer today, and I will be brief.

Every time I ever had occasion to meet Congressman MATSUI, he was always a gentleman to me and my wife Lori. He leaves a deep hole in the hearts of each of us, and a deep hole in the soul of our community, our State, and our Nation.

The last time I saw Congressman MATSUI was at another sad occasion for our community and State, at Steve Thompson's memorial service at my church, Trinity Cathedral. The Congressman was so eloquent and touching that day. I shall never forget it.

Mrs. Matsui asked that this service be ecumenical; that we honor her husband by honoring the many faith traditions that make Sacramento so richly strong and diverse.

I would like to offer a few words from the Christian tradition and then end with a prayer. Please take these words in the spirit of an offering from the best—and not the worst—of the Christian tradition.

In the Christian faith that ROBERT shared, we know that death is not the end of the story; that our God is a loving God who breathes into us new life even when our bodies fail.

Death is another phase of life; in death, we pass beyond the horizon of this world into the next. We believe in a God who embraces all people—all people—with love and compassion, and we honor our God when we embrace those gentle values, the value ROBERT MATSUI so exemplified in his life and work.

We also know that we live in a broken world, where people get sick and die—but somehow God heals all who are sick, and sometimes that healing takes place in the next phase of life. In my own experience with the dying, I've found that there really isn't a firm dividing line between this world and the next, and those we love who have died are really not that far away from us.

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

That said, it is OK to cry and feel sad today because ROBERT is gone from us. But it also all right to laugh because ROBERT's sickness is no more and he has been made whole.

The good news is that the Creator has healed ROBERT and will also heal us. All of us share in the promise of God's creation, no matter what our station in life or our politics. Death will never, never be more powerful than God.

ROBERT MATSUI believed in a Supreme Being, and if you read the remarks he made in 1987, which are reprinted in today's issue of the *Bee*, you also know that ROBERT MATSUI believed that the Supreme Being, God, calls us to reach beyond ourselves, and rise above our petty prejudices and work for peace and justice for all people, and that this call is timeless through every generation.

In that spirit, I would like to end with the prayer attributed to St. Francis, whose own life of service led him on a journey bringing peace and love toward all living things:

Let us pray:

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let us sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is discord, union;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy;
Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
Amen.

Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi. Doris, Brian, Amy, Anna, thank you for the privilege to join with you in honoring and celebrating the life of our dear friend, BOB MATSUI.

Words are inadequate to explain our loss, or to appreciate his enormous contribution to our country. But as often is the case, scripture gives us a guide. An Ecclesiastes hymn proceeds:

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

Now let us praise great men, outstanding in their era,
who gave council because they were wise,
who lead people by their knowledge,
who were honored in their generation,
and were the pride of their times;
whose offspring will continue,
whose righteous deeds will not be forgotten,
they will be buried in peace and their names will live on.

This hymn is familiar to many, but it is uniquely fitting for BOB MATSUI.

I join our distinguished colleague Mr. Rangel in asking, What was the source of the strength of this great man whom we praise today? First of all, we all know it was his immediate family—his close knit family. Doris, Brian, Amy, and Anna brought joy and inspiration to him. It was the family he was raised in—in the past his parents, whose fortitude and grace helped shape him. And its future—he always was thinking about the future; Anna is BOB’s and Doris’s messenger to the future. It is a future most of us in this room will not see, but to which she will bring the values and the traditions of the Matsui family.

As others have mentioned, his family’s experience in the internment camps had a profound impact on his public service. He spoke about it beautifully himself, about the spirit of faith that came from the camp. In his own words, BOB said, “What is most striking about all of these internment camp stories is the faith and the hope that remained; faith in the law of the land, pride in this country, and most of all a sincere desire to prove loyalty to this great Nation and to be allowed to serve its ideals and principles.”

When BOB’s parents were interned, they could never have imagined their little baby boy would one day be eulogized by Presidents, that flags would fly at half-staff over the Capitol in D.C. and in Sacramento, that the Speaker of the House and scores of Members of Congress—Senate and House—would attend BOB’s memorial services. President Bush, in his statement the day after we lost BOB, said that “BOB MATSUI was a dedicated public servant and a good and decent man who served our nation with distinction and integrity.” I am certain that [Transportation Secretary] Norm Mineta let the President know immediately upon our losing—thank you Norm—losing BOB. President Clinton, who spoke at BOB’s memorial service in the U.S. Capitol, said that “BOB MATSUI leaves behind a rich legacy of service that improves the lives of his own constituents, all Americans and people throughout the world.” And in his statement, Senator Harry

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

Reid—the democratic leader of the Senate who is weathering the snows of Las Vegas to get here, and he may be here before the ceremony is over—spoke beautifully and touchingly of their friendship, and proudly of BOB’s leadership. I know that I speak for all of my colleagues, scores of whom are here today, led again by Mr. Rangel—3 o’clock in the morning to get here—when I say that for all of those of us who served with BOB MATSUI, it was an honor to call him “colleague.” BOB MATSUI served our country with intense pride in his Asian American heritage and great patriotism for our country. In addition to family and heritage, a great source of strength and inspiration to BOB were the people of Sacramento. He loved you all so much, he bragged about you all the time, he sang your praises, and worked proudly for you every day. Now we all think that we represent the best district in the country. Is that not right, my colleagues? BOB MATSUI was certain of it. He loved it here; a few years ago he said, “with all that Sacramento has to offer, some like to think of Sacramento as California’s best kept secret. True, it is an ideal place to live and to do business, but I like to think of it simply as home.”

And what a welcome home BOB received. So many people again weathering the elements—the wind and the rain—to pay their respects to him in the Rotunda of the Capitol of California. It is a very unusual honor. BOB deserved it. People came to the civic ceremony this morning to hear such eloquent speeches of praise, no words are adequate, but so many great statements about BOB MATSUI’s service. Again, when Anna is old enough to read—she’s what, 16, 17 months old now, and according to BOB that reading should be any day now for this magnificently brilliant child—when she’s able to read about her grandfather and his passion and his intellect, the contribution he made to our country, how proud she will be.

BOB MATSUI’s life, though we’re sad today, is proof and hope that one person can make a difference. And what a difference he made. Many people have spoken to it. I would just like to say that in the earliest days of navigation, sailors charted their course by the stars. Later, they also used compasses. BOB was both for us. He was a moral compass to the Congress of the United States, grounded in his great values, and with his excellence for his work, for children and for families, for seniors, to preserve the Constitution of the United States. He was a star—a compass and a star. That

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

makes him a great navigator. When a star is snuffed out in the sky, the poet Longfellow wrote,

For ages its light, still burning, traveling downward from the sky, would shine on our mortal sight. So when a great man dies, for years beyond our ken, the life he leaves behind leaves a light upon the path of men.

BOB MATSUI's light will always shine, one that will lead us to a better America that was his dream.

Doris, Brian, Amy, sleeping Anna, I hope it is a comfort to you that so many people mourn your loss so deeply, and are praying for you at this sad time. In BOB's leaving us I believe he would identify with the words of Timothy in the scripture: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

God truly blessed America with the life and leadership of BOB MATSUI.

David Murphy. We are here to celebrate the life of ROBERT T. MATSUI, our Representative in Congress for 26 years and our friend, and to offer our love and comfort to Doris, Brian, Amy and Anna.

BOB was a very good friend of mine, as he was to many of you here today who shared his life. We shared his life in different ways.

There are those of you who made that journey with his family in 1942 to the internment camp in Tule Lake. There are those of you who went to school with BOB. There are those of you who grew up with him, those of us who got to know the young lawyer as we started our careers together in Sacramento before he went to Congress. And there are those of you who were touched by him as he served you as your Congressman.

This is a very hard thing to do because BOB was so young and in all the years that I knew him, he seemed invincible. As a small child, I thought, as I am sure many of you did, that my parents were also invincible and BOB shared some of those qualities that we recognize in parents.

He was someone who took care of us, someone upon whom we could depend. He was someone we could trust, someone who always looked out for our well-being. We knew BOB was always there for us and that child part of me thought he would be here for many more years. He was supposed to do this for me, not the other way around.

ROBERT TAKEO MATSUI was born on September 17, 1941, right here in Sacramento, when the United States was on the brink of World War II. After the attack on Pearl Harbor,

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

BOB; his father, Yas; and his mother, Alice; along with all of our Japanese community were sent to an internment camp in Tule Lake. In all of the years that I knew BOB, and I met BOB when we were in our early twenties, I never heard him speak of this in anger or resentment, but this was an experience that he carried deep inside of him, as did many Japanese Americans.

As you know, many years later, BOB was responsible for shepherding the Japanese American redress act through Congress, which offered a token compensation to the victims. In so doing, many Japanese Americans, especially those of BOB's parents' generation, were finally publicly able to validate the pain of this injustice, and in so doing, ease some of the grief that had haunted them for so long.

BOB's family came back to Sacramento when BOB was 4 years old and BOB led a life typical of young boys growing up in the 1950s. He sported a crew cut and played Little League which was the beginning of a lifelong love of baseball. He attended local schools, graduating from California Junior High and McClatchy High School. I have heard stories from his classmates that there was a rite of passage at his junior high school and that rite of passage took place behind the baseball backstop. There were fights and BOB was often in them. Maybe because of his size and quiet demeanor BOB was often underestimated. It is told that BOB didn't always win, but he never gave up.

There was one person who BOB took on who was much bigger than he was in size. BOB was knocked down over and over but just kept on getting up. Finally the other guy was so tired that he just walked away and said, "you win." BOB just wouldn't quit.

To give you a better understanding of BOB's grit, I have been told that one of his opponents was a young man by the name of James Moore who later received a scholarship to Oklahoma State University where he played tackle! This must have been the beginning of his preparation for the way he would lead his life before and during his political days—not with his fists, of course, but with that strong determination.

BOB went on to the University of California at Berkeley where he met the beautiful Doris Okada. He could not have known when he married Doris that she would play such a major part in every one of his successes in life. During this time, he was inspired to the legal field by reading the autobiography of the famed trial lawyer, Clarence Darrow, and

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

to public service by President John F. Kennedy's speech challenging Americans to ask what they could do for their country.

BOB and Doris married on BOB's 25th birthday in September 1966 after BOB graduated from Hastings Law School. The young couple moved back to his hometown where BOB founded his own Sacramento law practice in 1967. I got to know BOB at this time.

BOB and I, and many of his old friends who are here today, were members of the active 20-30 Club. The 20-30 Club is a club of young men between the ages of 20 and 39 whose motto is "A man never stands so tall as when he kneels to help a child." Strong friendships were forged during those days when we worked side by side to help the youth of our community. In later years, when BOB was not in Sacramento any more, whenever he would come back to Sacramento it would be as if no time had passed because those strong bonds were there forever. BOB did not forget his friends.

During this last week I have heard many stories about BOB and one thing that touched me was the fact that when one of his friends from that old 20-30 group, Conley MacDonald, who had preceded BOB as president of 20-30, was stricken with leukemia 2 years ago, BOB took time out of his busy schedule and called Conley every day of the last week of his life.

Two big events happened in BOB's life in 1972. As I mentioned, BOB was president of the 20-30 Club and more important, his son Brian Robert Matsui was born. I want to digress a little here. BOB was so proud of Brian and he has turned out to be a fine young man. This is just a cute story that I remember from way back in the old days when Brian was pretty young, maybe 5 or 6 years old. BOB took Brian to the movies one day. BOB loved taking Brian to the show and on one occasion Brian wanted some candy and for whatever reason, BOB said, "No, we are just going in to watch the movie." After the show was on, and they were all settled, Brian whispered to his dad and BOB said, "Yes, Brian?" Brian whispered back, "Dad, I want that candy and if you don't get it for me right now, I am going to scream out loud at the top of my lungs." Well, BOB did buy him the candy and it was then that we realized that Brian was going to be a successful negotiator when he grew up.

When BOB was elected to the Sacramento City Council, the friends that he had made in 20-30, along with the Japanese community, played a large role in getting him elected. As a

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

matter of fact there is a funny story about this time when two of his childhood friends, Jerry Miyamoto and Alan Oshima, who were also members of 20–30, were out there, along with all of us, walking the district going from house to house. No one really knew BOB in those days. Now BOB didn't ask them to do this, but Jerry and Alan never corrected anyone who thought they were THE candidate. The other candidates were just amazed at how much territory BOB covered personally knocking on all those doors.

I would like to reminisce a little and share a few more memories from those early days. BOB was a perfectionist. One day BOB called us and asked us to come over as he had just purchased a very nice car and he was upset because he said he had a big scratch on it. We got over to his house and he took me out to the garage and I thought the car looked pretty good. BOB did very well in his career a lot sooner than most of us and was the first one to have such a nice car. Pretty soon we were down on our hands and knees, BOB with a flashlight and he pointed out a dent under the car's front fender! BOB was not just a perfectionist, he was THE perfectionist!

BOB was a practical joker. There was a big gathering over at the Weinberg's house when we were young. Steve Weinberg collected baseball cards before it became really popular and at that time had every card set from 1954 on. BOB took about 50 of his cards at that party and proceeded to mail them back to Steve, one at a time, from different post offices in Sacramento so he would not have a clue who had done it.

I was not immune from BOB's pranks either. On one occasion Susan and I went to Carmel with BOB and Doris and I don't know why we couldn't just enjoy Carmel, but BOB wanted to see a movie and picked out Andy Warhol's "Frankenstein." NOT a good choice. The movie was in 3-D and was very gory and scary. When we got back to the hotel we decided to unwind and have a nightcap. I actually was feeling kind of scared from the movie and I told BOB, "You go get the ice," and I thought BOB was also scared as he said "No, you go get the ice and I'll get the glasses from my room." So I went down to the ice machine and just as I turned around to go back to our room BOB jumped out of the bushes and let out a blood curdling scream at the top of his lungs! I would have had a heart attack if I hadn't been so young! BOB took great pleasure in this. I used to tell him he used

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

to be fun until he was elected to Congress, but I do hope he was a little mischievous occasionally back in Washington.

BOB represented his city council district well and became vice mayor in 1977. In that same year, our Congressman, John Moss, who had represented Sacramento for almost 26 years, decided to retire. BOB and John had a special relationship and John encouraged him to run and gave him a 2-day head start. BOB immediately threw his hat in the ring and got organized quickly. This race was going to be won in the primary and most people did not give BOB a chance. Again, he was underestimated. He ran against the then-mayor of Sacramento, Phil Isenberg, and county supervisor, Gene Gualco, both very capable and experienced. BOB ran a distant third in the beginning but ended up winning. He would tell his opponents all during the campaign that they were so fortunate that they were doing so well and that he knew he didn't have a chance, all the time running a quiet and effective campaign and knowing that his standings were improving daily. I asked BOB one time why he always told his opponents that and he said, "Well, if they think that they are going to win easily, maybe they won't work as hard." I don't know if that is what happened but I do know that BOB won with a pretty good margin.

After that first election, BOB won 13 more times, always by large margins. I remember around the third election when BOB got 80 percent of the vote, one of the highest percentages in the Nation that year, we were all ecstatic. BOB, on the other hand, was happy, but the only thing he could talk about was "who were those 20 percent who voted against me and could we find out their names?"

Many people today have talked about BOB's work in Congress. They have spoken eloquently and I will not recite the long list of his accomplishments.

I would like to mention how his congressional role affected the lives of people back here at home. Susan and I have a friend in our lives named Zora Balaban who came to this country from Serbia 10 years ago. When she heard of BOB's death, she called us in tears because of the profound effect that BOB has had in her life. After working for 2 years in Sacramento with a visa Zora applied for her green card and went back to Serbia to visit her family. Somehow her paperwork was lost and she was not allowed to come back into the United States. She remained in Serbia for 1 year, unable to untangle the redtape. BOB interceded for her and Zora was finally able to return in 1996 and became a proud citizen of

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

the United States last year. Zora's story is not unusual. In her words, "What a good person he must have been to do so much good for someone he didn't even know. Even my parents couldn't have done more for me." She told us that she wished that someone could express her feelings for BOB. And so I am telling you her story.

Doris told us that there is a gardener who takes care of the home that the MATSUIs maintain in Sacramento who was similarly helped by BOB. BOB and Doris have never met him but when Doris arrived at their home this week, she found her gardens were full of freshly planted beautiful flowers. It was his gift to BOB and Doris. It was how he could express his gratefulness to BOB and so I am telling you his story.

These stories reflect the profound effect that kindness can make on the world. Senator Clinton coined a new phrase in her memorial to BOB this week. She said we should all practice the "Matsui moment" in situations of choice. First, take the road of kindness.

About BOB's time in Congress back in Washington, DC—let me just say that in all that he did, BOB was a man of quiet dignity who was respected by his colleagues on both sides of the aisle. BOB was a man of integrity who always did what he thought was right for America. BOB was kind and gracious in his interpersonal relationships. BOB was a gentleman in all things and always there resided within him that underestimated strength to stay the course and accomplish goals to benefit his country and the home community that he represented so well. BOB was always accessible. He greeted you like a friend, with a warm handshake and a welcoming smile, and if you were not his friend before you met him, you were when you walked away from him.

And so we stand here today to say goodbye to our dear friend. He comes home to remain with us in Sacramento. BOB, we were always so proud of you, our native son, and we celebrate all of the roles of your life: BOB the loving husband, the affectionate father, the doting grandfather, our respected statesman, and our cherished friend. We thank God for the gift that your life was to all of us. As President Clinton noted, "He was what was right with America." As Senator Clinton observed, "He bridged the gaps that so often divide us." And, as his hometown paper, the *Sacramento Bee*, proclaimed, "He was a good and decent man."

Godspeed dear friend.

Brian Robert Matsui. On behalf of my Mom, my wife Amy, and my daughter Anna, and of course myself, I want

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

to thank you all for coming here today. My father would be truly touched to see so many of you here, for sharing all these memories of his time in Washington, and of course here, at his home.

He would also want us to thank you for the welcome you gave him when we brought him home. Thank you.

Of course he never believed he left; and I don't think he ever really did. He was born here, in the old Sutter General Hospital. He rooted for the Solons as a kid. He went to William Land Elementary School, Cal Junior High, and C.K. McClatchy High School. Some of his classmates are here today, and we want to thank them for being with us.

When you think of it, he only left this city twice in his life. He left when the government took him away from his community and placed him in an internment camp, just a few months after he had been born. But he, and our family, returned as soon as our inalienable rights were restored.

He left again to go to college, as the first to do so in his family, and to law school. But he and my mom returned to this city in 1966, just after they had graduated, just after having been married, to begin their life of 38 years in the only place that they would ever know as their home. And he would say, and I would have to agree, that he never left again.

Because being a Member of Congress he felt never took him away from the city that he loved. He was just your one voice in that Chamber of the people. Had being your voice required him to lose touch with his home, he would not have done it. Because he loved this city; loved all of his friends here, and wanted to be no place else. And he knew he only could be effective so long as he remained close here, at his home. It was only because he felt so close to this community, to all of you, that he felt that he could speak for it for so long.

And I see that here today. Even as this city has grown, it has remained a tight community of friends, both old and new. My father always felt that this city represented the very best in America. This is the only place he ever wanted to live.

So, this morning, on the day that we lay my father to rest, too soon, it is fitting that I woke up in the house where he was raised. I woke up in the room where he slept, where he studied, where he dreamed of baseball, law, and placing his own mark on the world, his own contribution. I woke up wondering what I could possibly say to communicate to him

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

how much he was appreciated by everyone here; how much I love him, and how much I will miss him.

But looking around, I don't think words need to communicate it. Seeing everyone here today, I think my father would be satisfied with what he had accomplished. To know that he had so many friends. To see his family. And know that we all love him very much, and always will. Nonetheless, I am sad, not only because he is gone, but because my daughter Anna may never know him as we do.

He had planned to take Anna to the floor of the House of Representatives for the swearing-in ceremony this past Tuesday. He had hoped to have her in his arms, as he swore to serve this county and this community as he had so many times in the past. He enjoyed the symmetry, having taken me on the floor 26 years and 4 days ago, for the first time. But most of all, he wanted to watch her grow up, just as I had grown up. And I hope that the time he spent with her is enough, so that she knows, as I know, that he was a decent man who loved so many people, this city, and this country. And most of all her.

And I think back, just 16 days ago, to December 23, on the day before he was admitted to the hospital. On that day we went to the Capitol, so that he could take Anna there, a few days before the swearing-in, so as to get her, just 16 months old, familiar with the office.

And I think of the two of them playing on the floor. Of her sitting on his lap behind his desk, him singing their favorite song, their smiling together. There are so many things my father had hoped to do with Anna that he, my mom, and I had done before.

I can recall the lunches at Vic's, where he would order the hot dog sandwich and root beer float. I remember going to Land Park on the weekends to feed the ducks and having to be carried home in his arms because I was too tired to walk. I remember the pony rides in the park. I remember going through Fairytale Town.

There were lost golf balls, missed foul balls, and the hope that this year would be the year the Kings win it all. I realize now that these are all things we will have to do with Anna without him. But I know that my mom, my wife, and all of you here will be able to tell her what kind of man he was. And maybe, hopefully, that will be enough to allow him to continue to live in her eyes a little longer. Thank you all, thank you Dad.

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

Rabbi Brad Bloom. Birth is a beginning, and death a destination, and life is a journey. From childhood to maturity, and youth to age; from innocence to awareness, and ignorance to knowing; from foolishness to discretion and then perhaps to wisdom; from weakness to strength, or strength to weakness and often back again; from health to sickness, and back we pray to health again; from offense to forgiveness; from loneliness to love; from joy to gratitude; from pain to compassion, and grief to understanding; from fear to faith; from defeat to defeat to defeat, until looking backward or ahead we see that victory lies not at some high place along the way, but in having made the journey—stage by stage, the sacred pilgrimage. Birth is a beginning, and death a destination, and life is a journey, a sacred pilgrimage to life everlasting. On this day of the Sabbath on behalf of Congregation B'nai Israel, I bring to you, the Matsui family, our condolences, for you know that your beloved husband and father was a great friend to our community.

I want to share in this benediction a personal story. Back in 1999, in a journey that I made from Sacramento to Washington after the terrible arsons that impacted and burned three synagogues in this community, I had the chance to be in the White House, and have breakfast with President Clinton. After that meeting, an appointment was arranged for me to meet with BOB. We sat down and we chatted—visited with each other—and I saw the view from his office, and we just got a chance to talk with each other. He suggested to me, because I had some free time, that it would be interesting for me to go visit the exhibition at the Smithsonian on the internment of the Japanese American citizens. Now, having grown up as a native of Baltimore, MD, this was not an issue, and only being in California 3 or 4 years I was not entirely understanding of its impact. So I took him up on his suggestion, and I went to that exhibition. And I saw the artifacts and the pictures, and saw familiar kinds of scenes from my own history. Afterward I met up with him again, and tried to communicate that I understood. And there was a moment between us of appreciation from me, and of acknowledgment from him, that he taught me a lesson about himself and the history of Japanese Americans in this country that, growing up on the east coast, you don't often understand. But now I do. I thank him for that lesson of life, and want to say to you how sorry we are on his passing. Having enjoyed dinner with him and speaking from my pulpit on several occasions, I want you to know what an honor it was for

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

me and our community to know your husband and your father.

And so I ask all of us, in this benediction: God—full of compassion, sacred presence in this universe—protect the soul of ROBERT MATSUI. Bring us all closer to his memory, and may his life be bound up in the bonds of eternal life, for the Lord is his portion. *Zichrono l'vracha*—may his memory forever be a blessing to us in our lives, an inspiration and a light for our pathway—*ein tikun olam*—to repair the world and make it the place that we aspire it to be.

I hope that you'll join me as we all say, "Amen."

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

MEMORIAL ADDRESSES

AND

OTHER TRIBUTES

FOR

ROBERT T. MATSUI

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

Statement by President George W. Bush

January 2, 2005

Laura and I are saddened by the passing of BOB MATSUI. BOB MATSUI was a dedicated public servant and a good and decent man who served with distinction and integrity in the U.S. House of Representatives for more than 25 years. In the Congress, he was a leader of his party admired by colleagues on both sides of the aisle. Through long-time service on the House Ways and Means Committee, he helped pass important legislation on issues ranging from trade to small business to child welfare to mass transit. He was always devoted to California and his native Sacramento, where he served on the City Council and as Vice Mayor in the 1970's. A third-generation Japanese-American, BOB was interned along with his family during World War II. Four decades later, he played a leading role in Congress in securing passage of the landmark Japanese-American Redress Act. Laura and I send our prayers and condolences to Doris, their son Brian, and the entire Matsui family.

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

From the Office of William J. Clinton

January 2, 2005
New York, NY

Hillary and I are profoundly saddened by the sudden passing of our friend Congressman BOB MATSUI, one of the most decent and honorable public servants we have ever known.

From living in an internment camp at six months of age to becoming a senior member of the United States House of Representatives, BOB MATSUI's life demonstrated both the promise of America and the responsibility to fight for the powerless in America, including older Americans who need a secure Social Security system and children who need health care.

When I served as President, I depended on BOB MATSUI's leadership to help create jobs, improve education and balance the budget. I especially appreciate his tremendous work on trade. He played a pivotal role in passing NAFTA, establishing the World Trade Organization and achieving Permanent Normal Trade Relations with China.

Our hearts and prayers go out to BOB's son and daughter-in-law, Brian and Amy, his granddaughter, Anna, and his wife, Doris, also a dedicated public servant who helped lead the public liaison office in the White House during my Administration.

BOB MATSUI leaves behind a rich legacy of service that improved the lives of his own constituents, all Americans, and people throughout the world. He also leaves a loving family and a legions of friends who were touched by his grace and goodness.

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

Proceedings in the House of Representatives

TUESDAY, *January 4, 2005*

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, first may I thank my Democratic colleagues. What an honor it is to have my name placed in nomination as your leader to be Speaker of the House as the first woman and as the first Italian American. I was honored by the kind remarks of the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. Menendez).

It is a privilege, as the gentleman from New Jersey knows and as the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. Hoyer) knows for us to represent this magnificently diverse caucus. Thank you for the honor of being your leader. It is a privilege to represent one of the greatest forces, in my view, for idealism, integrity and innovation in our country.

My thanks to the members of the Democratic Caucus.

I want to thank and acknowledge my husband, Paul. Thank you, Paul. In acknowledging Paul, I want to acknowledge all of the spouses who are here today for the contributions they make. I know Members all share my view when I say our husbands and wives, our spouses, and in my case my five children and five grandchildren, represented by Ryan and Madelaine here today, are the source of our strength and inspiration. Our children and grandchildren are the future. Many children are here today. We want them to know that we know and think it is our responsibility to make the future better for them.

To my constituents, I am grateful for the privilege of representing them.

I know Members all want to join me and the Speaker in acknowledging our courageous men and women in uniform.

As we end this holiday season, we know it is their service that makes it possible for us to strive for peace on Earth and good will to mankind every day of the year.

A special congratulations and welcome to the Capitol to our newest Members of Congress, to our freshmen Members. You as freshmen are the fresh recruits. You are here to rein-

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

vigorate the Congress with your fresh ideas, straight from campaigns. We are all straight from campaigns. Our Founding Fathers planned it so that every 2 years Congress would be reinvigorated with new membership to bring new ideas and new energy to the debate. As you take your oath of office today, you not only enter the Congress, you enter the annals of history. You are colleagues not only with each other, you are colleagues with all those who have served before you.

Sadly, this weekend, we lost two of our most pioneering and courageous colleagues. Shirley Chisholm was the first African American woman elected to Congress. Imagine the courage. She said of her service that it demonstrated the sheer will and refusal to accept the status quo. We must make that legacy part of ours. When Shirley Chisholm came to Congress as the first African American woman, it was not only a breakthrough for African Americans, it was not only a breakthrough for women, it was a breakthrough for America.

And we mourn the passing of someone who was a dear friend to so many of us here. BOB MATSUI would have been sworn in today. BOB was the living combination of intellect and passion, someone who understood the complexities, for example, of the Social Security system but never forgot what it meant simply to the lives of America's seniors. President Bush rightly called BOB a dedicated public servant and a good and decent man who served with distinction and integrity. Thank you, President Bush, for that acknowledgment.

As a small child, BOB MATSUI was in a Japanese internment camp. He was a third-generation American but nonetheless he was in an internment camp. But that never dampened his spirit about America or his family's spirit. He went on in his words and his deeds with a commitment to guide us to the better America that was his dream. Let that be our legacy as well.

And we cannot gather here today without talking about the unspeakable devastation the world has witnessed in South Asia. It presents a special challenge to us, not only for the millions of people who are struggling to recover and rebuild but for all of us who are called by our faith and by our common humanity to help those in need. When the victims of disasters in Asia see our soldiers bringing food and supplies, they see the best of America, an America that is compassionate. We need to work even harder, not only to present that America to the world but also to create that America here at home by staying true to our core American values.

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

We do that by widening the circle of prosperity, because it is unacceptable that one in five children in America live in poverty.

Our sense of fairness demands that we expand access to health care because health care is a right, not a privilege. We must promote opportunity with a vibrant public education system and by making college education affordable to all Americans. We need to strengthen community, working to build safe communities free of crime and drugs and with a clean and healthy environment. And we must do this in a fiscally sound way by promoting accountability, by restoring fiscal discipline and paying as we go.

Above all, we must guarantee our national security with a military that is second to none, a strong commitment to homeland security, and a resolve to stop the spread of weapons of mass destruction. How we respond to times of difficulty is what will define us as leaders and the ability to draw hope from times of challenge is what defines us as Americans. Each generation of Americans has made our country stronger and better for the next. I do not want anyone because we are talking about losing our colleagues and our former colleagues and the devastation in South Asia, to have any of that diminish the cause for celebration here today for our new Members, their families, their friends, indeed for all of us. The lives of Shirley Chisholm and BOB MATSUI should be cause for celebration and they give us hope and proof that each one of us can make a difference.

A better America is our inheritance. I believe that for all of us serving in the 109th Congress, it can also be our legacy. Though we are divided by party and this aisle, we are joined by our common oath to protect and defend the Constitution and to form a more perfect union.

To our freshmen, again welcome to Congress. On this day of celebration, I join the Speaker and all of our colleagues in congratulating you and your families. Again I will say that our Founding Fathers made special provision for this House to be constantly reinvigorated and every person here must be elected. We cannot let again the sadness in the past weeks diminish this cause for celebration.

The lives of Shirley and BOB offer us hope and proof, as I said. The tragedy in South Asia and its ramifications raises the expectations for leadership. How we respond to times of difficulty will define us.

When I was a young girl, a college student here in Washington, DC, I had the privilege of hearing President Ken-

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

nedy's inaugural address. In his inaugural address, he ended his remarks in the following way, and I think it was appropriate then and it is appropriate now. He said, "With a good conscience our only sure reward, with history the final judge of our deeds, let us go forth to lead the land we love, asking His blessing and His help, but knowing that here on earth, God's work must truly be our own."

Again I have the privilege to present the gavel, this is getting tiresome, Mr. Speaker. And it is not about you. Two years ago when I had the privilege of presenting the gavel, I said of the Speaker that all of us are called honorable because of the title we hold as Members of Congress. But Dennis Hastert is honorable because he is a man of great character and dignity and he deserves the title. It is now my privilege to present the gavel to a man, a gentleman of character, integrity and skill who brings the values of heartland America to this highest position in the Congress of the United States, and I speak on behalf of all of our House Democrats, Mr. Speaker, in saying we look forward to working with you in the days ahead to create a better America, the gentleman from Illinois, the Speaker of the House, Dennis Hastert.

Mr. HASTERT. Thank you, Nancy, for those gracious remarks. You have been an able leader for the Democratic Caucus in this House and you have helped lead this Congress with honor and distinction. We have disagreed on policy matters in the past, and I suspect we will disagree again in the future, but we both love this House of Representatives and the great democratic process of representative government.

Nancy, we have some serious issues to confront in this new Congress and I look forward to a vigorous debate in the months ahead, for it is through debate that we arrive at the policy decisions that will keep this Nation safe and make it stronger. This House is where we fight the battle of ideas and at the end of the day we make the laws that govern this Nation, and so it is a great honor to serve in this institution. It is a special honor to sit in this chair.

I thank each of you for allowing me once again to serve as your Speaker.

The new year confronted us with two sad tragedies. First came the images from the tsunami that ravaged countries bordering the Indian Ocean. Our deepest condolences go to all those who lost loved ones in this terrible event. Just as former Presidents Clinton and Bush will join together to co-

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

ordinate private relief efforts here in the United States, we in the Congress will work together on a bipartisan basis to get the necessary relief to those in need.

Second, we lost one of our own on New Year's Day. I too want to pay tribute to our fallen colleague, BOB MATSUI. BOB holds a special place in the hearts of Members on both sides of the aisle. He was a man of strong principle but a kind and gentle spirit. He was a proud Democrat, but he also knew how to reach across the aisle when the interests of his country demanded it. He will be greatly missed in this House and we are a better House of Representatives because he served here.

EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE ROBERT T. MATSUI MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 11) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 11

Resolved, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of the Honorable ROBERT T. MATSUI, a Representative from the State of California.

Resolved, That a committee of such Members of the House as the Speaker may designate, together with such Members of the Senate as may be joined, be appointed to attend the funeral.

Resolved, That the Sergeant-at-Arms of the House be authorized and directed to take such steps as may be necessary for carrying out the provisions of these resolutions and that the necessary expenses in connection therewith be paid out of applicable accounts of the House.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That when the House adjourns today, it adjourn as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, as the dean of the California delegation, I offer this privileged resolution expressing the profound sorrow of all of us within the House of Representatives at BOB MATSUI's passing. I am honored to sponsor this resolution in an attempt to memorialize BOB's contributions to Congress and to our Nation.

Like all of us, I was shocked to hear the news that someone as vibrant as BOB MATSUI is no longer with us. He has been a forceful leader in Congress, and he will be missed. I will miss his counsel and his friendship, having been honored to serve with him during his time in Congress as a fellow Californian and on the Committee on Ways and Means.

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

But first of all, my thoughts and condolences go to his family, BOB's wife Doris, his son Brian, daughter-in-law Amy, and granddaughter Anna.

I opened his Christmas card a day or so before the sad news came and was reminded of a night early on when Brian, who is now an adult with an adult life, and he could not have been more than 5 or 6 at the time, and he was at a reception with BOB and Doris and myself and choked on a chicken bone, and the consternation we all had, patting Brian on the back and getting him through the chicken bone incident. So as I say to Brian and to Doris, BOB's memory will live with them and give them great support as they move ahead in their lives.

In his time here, BOB demonstrated and embodied the utmost integrity. He knew and understood the purpose, the greater purpose, really, which we in the House are entrusted with. He lived by and set high standards in public service. In a word, he was a statesman. He went through the experience of being interned during World War II, and it never made him bitter. He never lost his spirit. Rather, it gave him resolve for his own convictions and his sense of public service.

He began in Sacramento after a brief career in law, and then he came to Congress in 1979, starting out with the Committee on the Judiciary and then with the Committee on Government Operations, and then later joining the Committee on Ways and Means where he really became our resident expert on Social Security and was active in trade and tax policy issues as well. He tackled those issues, as I am sure any of my colleagues who have discussed Social Security with him know, with sharp intellect, deep convictions, and compassion for what was right. But he was fair. He had a sense of humility and one of respect I think of his colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

I do know one thing, that BOB MATSUI would have wanted to be here to lead the Democrats in the fight to protect Social Security in this coming session of Congress. He was prepared for it. He was geared up for it. He had been spending his time over the last several weeks before his sad passing to lead us in the effort to protect Social Security. His convictions of compassion mark his work on behalf of disadvantaged children and families in our country as well.

BOB championed expanded health care coverage for children and was a tireless advocate for child welfare. Indeed, he joined many of us in opposing our own administration during

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

the welfare reform issues in 1996, and he introduced key legislation to expand job training and education programs to help people in poverty. We lost that battle in 1996, but he remained steadfast in his commitment to ensure that people got lifted out of poverty, not just kicked off the welfare rolls.

So as the new year began, I had looked forward to his counsel and working with him side by side as it were on our committee on important issues.

His spirit will continue to inspire us in the days ahead and with gratitude for all he has done, we will carry on his work and do all we can to honor his life and his contributions to the American people. I know that the House tonight will adjourn in his honor, and on New Year's he adjourned sine die. We say so long, old friend.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, let me begin by expressing my appreciation to my California colleague (Mr. Stark). We have worked jointly on this resolution, and it is with a great deal of sadness obviously that we are here at this moment.

We just completed the debate on the resolution that had to do with the loss of now it appears about 150,000 lives from the tsunami that has taken place in South and Southeast Asia. And then we come to the next resolution, talking about one man, an individual who has made a great contribution. And when you juxtapose the resolution with the loss of 150,000 lives and now we are talking about BOB MATSUI, we cannot help but think about the fragility of life.

BOB MATSUI is an individual who offered so much to this institution, but he offered so much to me personally, just as I know he did to others of my colleagues who are going to be speaking tonight and many of those who are not going to be able to be here this evening.

The gentlewoman from California (Ms. Pelosi) in her statement when she was turning the gavel over to the gentleman from Illinois (Speaker Hastert) this morning I think said it very well when she talked about the combination of intellect and passion that BOB MATSUI demonstrated in his life.

We all know that BOB was a tremendous intellect, very thoughtful, very deliberative on issues that he tackled, but he also at the same time had a deeply felt passion in the pursuit of his agenda, and I will tell my colleagues that I shared that agenda in some areas and I shared his passion. I do not know that I have quite the intellect that BOB had, but I shared his passion.

We worked together through the 1980s and the 1990s in pursuit of the global trade agenda, and I know there is a lot

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

of controversy in this House on that issue, but BOB and I worked arm in arm to try and get Bill Clinton trade promotion authority. I remember the kind of energy and the thought that BOB put into this, and he had boundless energy when it came to this. He was a slight person, but boy, I will tell my colleagues, when he put his mind to an issue, he really was very diligent in pursuit of that.

We worked together on a wide range of individual trade agreements, going back to the North American Free Trade Agreement. Every single year, BOB MATSUI and I worked together to try and grant what we used to call most-favored-nation trading status for the People's Republic of China, and then ultimately we worked together on the granting of permanent normal trade relations.

I happen to believe that the vision BOB had was a very positive one and has played a big role in improving the quality of life and the standard of living for people all over the world, and I think that when we look at this institution it is a tragic irony, I mean, that this has come. We are not only sad but we are very shocked.

The gentleman from California (Mr. Stark) and I, Mr. Speaker, were just talking about the news and what BOB went through at the end because it did come as a great surprise to him and to Doris and to Brian and Amy and little Anna that he was going in for a checkup, and then it ended up, of course, that because of this infection he was not going to survive. So when this news came out it was a shock to all of us.

I heard it just as I was getting on the airplane to fly back here on Sunday, and I was just taken and I could not help but think about immediately all of the great experiences that I had traveling, working on joint California issues, working, as I said, on the trade agenda and realizing how dedicated this guy was and what a horrible loss this will be for this institution and for us as individuals.

So I join, as the gentleman from California (Mr. Stark) has just said, in extending personally my thoughts and prayers to Doris and Brian and his family as well. We all got that picture of their family that was just sent to us, and we could not help but be moved seeing that photograph of them, knowing what a wonderful family they are.

I just have to say that I am very saddened, and my thoughts and prayers go to those family members. We have learned how fragile life truly is.

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I am both saddened and honored to rise today in memory of our friend BOB MATSUI. We can barely glimpse a man's greatness in a single floor statement, but I will try.

American heroes have customarily run toward towering figures of many words, but today, our Chamber and our Nation honors a man whose contribution was not the quantity and volume of words but, rather, the quality and the effectiveness of both his spirit and his skill.

Many will speak from the floor tonight of the landmark, legislative achievements of this extraordinary man. Many more will honor his lifetime of legislative victories and how they directly improved the lives of millions of Americans spanning several generations. Single mothers with infants. Civil rights. Our Nation's most vulnerable seniors. BOB provided more than a voice for those who could not speak for themselves. He provided victory. He provided results. He won monumental battles, not by being the loudest but by being the smartest and the most informed person in the debate.

The Greeks have told us that death is hardest on those it leaves behind. This House has lost a rare statesman. Doris, Brian, Amy and Anna have lost a devoted and loving husband, father and grandfather. I have lost a mentor and my best friend in this Congress, and our Nation has lost a tireless, compassionate and brilliant leader. To the Members I say, in the year that lies ahead of us, let us make sure that this Chamber is worthy of his grace and his legacy.

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, while I, like our other colleagues, was really shocked to learn of this sad news, I think it was exactly a month ago today on the final day of the 108th Congress that BOB and I exchanged a warm greeting in the elevator, wished each other happy holidays and I fully expected to see him back here with all the rest of us starting out today in the 109th Congress.

I had the privilege of representing the adjoining region to BOB MATSUI, who represented the city of Sacramento and certain surrounding areas. He and I got to know each other pretty well. We had some real contentious issues, one specific contentious issue that the Chamber is aware of dealing with water supply and flood control in our region, and we battled over that for a long time.

BOB was a fearless advocate for his constituency, and it always impressed me as we went through this process of advocating our points of view and coming to the realization that

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

we would be best served by trying to find some common ground and putting that into law. We got to know each other on a personal basis, and it was really a delightful experience. I think our constituents assumed we were bitter enemies, but that was not the case. The disagreements were never personal, and we actually became friends, and I always enjoyed seeing him.

I knew he was a good family man. He cared a great deal about that, and from time to time we would sit back there in the back rows and visit with each other a little bit about that. He was very proud of his son Brian, first love Doris a great deal, and proud of his daughter-in-law and of his new granddaughter, relatively new, 16 months old I believe.

Like the gentleman from California (Mr. Stark), I was opening that Christmas card myself just last week in Rocklin. That was one of the ones I saw, big beautiful card and filled with pictures of his family, and he was a very committed man, a very effective Representative.

Sacramento has a lot today because of work that he did, a lot of fine accomplishments from improving the airport to light rail taking off, getting started with him, and developing and extending the lines and so forth, the massive amount of flood control work on the levees and so forth that is going on, a lot. He has left quite a legacy.

I shall miss him and I am truly sorry that this has happened. It is a shocking event, and my prayers are with Doris and Brian and Amy, his daughter-in-law, and Anna, the granddaughter. I thank my colleagues for this opportunity to offer my thoughts.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is very difficult to come to terms with BOB's loss. It was a shock and so tragic. He was kind and decent beyond measure. He put a human face on the all too often theoretical debates on health care, Social Security, child welfare and tax policy, and he was always a voice of reason.

BOB cared about the challenges real people faced, children in foster care, workers struggling for a fair shot and seniors whose Social Security checks make the difference between life in or out of poverty.

In 1988, BOB helped the Nation come to terms with the terrible wrong our government committed against Japanese Americans during World War II. BOB and his family were forced into an internment camp when he was 6 months old. His parents were both U.S.-born citizens, but they lost their

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

home and family business during the 3½ years their family was interned.

BOB became the first Japanese American elected to the Sacramento City Council and one of the first Japanese Americans in Congress. He spent his career fighting injustice. Among his many efforts, he established a task force I was privileged to co-chair with him to give Members of Congress with diverse backgrounds a better understanding of the grave threats that Israel and the Israeli people face.

On a personal level, I considered BOB one of my closest friends in this institution. We spent time together, often when I took advantage of the fact that our Bethesda homes were close by each other and hitched a ride with him.

I know BOB's center of gravity was his family, his wife Doris, his son Brian, his daughter-in-law Amy and what he made clear was the most adorable granddaughter in the whole world, Anna. He was so proud of Brian and his accomplishments, his clerking for the Supreme Court of the United States and making more money in his first year in a law firm than even Members of the U.S. Congress.

He cared deeply about his efforts to make a difference through public service and the principles and values of the Democratic Party, and this took him to the position of sacrifice as chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

Janet and I were so grateful for our friendships over the decade with BOB and Doris. We want to extend our deep condolences to the family, the entire family during this sorrowful time. This is an enormous loss for his family, for his friends and for this entire country.

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, today we mourn a friend and able colleague. It is a tremendous loss to each of us and to our country.

BOB MATSUI was someone who virtually everyone in the Sacramento area knew and respected. Indeed, I was not elected to Congress until 1986, almost 10 years into BOB's service in the House, but my wife Pam and I already knew BOB and his wife Doris. One really could not be from the Sacramento area and not know and have tremendous respect and admiration for the MATSUIS and for their work in the community.

As a representative of a congressional district to the north of Sacramento, I worked frequently with BOB on issues of regional importance to northern California. He was a passionate and effective advocate for his constituents on a myr-

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

riad of issues, particularly on flood control, one of the most critically important issues for those of us who live in flood-prone northern California.

He will certainly be remembered by all of us as a leader on these and many other issues important to the region and as an able and dedicated voice for his constituents.

I also had the pleasure of serving with BOB for many years on the House Committee on Ways and Means. A long-time supporter of free trade, BOB was willing and determined to reach across the aisle and work together on the challenging issue of trade policy.

He worked hard for policies that expanded trade, but that also ensured that it was fair and that the playing field was level for American companies and agricultural producers. Those efforts went a long way to helping expand economic opportunities for our northern California region as well as the Nation.

In all his dealings, both public and private, BOB MATSUI personified integrity. It was an honor to have called him a friend. On behalf of my wife, Pam, and me, I would like to extend our personal, heartfelt condolences to the Matsui family: his wife Doris; his son and daughter-in-law, Brian and Amy; and his granddaughter Anna, for their tremendous loss. They can be proud knowing that their husband, father, and grandfather worked incredibly hard to serve the people he represented, always with the noblest of intentions and always with the level of intellectual honesty, ability and skill that commanded enormous respect from everyone who knew and worked with him. He will be greatly missed by all.

Mr. DOGGETT. I rise to join my colleagues in paying tribute to an extraordinary human being, BOB MATSUI. Like so many others across this country, the celebration of this new year was for me shaken by the incredibly sad news of BOB's demise. I awoke this Sunday expecting to be consumed with the challenges and work of the new year, only to be stunned to learn of the passing of an old friend.

Libby and I had only a couple of days before shared the beauty of BOB's family that he and Doris send out each year at this time, reflecting on the last time we shared a meal with them, only a couple of weeks before at a dinner table here in Washington, knowing of the pride that BOB felt in Doris's professional accomplishments and how often he mentioned Doris and Brian and his family in conversations on subjects here in Washington.

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

There is a Greek proverb: "The measure of man is what he does with power." By this measure, or really by any measure, BOB was indeed a great human being. Although he had significant power here in Washington as a senior Member of this House, he was viewed as a soft-spoken advocate for the things that he believed in and the people he represented. And yet on more than one occasion I have seen his temper flare at injustice.

BOB was a great and principled policymaker. He gave a great deal of thought to the issues and the decisions before he spoke, and often took positions that were not popular but that represented his principles. He also was willing to grow and adjust those principles, certainly being committed to more trade, and yet over time he recognized that trade was more than just counting how many widgets crossed country lines, but how that trade affects people.

He was committed to not only Social Security but to retirement security, and took a very forceful stance in this House about the concern that we do more to help those who have no retirement, not just to add to the retirement of those who already have much.

It was my good fortune to serve with him on the Committee on Ways and Means, to come on that committee as a new member and find BOB as someone who I could turn to when I had a problem for personal advice and always get a thoughtful hearing and sound advice.

While his passing is most premature, we can only seek to renew our strength inspired by his very strong example, to remember the causes that he championed and how he championed them, and to be strengthened in our efforts by his spirit and his fight for fairness, to stand up for what is right for the American people.

It is fitting for us to honor BOB with our words, but certainly we must honor him in this Congress with our actions, to continue to champion the causes that he would champion and had so often, from this very microphone. Certainly that is true with regard to Social Security, as he stood up to those who would destabilize, privatize and piratize it. Without our ally, our work will be harder, our burden will be greater, and our responsibility will also be greater.

As the *Los Angeles Times* editorialized about BOB recently, "He epitomized an ideal of public service that has largely vanished in a partisan Congress."

Mr. Speaker, we salute BOB by our deeds as well as our words tonight.

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. Thomas), the chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, a committee that BOB MATSUI served on for many years.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, it is true that BOB and I were on the Committee on Ways and Means together; but, frankly, BOB and I go back a long way.

This is especially difficult since just a very short time ago I was going through the Members' Christmas cards. If you have been around a long time one tends to see the march of time in the cards. You get a very formal card from a new Member. Maybe he is not married. Or if married, it is just a very bright, young couple. Over the years, the family grows, not just in stature but in numbers. We just received one from the MATSUIS with a grandbaby prominently displayed.

In 1978 in November in Sacramento, Members who had been elected to Congress in that election got together as Members-elect in Sacramento. I had known BOB by virtue of his being on the Sacramento City Council. I was an assemblyman at the time and of course spent some time in Sacramento. There were three other Democrats, colleagues in the assembly, Vic Fazio, Julian Dixon, and Tony Coelho who had been an aide to a Congressman and been elected in that same election. To show Members how much things do not change, one of the freshmen in that class was the gentleman from California (Mr. Lungren) who has joined us once again as a Member. Another member from the State assembly who joined us that year, was the gentleman from California (Mr. Lewis).

All of us got together as newly elected Members from California. We stayed together because when you are in the same class, even if you are of a different party, you have common ties, notwithstanding the differences of policy positions that you take or oftentimes the different committee directions that you take. It was my privilege and pleasure to serve not only at the same time as BOB, but for a significant number of years on the same committee.

He was, as we now know even more so than we thought, in many ways a very private person. It was, I think, personality as well as culture. But if one could get inside there, all of the comments that Members have made in a very public way were also true of the private person. You often wonder, as is the case with some Members, how BOB would get elected if he had to go out and be gregarious among people. But

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

when one meets Doris, you figure out how he did it easily: he just kept her in front of him. As some people have said with my wife, Sharon, they understand better once they have met the spouse how you get elected. But the most important thing was the couple and the union they formed.

One of the things that some of the newer Members need to realize is that what occurs in committee and on the floor is business, and people go about their business in different ways. The reason we are going to hear a number of Members talk about BOB in the way that we will talk about BOB is because if you spend a little time getting to know the other businessmen, you cannot help but get to know them as people. All of us are lamenting the passing of Congressman BOB MATSUI, but those of us who knew the person of BOB MATSUI are perhaps lamenting even more.

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to a gentleman and a gentle man, BOB MATSUI.

I will sorely miss my good friend and colleague. California and America have lost a champion for justice, Social Security, fair trade and opportunity for all.

BOB's courage was remarkable. Imprisoned in an internment camp as a young child, he worked to give freedom and dignity to others.

Serving more than 25 years in the U.S. House of Representatives, most recently as a senior member of the powerful Ways and Means Committee, and ranking member of its Social Security Subcommittee, as well as chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, BOB was an unfailing gentleman and a loyal friend.

I met him early in his House career. Long before I thought of running for Congress I consulted him, and he offered his support.

Shortly thereafter, my key advisor and law firm colleague Vic Raiser died in a plane crash. BOB knew our relationship and called me. He said, "I cannot take Vic's place, but I'll sure try." He made my race his top priority and personally contacted his donor base on my behalf. His efforts were critical to my victory and I referred to him thereafter as my "mother."

At this time of sadness, my thoughts and prayers are with BOB's extraordinary wife, Doris, son Brian and beautiful granddaughter, Anna. BOB leaves a huge void in this Nation and a big hole in my heart.

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I thank all Members for participating in this tribute to someone whom we all believe was our best friend. This is so very unusual in a Congress that does not allow us to meet often or travel very much together that each one of us treasures so much those special personal relationships that we have.

At a time when hundreds of thousands of lives are being lost in Asia and in the Middle East, God has a way of reducing all of this and making it a lot more personal when it appears in the middle of the night. He just snatches away someone who you may have just taken for granted. Certainly the loss of BOB had everyone startled. How could a person with such fierce commitment to legislation and to the Congress who was so involved, and appeared to be looking so hard toward the next challenge, how could God have just snatched him away without any warning? But I have found over the years that it eases the pain, it does not remove it, but it eases the pain if during times like this you can think of how fortunate you were that in your lifetime you came across a person like BOB MATSUI.

It also helps if you can thank God that you do not have to say I wish I had spent more time with him or I wish I had gotten to know him better or I wish I had told him how fond I was of him, or how much I appreciated his dedication to the committee, to the Congress, to the causes that he so truly believed in. And then it makes you feel a little better that you had a chance to say BOB MATSUI, we love you.

It is hard for me to think of anyone who felt so strongly about his beliefs, and at the same time we hear over and over tonight that he was indeed a gentle man, how we can hear Members from both sides of the aisle saying we are human beings, we are dedicated, we do have different beliefs, but here was a guy who was able to take all of this and still manage to have friends on both sides of the aisle.

Yes, the chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means is so correct, because we always felt that we had two Members as being friends, because Doris was a partner, she was a friend, she was a supporter and, of course, Brian and Amy, they all had an opportunity to share their love and dedication to their father, to her husband, before he left. He did not just walk away from our lives but in his classy way he said goodbye to the family and left us here in the Congress and especially us in the Democratic Caucus with such a sense of pride and feeling how proud we were to be able to have a person of his caliber, not only politically being our leader but

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

on the Committee on Ways and Means. So often we hear that he was an expert in Social Security legislation, but those of us who were privileged to serve on the committee knew that he was an expert in anything that came before the committee. He was an expert in trade, he was an expert in pensions, he was an expert in welfare issues. And not because he was just a good lawyer and a good lawmaker but because he was compassionate and understood where he came from and his commitment was trying to improve the quality of life of Americans and human beings all over. He never forgot the struggles that he and his family had gone through and he always led us to believe that we could achieve even things beyond our expectations in working with him.

And so with all of this loss and in searching for something to thank God for doing, I can say I thank Him for sharing BOB with us and I thank Him for giving me the opportunity of having told BOB MATSUI how much I loved him.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am happy at this point to yield 3 minutes on behalf of the Congressional Asian and Pacific Islanders Caucus to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. Wu).

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, today we stand together here in the people's house to honor and mourn the loss of one of its true servants, BOB MATSUI. I am filled with sadness as we remember an outstanding Member of Congress, an inspiration to a generation of Asian Americans, a leader and a good friend. It is not only a loss for those of us who had the privilege to serve with him, not just a loss for Asian Americans but a loss for this Congress and all Americans. His wisdom and counsel will certainly be missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family during this time, with Doris, with Brian and Amy.

BOB MATSUI believed in the value of public service. As a Congressman for 26 years and as a city councilman and vice mayor of his beloved Sacramento before that, he understood that government had a positive role to play in people's lives. Inspired by the calling of President Kennedy's speech challenging Americans to ask what they could do for their country, BOB MATSUI dedicated his life to that challenge.

BOB MATSUI was a mentor, a statesman and a role model. As a founding member of the Asian Pacific American Caucus, he was able to provide his insight and experience about the importance of public service and how to get the job done to many of us junior members. Several members of that cau-

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

cus join me today in honoring BOB MATSUI's life and selfless service.

As a senior member of the Committee on Ways and Means, BOB MATSUI was intricately involved in that committee's complex portfolio and important public policy issues, including tax policy, international law and trade, Social Security, health care and welfare reform. Most notably in recent years, BOB fought to preserve Social Security because he believed that the elderly and the disabled are entitled to the stability of a guaranteed income that allows them to live in dignity. Many of us will miss his voice in the coming debates on the future of Social Security.

Those of us who had the privilege to know BOB MATSUI and to serve with him will be forever in his debt. His intellect, his passion for justice, his dedication to the value of public service will continue to be guideposts for us all. BOB, wherever you are, it is a far, far better place now that you are there. Thank you for all the sound advice that I received from you over the years. My only regret is that I did not take a little bit more of it. Today we mourn the loss of a great man and a friend. He will be missed.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to pay tribute to a great leader, to an extraordinary human being, our beloved BOB MATSUI. I rise with a heavy heart tonight as we remember BOB. I remember him as a fighter for justice, for our senior citizens, and for all those who have yet to realize the American dream. BOB's quiet strength always amazed me. He was brilliant, yet he always listened and valued ideas and input from others.

When I first ran for Congress, I remember that BOB came to my district and he helped me with my campaign with a variety of constituencies. Of course, my colleagues know I have a very vibrant port in my district and trade is such a critical issue. BOB taught me a lot about trade and helped me tremendously as we debated our trade policy in this body. Like myself, my constituents were inspired by BOB's life as they got to know him, knowing that he spent his first formative years in an internment camp. But rather than turn bitter, BOB worked to ensure that those interned during those dark moments of American history were granted reparations for such a shameless act. BOB MATSUI used his personal experiences not in a selfish way but to heal the wounds of so many Japanese Americans and our entire country. For that, we owe him a debt of gratitude.

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

Several years ago, BOB asked me to come to Sacramento to keynote the Sacramento NAACP's annual Martin Luther King dinner. The respect and the love that BOB's multiracial constituency had for him and for Doris was something to behold. He was the epitome of a public servant and his constituents knew it, year after year after year.

As we move into this very critical debate to save Social Security, let us remember BOB's commitment to save Social Security and to ensure that our seniors in their golden years live the life that they deserve. We will have to fight, of course, twice as hard now that we do not have BOB with us, but BOB would want us to do just that. May the insights and the inspiration that BOB MATSUI brought to this and so many of our debates guide us to do the right thing and to uphold his extraordinary legacy. To BOB's loving family, to Doris, to Brian, Amy and Anna, my thoughts and my prayers are with you. Thank you for sharing this giant of a human being with all of us. Our country and the world is a better place. May his soul rest in peace.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, as the chairman of the Democratic Caucus, I rise to pay tribute to a great American, a dear colleague, a good friend, one of our own, the late Congressman BOB MATSUI.

I would like to offer my condolences to Doris, to Brian, to Amy, to Anna, and to his staff, both in California and in Washington, for the wonderful job they have done for him and the people of his State over the past 26 years. It is unique when a colleague of ours dies because we are called to look back at their accomplishments over the years and we begin to realize what a great human being they really were. We see our colleagues on the floor every day and we obviously know them, we like them, we have friendships but unfortunately not until they leave us do we have an opportunity to think back on their careers. Looking at BOB's career, it is easy to see that his passing is a great loss for America, a great loss to his constituents, a great loss to the U.S. Congress. He was and will be remembered for his work in the House of Representatives, for being a leading opponent of Social Security privatization, a supporter of free and then fair international trade, and a fair-minded tax writer who was a strong proponent of fiscal responsibility. These contributions as a public servant over the past decades helped move our Nation toward a better and brighter future and that will be his lasting legacy. BOB MATSUI was held in

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

the highest regard by all who knew him for his unquestionable honor, his keen intelligence and his heartfelt kindness.

All of us in this institution are referred to as the gentlelady or gentleman from the day we are sworn in as a Member of this body. However, BOB MATSUI truly deserved that title since he was truly the gentleman from California.

On a different level, BOB was a loving husband, father and grandfather. To ascribe so many positive qualities to one individual might be seen as the usual gilding of the lily. In case of BOB MATSUI, it was simply the truth. My life, this House, and our country are better off thanks to his life here on Earth with us. God bless you, BOB.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. Levin), who does not realize that among the other things that he has to thank BOB for is the fact that he will learn now he will have to sit next to me on the committee and he has been spared that all these years.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to that but I must say I loved sitting next to BOB MATSUI.

When I came here Monday morning, having heard the news a few hours before, here is what I said to myself: This place is truly a different place without BOB MATSUI. There is for us a large hole in our ranks and in our hearts. He added so much to this institution that he loved. He added his exceptional vitality to the notion we often say, this is the people's house. BOB underlined, this was the house of all the people. He identified with the underdog, with those trying to climb up the ladder of life more than those who were already at the top. Opportunity meant everything to BOB. Tax policy, his interest in the earned income tax credit, to help those working lift themselves up, his interest in child care and health care for those who were leaving welfare for work. He fought also, we know, for the seniors of this Nation. And how hard he was fighting as illness overtook them, trying to make sure that there was opportunity for elder citizens and not deprivation.

In trade policy, as has been mentioned, my brother the gentleman from New York (Mr. Rangel) is here, I think I would describe it this way about BOB. He saw opportunities in expansion of trade, but more and more he came to believe that as globalization expanded it was critical that expanded trade leveled up and not leveled down. Where all of his ardor came from, I am not sure. Some no doubt from his family's

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

life experience and some of my colleagues knew more about that than I did. From him, he did not talk very much about it. I read in some of the reports that BOB was described as low key and quiet and I see some of my colleagues shaking their heads. Those press reports did not quite capture BOB MATSUI.

He was gentle, that is true. And he was very dignified and in a way quiet. But he was a gentle person, focused, dedicated, tenacious, and tough. He did not claim to know all of the answers; but when witnesses came before the committee, he was insistent that they give straight answers to his questions. And the mightier they were, the witness, the mightier was BOB MATSUI's determination. I will not mention the members of administrations who learned that firsthand.

There has been reference to this Christmas card and I wish everybody who may be viewing this could see this picture, how it moved us. And let me close by reading just the last paragraph of this card: "As we look at this special season through Anna's eyes," the granddaughter, "we feel a renewal of our family's traditions. Let us cherish these special moments and be thankful for what is most important in our lives, our family, our friends, and the blessings of everyday life. BOB, Doris, Brian, Amy, and Anna MATSUI."

Our condolences to the family, to Doris, Brian, Amy, and Anna. BOB MATSUI was always looking to the future. Now it is up to us to look to the future on behalf of BOB MATSUI. BOB, we love you.

Mr. HERGER. It has really been a great honor and privilege for me to be able to at least control part of the time on our side on someone who is one of the most respected and most honorable and outstanding individuals that I have known in my lifetime, my friend BOB MATSUI.

Mr. FARR. I remember BOB MATSUI from younger days. We were all Sacramentans. I was newly married. Shary and I went to Sacramento to work in California State politics. And there in Sacramento was this new enthusiastic political community rising because California had just amended its constitution to set the legislature to hire full-time staff, and so it was a can-do city.

And in the midst of this was this young graduate from the University of California who was a big champion of Berkeley and the Cal Bears, and he chose to run for city council. And a wonderful staff member named Steve Thompson introduced BOB to everybody, and Steve was a staff member and

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

active in Democratic clubs and political social life. My wife, Shary, was working for John Moss, who was the predecessor to BOB MATSUI. He was the Congressman at the time; and when John Moss retired, the city Democrats were split over who to support for that seat: the mayor, Phil Isenberg, a great popular person in Sacramento; or the young BOB MATSUI. And it was a raucous grass roots primary battle. BOB won and, as they say, the rest is history.

It is a shock that BOB is gone. He was too young, too talented, too much going for him as a new grandfather to have been taken from us. As chair of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, he raised a record amount of money for the congressional Democrats. We counted on him to lead us into battle against the President's proposals to privatize Social Security.

When one is speaking about BOB, one has to talk about Doris, who conquered Washington politics in her own right and ended up in the Clinton White House. She and BOB were a classic political couple, really well-known in DC, as well as Sacramento. My heart goes out to Doris and the family, to Brian, Amy, and little Anna.

BOB's congressional district is one of the most significant in the United States because he represents the best staffed, most productive, best known political celebrities in the Nation's biggest State capital, Sacramento. He was the Congressman for the Federal tax issues relating to California's tax needs. I remember that BOB MATSUI had to carry the tax exemption for State legislators' per diem. Can my colleagues imagine the likes of Jess Unruh, Willie Brown, Jerry Brown, and the entire 120 members of the Senate and assembly counting on his ability to convince Chairman Rostenkowski that the California State legislators should have something that no Member of Congress had, a tax-exempt per diem 7 days a week for the entire legislative session? BOB had every legislator in California breathing down his throat. Their power in Sacramento meant absolutely nothing here in Washington. They needed BOB to do it for them. No one thought he could pull it off, not against Rosty. But he did.

California Democrats had a lot of political sorrow this last year. They lost the governorship in a recall election, lost many seasoned politicians like John Burton and Willie Brown and John Vasconcellos and Bryon Sher, just to name a few notables, to term limits. They lost in the unexpected death of former State senator Henry Mello and even lost

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

their long beloved staffer, Steve Thompson. And now Congressman BOB MATSUI is lost to us all, the biggest loss of all.

BOB was a Member's Member. His death has sent the State capital into a frenzy trying to decide who will run in the special election to replace him. Congress is abuzz with who will take his seat on the Committee on Ways and Means. The political world is wondering who will succeed him as chair of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

But the fact of the matter is that no one can take his place. The son of Japanese immigrants, whom our own government interred, he rose to be one of our Nation's most respected Congressmen. When the Nation is experiencing what most people will certainly remember as a horrible year in the annals of modern history, a year that encompasses war, pestilence, and disease, thank God we had the goodwill of BOB MATSUI, a real American role model.

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight with a broken heart. And the way I would like to formulate my remarks tonight is having a conversation with BOB, because it is the best way I know how. I would say to him almost every time we were on the floor together, BOB, I want to tell you something. So, BOB, tonight I want to tell you some more things.

We are brokenhearted that you are gone and we cannot believe it. We have a hole in our hearts, and we have a hole in our caucus; and everywhere we have turned, we have seen you on the floor today. Our joy in being sworn in as new Members of Congress has been diminished because you are not standing here physically next to us. Thank you for being the kind of friend that you were. Just the best. Loyal, fun, serious, aggressive on all the right things. Thank you for never being embittered by the experience that your family, American citizens, third-generation Americans, were subjected to by their own government. And you grew and you rose, and you were an example to our country of what one can become because of the opportunity of America.

You understood, BOB, thank you, that America is the best idea that was ever born. But you went beyond that because you reached deep inside of yourself and brought out the best in everyone, in the ideas that you brought here, in the ideas that you fought for.

Remember how grateful we are to you that you carried us in the last 2 years, that you believed and we were so proud that you were a Democrat, and you were the kind of Democrat who understood that if it was only good for the Demo-

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

cratic Party that that was not good enough, that we needed to be great for our country; and you believed that.

Thank you for believing in Social Security. Thank you for the countless times that you said we are going to win that battle. Thank you for what you said to me the last time we were together: You know, Anna, that corporations by the law of the Congress cannot dip into their pension funds and borrow from them. Now why would it stand to reason that the American Government, the Congress, the administration continues to dip into Social Security? That is not the right way to go.

So all of your dignity, BOB, that magnificent face of yours that took on age with wisdom, thank you for laughing when I said to you how proud I am, BOB, that your granddaughter bears the name Anna. He really laughed when I said, "I did not realize that you loved me so much."

BOB, we all loved you. You showed us what it is to be a Member of the Congress of the United States. In the house of the people of all of the people, you are always going to be standing next to us. What you did here is not lost.

Thank you, Doris, for being the partner that you are and always will be. Thank you, Brian, for being the son that you have been. Thank you, Amy, and thank you, Anna. We are going to treasure you always. But the most important thing is, BOB, we will never ever lose what you did here. We are going to carry it every day. It is the gold and the myrrh of all of us. Thank you, BOB. We love you.

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, I rise with heavy heart to pay tribute to a dear friend, an exemplary Member of this institution, and a great American. BOB MATSUI did more than represent the Fifth District of California. He represented the best in American politics. Indeed, if one asked me to describe an ideal Congressman, BOB MATSUI would be exhibit A. In an institution that is sometimes short on comity and civility, BOB was mellow and civil by nature. He had a first-class temperament as well as a first-class intelligence.

But make no mistake about it: he was a fighter for what he believed in. He was a politician of principle and passion and prodigious energy as proved by the way he stumped the country for Democratic candidates, even as he suffered from the blood condition that finally claimed his life. Whether the issue was taxes or trade or Social Security or the earned income credit, he always had an arsenal of facts at his disposal. On whatever the issue, your issue, you were always better off if you ran your arguments by BOB and sought his

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

support here in the well of this House. He became a leader in this House and an influence, not so much because of seniority or position, but because everyone liked him, respected him, and knew his intelligence.

When BOB spoke, he knew his stuff. He spoke with authority. He spoke substance and sense. I was last with him on December 15 for the better part of the day. We had a teleconference with 36 reporters calling in. It lasted for more than an hour. We literally had to cut it off. Afterward when I spoke with BOB, he was on the ceiling, just delighted with the response we had gotten, and ready to suit up, ready to do battle over Social Security. It was this sort of zest that made BOB MATSUI a delight and a joy to work with.

On our side we have a deep bench and we will fill his committee position with a competent successor, but no one can surpass BOB's mastery of the subjects which were his domain on either side of the aisle. The Congress has lost a great leader and the country a true patriot, a citizen, a third-generation American who was interned as a child with his family who suffered an awful, terrible, unforgivable injustice. But he loved his country nevertheless and committed his life to making it better.

We do not ask today for whom the bells toll. They toll for all of us, but especially for those of us who served with BOB MATSUI, loved him as a friend, and wonder if we will ever see anyone like him again. To Doris and to Brian and Amy and little Anna, our hearts go out. But just as BOB lives on in all of you, he lives on in all of us who worked with him for years and years. His legacy is one that will last in this institution. Indeed, this great old institution of the Republic is a better place because he served here sacrificially for 26 years.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise and speak in honor of a wonderful colleague and a beloved friend, BOB MATSUI. No one, but no one, was more able and more respected in this body than BOB MATSUI. I came here a little over 18 years ago, and I met this man who was so thoughtful, kind and gentle. Sometimes in this body we call each other "the honorable, the gentleman, the gentlewoman." BOB MATSUI was honorable, and he was a gentleman. He was honorable in the truest sense of that word.

I remember when I first came here in fall 1986. During freshman orientation, we had a dinner at Statuary Hall. My 10-year-old son, John Miles, came with me; and BOB MATSUI took the time to engage my son in conversation. My young

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

son really appreciated that. BOB MATSUI took the time to talk to him and almost treated him like another member of the freshman class. He grew to admire and like BOB MATSUI. When I informed him that BOB MATSUI had passed, he said, "Daddy, I really liked him. I am sorry. I am so sorry."

We lost a colleague, and some of us have lost a friend. The American people have lost a champion and a warrior who fought to protect Social Security and looked out for the young and all of those who have been left out and left behind in America.

There are people in this business who we meet from time to time who love the world, but they do not necessarily like people. BOB MATSUI not only liked people, but he loved. He loved all of us, and we loved him.

A few short years ago, I had the opportunity to spend a weekend in BOB's district. He took me to a university where we had a community meeting with students and faculty. We listened, we spoke, and we listened. As a matter of fact, on the campus when we arrived, there were chickens running all around. I said, BOB, I feel really at home with all of these chickens. So when I got up to speak, I said to the president of the university, I said, Mr. President, I know there is some controversy about chickens on the campus, but do not move the chickens; let the chickens stay here. And BOB laughed and laughed, and we got an agreement out of the president that the chickens would remain on the campus.

We visited schools, we visited a synagogue, a church, and a service in memory of Dr. King. During that trip, I witnessed the love that BOB MATSUI had for his people and the love that they demonstrated for him.

I tell my colleagues, it seems so unreal, so unbelievable; it is almost impossible to comprehend the loss of a friend, the loss of a brother, a colleague, a husband, a father, a grandfather. What more can be said about this man? His life was not in vain. He gave of himself. He was just a warm, decent, good human being who treated each and every one of us with respect.

When I was walking across the grounds of the Capitol today a few hours ago, a police officer came up to me and said, "Congressman, when you speak to Mrs. Matsui, please tell her on behalf of all of the Capitol Police officers that her husband was a good man and he treated us well."

As a Nation and as a people, this is a great loss. BOB MATSUI represents something very special. I, for one, do not be-

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

lieve that we will ever be so lucky or so blessed to witness his likeness again. May God bless his soul.

At this very difficult time, our prayers and our thoughts are with his beloved wife, Doris; his son, Brian; his daughter-in-law, Amy; his granddaughter, Anna; his staff; and the people of the Fifth Congressional District of California. May they find comfort and peace in the love and memory of this great and beloved man.

Mr. BECERRA. To Doris Matsui, Brian, Amy and Anna, we grieve with you; but more, we celebrate the life of a wonderful human being, as I know you will have an opportunity to do over the coming months and years as we all remember BOB MATSUI.

I would like to talk to you, Anna, because right now it is perhaps difficult for you to grasp all that is being said about your grandfather, given that you are just a little over a year old. But in time, with the wonders of technology and the beauty of a democracy in the people's house where every word that we speak in the well of this body is recorded for time immortal, perhaps you will have an opportunity to take a glimpse at what so many people thought of your grandfather.

I will tell you he was a wonderful human being, a superb legislator and public servant and, perhaps most of all, a great American. I will tell you also that he graduated from a great high school 17 years before I did, at C.K. McClatchy High School in Sacramento, CA.

He cared a great deal about the people he represented. He was a fighter and a champion. He knew when to fight, he knew how to fight, and he knew for whom he was fighting all the time.

If you ever had an opportunity to converse with BOB MATSUI, you knew that his deepest conversations were spoken with his eyes. He had these eyes that somehow could convey what oftentimes words cannot, and you knew that when he spoke with his eyes he was speaking to you from conviction, with determination, focus, and experience. And if it were not his words, for sure his eyes would convince you of a direction to take, of what he was trying to say, of where to go, of how to do it right. A handshake from BOB MATSUI was as sure a bet as the sun rising in the morning.

If you knew BOB MATSUI, you knew that he cared deeply about family, about this country, and about what would happen to the next generation. We are going to miss him in this fight to create a better America, to preserve Social Security

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

for our seniors and for the next generations to come. We are going to miss him when we talk about our relations with all of our friends around the world in trade. But we will carry on that fight, because he is a champion to us now as he was before he passed on.

Anna, I say to you as you grow and have an opportunity to speak to your grandmother and your parents more about your grandfather, and as you read more about his many accomplishments, I hope that you will look back at some of the words that were spoken by people who respected him so dearly and considered him friend, mentor, confidant, that this is a man who left so much for you to glean, to learn from, and this is a man from whom you will have an opportunity to say we can admire an American and certainly America can say that we can appreciate this American.

So, Doris, with all due respect to you and to Brian and to Amy, I think it is most appropriate for me to address myself to Anna because I believe the greatest gift that BOB MATSUI left us was the fact that he thought about the future; and, Anna, I suspect that he was thinking about you as much as anyone else. So with you Anna, Godspeed as you learn from a great man, BOB MATSUI.

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I am here tonight to pay tribute and honor to our good friend and fallen comrade, BOB MATSUI. My wife, Stephanie, and I just came from visiting with Doris at their home, and we put our arms around Doris and told her how much we loved her and loved BOB MATSUI.

I cannot think of a more fitting tribute to pay to BOB MATSUI than to say this: I have never heard BOB MATSUI say anything unkind about any other human being, and I have never heard any person in this Chamber say anything unkind about BOB MATSUI. And that is somewhat unique, I suppose, because there are some unkind things said about other people in this Chamber, but never about BOB or from BOB.

I know we will miss BOB, and we will miss his intellect, his passion, his compassion, and the history that he brought to this body. I know Congress will miss BOB. I know that I am a better person for having known BOB. And when God looks down on some cold, wintry night on this beautiful Earth and there are 1 million stars shining in the sky, I know one of those stars will shine brighter, and that will be BOB. We will miss you, BOB, and we love you.

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, this is a house of diverse and talented Members, but among these Members, BOB MATSUI stood out in many, many ways. He stood out as an effective legislator; a senior member of the Committee on Ways and Means, the third-ranking Democrat. BOB was a leader on trade issues. He was a prominent spokesman among Democrats for those of us who favor an expansive trade policy for our country, with safeguards, to level the playing field in terms of environmental and labor standards. He was the foremost Democratic expert on Social Security, determined to fortify that program for future generations.

BOB MATSUI stood out as a committed leader of the Democratic Caucus. He did an extraordinary job in what is our party's toughest assignment, that is, the chairmanship of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, recruiting our candidates, raising untold amounts of money, keeping us motivated and focused.

He had the toughest assignment in our caucus, and he did it with grace and with great effectiveness.

BOB MATSUI stood out for his extraordinary and distinctive personal story. As a child he was one of 120,000 Japanese Americans interned in camps during World War II. I learned about BOB's story early in my service in Congress as he helped many of us understand the need for the Japanese American redress act, belatedly passed by this Chamber in 1988.

BOB MATSUI stood out as a warm friend and supportive colleague. He was a man who took time to get to know his colleagues. He was a wonderful listener, a great encourager, always willing to share credit and to seek a common basis for action.

BOB was one of our most reasonable Members. Surely he was one of our most reasonable colleagues. He was persuasive precisely because we knew he was a man of his word, and we knew he was a man of utter integrity.

Like many here, I considered BOB a close friend, generous with his counsel, with ready encouragement, and I will miss him greatly.

My wife and I have also treasured our friendship with BOB and Doris MATSUI as a couple. Doris has made major contributions of her own to our country, particularly as a Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of Public Liaison in the White House for the Clinton administration, and she has been a strong and loyal partner to BOB in his endeavors.

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Doris and her family, hoping that she may draw comfort and strength from the outpouring of affection and respect from BOB's and her many friends and admirers this evening and in the days to come.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I say to Doris, she married a nice man.

The Congressman that we mourn tonight can be described in many ways. It is not often that we use the word "nice" and people understand the fullness of what it means. BOB MATSUI was a nice person and a nice man. He was a committed man and a dedicated public servant.

I enjoyed talking to him because we had a commonality. He started on the Sacramento City Council, and he made me feel that, coming from the city council in my town.

He loved Sacramento. He rose to be the vice mayor of that town, but it made him sensitive to the local needs of people. So, even though I would view him to be the crafter, the definer of the modern day Social Security in these days, I know that he also understood when a pothole got your last tire, that made him a man who cared about the little things but understood the big things.

I note his love and affection for the Committee on Ways and Means. Yes, if one can love a committee, BOB loved his committee. He loved his fellow committee persons. He loved his ranking member, whom he called chairman. They had a special bond and a special unity, cared about each other, and of course BOB was not a narrow thinker. One may have come from Texas, may have come from New York, Missouri or somewhere else, but he embraced you.

I will never forget his steady hand in this last very challenging election cycle. If you did not toe the line, BOB had a way of giving you a call and making sure that you did what you needed to do to get good folk elected. He stayed steadfast in the last days of the Louisiana election, but most of all his special story is worth noting, and to his wife Doris, his son Brian, daughter-in-law Amy and granddaughter Anna, he will go down as an icon of American history.

I cannot imagine an internment. I have a history that relates to that, but I never was a slave. But yes, this humble Congressperson started his early life interned in the United States of America. His story is unfortunately part of America's story, but even with that experience this giant of a man rose to be a leader in this Congress and to be able to turn us away from those ways that were wrong.

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

Thank you, BOB, Congressman MATSUI, for living amongst us. Thank you for being a man of honor. Thank you, Doris, Brian, Amy and Anna, for giving him to us. God bless you and may your soul rest in peace.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great sorrow to join my colleagues in remembering and honoring our colleague, our dear friend, BOB MATSUI.

BOB MATSUI was a fine man. He loved his family, he loved his country and he loved this House, the institution he served for 26 years, and in return, we loved him.

He loved his family. He loved his country. We loved his gentle manner and incisive mind. We loved his tenacity and fair-mindedness, his policy expertise and political skill. He was a true leader of this caucus and the California delegation, a real hero to Japanese Americans and a true fighter for economic opportunity, fiscal accountability and social justice. Like so many, I cannot imagine debating the future of Social Security and many other issues without BOB.

While the Nation will suffer from his loss, the family's loss is deeper and greater than we could possibly imagine. My heart goes out to Doris, Brian, Amy and little Anna. He was so proud of Anna and was so happy to share pictures of her with all of us, and Doris, you were truly his partner, and he spoke so often of Brian and Amy and their joy at Anna's birth. I know he loved them and he was so proud of them.

I also want to extend my condolences to his wonderful, hardworking staff, both here on the Hill and at the DCCC, his close circle of former staff, as well as to the people of the Fifth District of California. BOB was a kind, principled man, a valued colleague and a very dear friend. I will miss him greatly.

We love you, BOB. You will always remain in our hearts and your outstanding work will always be an example to this House of Representatives.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, in my 30 years in the Congress I have had the honor and the privilege of meeting so many people from so many different walks of life, not just my colleagues that I have served with in the House of Representatives but obviously the people that I represent and the people who come to the Nation's Capitol to seek our help in so many endeavors that they are engaged in their families and their livelihoods. There are a few who are very special. They stand out in our professional life. They stand out as our peers and our colleagues.

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

BOB MATSUI was a very special person, for all of the reasons that my colleagues have said here tonight. We all know that at his core was the gold standard in conviction, in morality and integrity and in giving us the unvarnished truth from time to time when we did not agree with him.

I think that is one of the reasons we were so fond of him. When you had a disagreement with him, he sought you out and he wanted to discuss it with you, face to face, person to person, colleague to colleague, trying to work out the difficulties to make this a better country, but when you discussed it with him, you understood that he was clinging to principle, and he was clinging to integrity because it was the core of his existence.

Many have referred to the fact of his family's experience in the internment camp, and I do not think there is any question but that gave him a compass to set a course on the issues of social justice and opportunity in this society and civil rights. It is unparalleled, I think.

We all work in these fields, and we have some outstanding individuals in this Congress that I have served with over 30 years who have fought these fights. BOB was one of those.

I had the opportunity to work with him on the reparations bill and in the Manzanar Historic Monument bill of one of the internment camps so that this country could remember what happened in the Tule Lake and the other internment centers.

I do not know what else to say except that this is the loss of a really special person who was a wonderful friend, who was a great credit to this institution and who leaves behind a magnificent legacy along with a magnificent family, a family that no spouse or father could have been more proud of than he was of Doris and Brian and daughter-in-law Amy and his new granddaughter Anna.

To see him and Doris at public events, engaged in their community and the partnership that they had and their conferring back and forth on the issues and the battles that he was engaged in, was a wonderful experience. I am going to miss him greatly. I think this country is going to miss him even more.

Mr. LEWIS of California. I very much apologize being as late as I am. I meant to be here earlier, but I am glad I walked in as my colleague the gentleman from California (Mr. George Miller) was making his remarks, for the emotion that we could feel in his very presence and voice is a reflec-

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

tion of how all of us feel, and I join in this celebration of our friend BOB MATSUI.

All of us who care about public affairs and the Congress absolutely know that fundamental to our success in solving people's problems involves our understanding of just how important people are to our entire process.

The gentleman from California (Mr. George Miller) and I got to know each other first in Sacramento, and at that very time, overlapping our service, our friend BOB MATSUI was serving on the city council. I learned to get to know BOB in a different venue, however, for he and I were elected in 1978 and came here as freshmen, not so long ago.

BOB MATSUI, as you have heard from many a person, is a fabulous reflection of the best of public affairs.

I would like my colleagues to know that while we all believe public policy is what we should really be about, looking for the solutions to problems that the people care about, looking for alternative avenues for making a difference, when it comes to it in the final analysis we are all in this together.

The American public has grown tired of that rhetoric that we hear all too often that reflects the fringe of our dialog; and far from that fringe but rather right in the heart of the best of us was a personality we have been discussing today, ROBERT MATSUI of Sacramento, of the Committee on Ways and Means, a wonderful human being, who was willing to look you in the eye, and tell you what he thought when he disagreed with you. All too often, and much more, he was putting his arm around you and telling you what you did well and what he thought of you on the positive side.

If we could take the extreme from our rhetoric and the dialog around here and remember BOB MATSUI suddenly because of that, this House, great as it is, would indeed be an even better place.

I am pleased to take just a moment to express to Doris, their family, all their friends in Sacramento, how much we will miss them and how much pain we feel for especially his personal family. Our own friends in Sacramento who remain have talked often about the greatness of this man. We only had a chance of getting to know that by having the privilege of serving with him here.

With that, let me bid BOB adieu and join with all of his dear friends here in expressing our love and prayers for not just his family, but the future, the future of those he served, and know that we will all miss his service.

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. We have heard tonight so many of our colleagues speak of BOB and describe BOB in so many different ways. He was a great American. We are in mourning in this House. His constituents are in mourning. California is in mourning, and the Nation has lost a giant.

BOB was a giant through and through. He grew up in Sacramento out in the valley, went to Cal Berkeley, went to law school at Hastings College of Law. He was the first Asian American to hold a leadership position in the House of Representatives. When I became the chairperson of the California Democratic delegation in the 108th Congress, and he had always been a mentor to me, he upped his mentorship of me at that time. It is something I have always been immensely grateful for.

We have talked about his leadership on a variety of issues: Social Security, the reparations bills, and health care for children. The list goes on and on. But we are mourning him today as someone we knew also as a friend.

Some in the papers have said he was mild-mannered, and my thought was that the BOB I knew was tough as nails and focused. Yes, he was mild-mannered. He was polite is what he was, but he never lost focus on what he was for. He loved his parents because they gave him a framework to understand the world. And it is important to understand that a great injustice was done to his family and to him, but he was never bitter about that because it allowed him to appreciate also the gift he was given, as so many of us were, of opportunity here in America.

I believe that is really what fueled his passion here for the issues he fought for, the opportunity that others should have that was given to him. It was not just limited to his constituents, whom he loved dearly, but was for all Americans.

I can recall several years ago a situation in Silicon Valley. He was very interested in technology. Entrepreneurs had been hit with a weird tax and had lost everything in the AMT-ISO disaster. These were Silicon Valley people, but BOB came from Sacramento and sat all day in San Jose to listen to their stories because he cared about them, whether they were his constituents or not.

BOB was one of our most compassionate Members, one of our most focused Members, but I also want to talk about BOB the family person. I do not think there was ever a son as brilliant as Brian, if you listened to BOB. Nor was there a daughter-in-law as wonderful as Amy; and never a grand-

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

child as creative and adorable as Anna; not to mention his wonderful spouse, Doris. Many of us have spouses. We love our spouses, but Doris had almost a unique relationship among spouses in the House because not only was she BOB's life partner, she was BOB's partner in political life and in policy life. She stood up for the people of the Fifth District of California every bit as much as BOB MATSUI stood up for those people.

We thank Doris for her many years of service with BOB for those constituents and for Americans.

Just a final word. BOB had said he was having a few health problems. I had no idea how serious they were; but certainly BOB MATSUI knew how serious they were. Even though BOB knew he was ill, he kept working for us. He was chair of the DCCC, not because he was on an ego trip. In fact, he did not want the job; we made him do it. He fought those fights because he believed that the ideals of the Democratic Party for Social Security, for a safety net, for education, for opportunity for hardworking people who play by the rules to get ahead, those were values that were core to him. And even though he put his own health at risk, he fought on for us.

I want to thank Doris for allowing him to do that. It is a sacrifice that is immense. We all feel the loss today. I thank Doris; his wonderful son, Brian; Amy; his granddaughter, Anna. I think back on the many times we spent in California enjoying ourselves. He was a Cal graduate, but it did not stop him from being a Stanford fan as well, which I always appreciated.

I loved BOB MATSUI, as did the entire delegation. We miss him a great deal. Other people will follow his steps, but no one will be able to fill them completely in our hearts.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chair of our California Democratic delegation for her wonderful words about BOB MATSUI.

Anyone who did not know BOB MATSUI and just turned on the television tonight would have to be impressed by the array of comments from so many different Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle about this exceptional person. There is no way to exaggerate how wonderful he was. He was a person of great intellect and great passion. He was a person of great gentility and of great strength when it came to debating his points.

Ever since Members and colleagues and staff on the Hill and reporters and the media learned of his death, they have

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

come and said, BOB MATSUI would go out of his way to come by and say hello. He always smiled, he always asked about people's well-being and how they were doing and could he be helpful. He was a gentle man. But again, he had a strength about him that if he thought on a matter of public policy someone was abandoning the children of America or the seniors of America or America's working families, he made it quite clear to them that in his eyes he was losing respect for them because he thought that is what we came here to do.

So many Members have talked about his talent, his personality, his love of family which was preeminent because at the end of the day that is, of course, what matters most. I visited Doris MATSUI on Sunday evening to extend the condolences of BOB's colleagues to her, and to say how magnificently received BOB was after the election; that even though we did not win, every time his name was mentioned or he was introduced, he would receive a standing ovation from the members of the Democratic Caucus because he dealt with them honestly. He worked so hard and so smartly for our success, it just was not to be; but they appreciated the leadership he provided.

Just to talk about a few things, we had the occasion the last night that we were here, December 8, to have a dinner in appreciation of those who helped us in our efforts. We surprised BOB because it was turned on him, and we expressed our appreciation to him. The gentleman from New York (Mr. Rangel), the ranking member, was so eloquent and spoke from the heart about BOB MATSUI. It really was stunning to BOB. It was a gift that God gave us that we would have that opportunity to express appreciation to him. This is a very, very modest man and all of that attention was stunning to him.

So when I said to Doris, remember the dinner and it was so wonderful, she said he talked about it so much and he talked about the toast of the gentleman from New York (Mr. Rangel) and how the Members expressed their appreciation and how surprised he was and how much it meant to him.

So to my Democratic colleagues, thank you for the generosity that you extended to BOB MATSUI. I hope it is a comfort to those of us who loved him and all of us in our caucus that we did have an opportunity to say thank you to him in a very special way. It was quite remarkable. I think all of my colleagues will agree that my colleagues were clamoring for BOB to be reappointed to the DCCC. Indeed, he had that

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

opportunity, and he was willing to serve, except God had other plans.

It is important to note that in the summer of this year one of BOB's very closest friends, Steve Thompson, exactly BOB's age, was diagnosed just a few weeks before he died, and it was a complete and total surprise. He, like BOB, was a very respected member in the Sacramento, CA, community. They were very dear friends since seventh grade. When BOB came to his new school, not a very athletic appearance anyway, Steve was a big man on campus and he said he just wrapped his arm around BOB MATSUI and that made it OK for everybody, and they were friends for life.

Nobody would have ever expected 6 months ago that death would come this summer for Steve and now for BOB. Steve's death took a lot out of BOB. He seemed so saddened by it, as we are saddened by his passing. In any event, Doris told us that BOB left us peacefully, just the way he lived, surrounded by people who loved him. Again, Anna saying da-da. He took her to his office on December 23, had their pictures taken in front of the Capitol. Well, when you have been here 26 years, a picture in front of the Capitol is a picture at your desk because he had a special office. It was his plan, and he was bragging about it that he was going to take Anna to be here today with him because she was born since the last swearing in. Again that was not to be.

In any event, when Anna is old enough to read about her grandfather, she will know he was one of the most dedicated public servants in our country. He was a true patriot, he was a decent man, he loved his family, and he was a best friend to almost everybody in the Congress of the United States.

There is so much to say, but everybody knows that our thoughts and prayers are with Doris, Brian, Amy and Anna who shared BOBBY with us and inspired his commitment for a brighter future for America.

Imagine that his family and he as a small child were in a Japanese internment camp. Again, as the gentlewoman from California (Ms. Zoe Lofgren) said, it only heightened his love for America because he knew that we could do better and he would be a part of that. I will close by saying that one of the pleasures we had at this dinner on December 8, as the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. Lewis) reminds me, I always said during the campaign that BOB MATSUI was a maestro, that he was orchestrating all of this activity all over the country. This man who unbeknownst to us had this diag-

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

nosis, and it was not supposed to be fatal, but the pneumonia was.

In any event, he would be working so hard for senior citizens all day on a Social Security issue and orchestrating hundreds, thousands of young people throughout the country to be involved in campaigns to make the future better. He had a way of channeling the enthusiasm that he had for issues into the activism that was necessary to make a difference.

At this party we gave him a baton recognizing the maestro that he was and is. We will just miss him terribly.

The poet Longfellow wrote:

Were a star quenched on high,
For ages would its light,
Still traveling downward from the sky,
Shine on our mortal sight.
So when a great man dies,
For years beyond our ken,
The light he leaves behind him lies
Upon the paths of men.

BOB MATSUI's light will always shine, one that will guide us to a better America, and that was his dream.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to add my remarks to the glowing ones we have heard regarding the untimely passing of our dear colleague, BOB MATSUI. To have known BOB MATSUI is to be heartbroken by his death. I believe that our Republican colleagues would agree. Especially for Democrats, however, the loss is profoundly felt three times over. First, there was the man whose human dimensions of kindness, consideration, and friendly persuasion made him instantly likeable and one of the most admired and respected Members across the political spectrum. Second, there was the successful party leader, who had just completed his term as a hugely successful chair of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. And third, there was the Democratic seer of Social Security whom we were depending upon to lead us through the coming crucial Social Security debate, one of the several subjects whose Byzantine complexities BOB had mastered as third ranking on the Ways and Means Committee. Congress and the country could not afford to lose even one of these three BOB MATSUIs. Now, sadly we have lost all three. As we mourn the loss of one of the country's most effective public servants, we celebrate our good fortune that BOB MATSUI gave his life to public service.

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my condolences to the family of BOB MATSUI. BOB was my friend for 13 years. Even though we sat on opposite sides of the aisle we shared a bond as fellow Californians, and he always had my utmost respect.

In this House BOB always strove to do the best for his district, his State, and his country. He entered Congress with a distinguished class in 1978 and made a lasting impression. His 26 years here were an example of how a man can be an effective promoter of his party and the consummate gentleman at the same time. Even in the most partisan of positions, chairman of his party's Congressional Campaign Committee, BOB took the high road and set an example for us to follow. He was a man of unparalleled integrity, compassion, intelligence and dedication.

I will miss BOB MATSUI. I know that the people of California, the United States, and the Members of this body share my sentiments.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in profound sadness to express my deepest sympathy to the family and friends of the Honorable ROBERT MATSUI. I was shocked to learn of the untimely death of our colleague and friend BOB, with whom I was so fortunate to serve for 24 years.

BOB was truly a great man who triumphed over adversity to help lead our Nation. During World War II the United States wrongfully interned 120,000 American citizens and permanent resident aliens of Japanese ancestry. From his earliest days, BOB faced this brutal devastation as he and his family were rounded up, torn from their home and sent to the desolation of a detention camp in Tule Lake, CA.

Tempered by tragedy, BOB walked from the darkness of that detention to lead the fight for passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. That historic legislation acknowledged the fundamental injustice of the internment, apologized on behalf of the people of the United States and made restitution to those interned. He called upon us to serve a high purpose and reminded us that while we addressed the injustice done, we were also protecting fundamental American values enshrined in our Constitution.

This remarkable accomplishment gave added weight to U.S. human rights policy and credibility to our statements about other countries' human rights violations. While no amount of apology or restitution fully rectifies the denial of human rights, BOB understood that the acknowledgment of this past injustice was an important step forward. BOB and

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

I shared that commitment to improve civil rights and human rights all over the world.

BOB MATSUI's long involvement in public service resulted in an impressive record of success in Sacramento and Washington. Among other achievements he was a legislative leader on Social Security as a member of the House Ways and Means Committee. He rallied House Democrats with integrity and spirit as chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

We mourn the loss of a good and decent man, a leader with such virtue, a fellow Californian, and a friend. We will carry a heavier burden without his strength to depend upon. My wife Annette and I extend our wishes of solace and peace for his wife Doris, his son Brian, his daughter-in-law Amy and his granddaughter Anna during this most difficult time.

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember a dedicated public servant and great friend, ROBERT T. MATSUI.

It was a privilege and honor serving with BOB. Although we only served together for one term, I learned a great deal from BOB—starting when I worked at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue—about protecting Social Security, expanding free trade, welfare reform, and giving American families more opportunities to prosper.

His selfless determination, borne from his early childhood experiences—resulted in a lifelong commitment to heal our Nation's wounds and make amends for past wrongs.

Answering President John F. Kennedy's call, BOB inspired generations of Americans who dedicated themselves to public service, including minorities and the Asian American community in particular.

His leadership in this Chamber resulted in a formal apology for the treatment of Japanese Americans interned and discriminated against during World War II.

BOB never shied away from difficult debates. While seeking innovative ways to help America's employees stay competitive in the global economy, he championed President Clinton's North American Free Trade Agreement and secured a strong, bipartisan vote in the House for permanent free trade relations with China.

His efforts helped fuel the largest economic expansion in our Nation's history, and opened new lines of communication and cultural understanding around the world.

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

We will miss BOB's strong and uncompromising leadership on Social Security, a void in this Chamber that will be very difficult to fill.

Mr. Speaker, ROBERT MATSUI was a man I was proud to call my friend. May God bless his wife Doris and the Matsui family in this difficult hour as we honor the memory of a man truly loved and respected by his peers and his country, and whose contributions will always be remembered in this Chamber.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in expressing profound sorrow on the loss of one of this House's most highly respected and widely regarded Members, the Honorable BOB MATSUI of Sacramento.

With his passing, we have lost a national conscience in Congress. Although I had the privilege to serve with him for only 2 of his 26 years of distinguished service in the House, it did not take long for me to realize after arriving here as a freshman that he was truly a man of distinction. His leadership in many ways was subtle, but firm and strong.

I had the honor of serving with him on the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, and recognize today, along with many Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, his long-standing commitment and contributions to the progress of our communities. It was through his diligence, as many have recounted and memorialized this evening, that healing and justice was brought through the enactment of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which authorized reparations and a formal apology to surviving Japanese Americans who had been detained in U.S. concentration camps during World War II. This is just but one of the lasting landmark accomplishments of his leadership.

On so many other accounts and in so many other ways, he was there for those in need of a voice in Congress. A reliable and true public servant, for the disadvantaged, for our seniors, and for our young Americans, who he inspired with his example and character.

BOB MATSUI was a gifted leader who epitomized the noblest qualities of public service. On behalf of the people of Guam, I extend our deepest sympathies to his wife Doris and their family and to the people of the Fifth District of California.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, when I opened my holiday cards this season, one in particular stood out. It was bigger than the others. It was more colorful. It had several pictures

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

instead of just one. It was from the Matsui family, and just about every picture included young Anna Matsui, BOB's only grandchild.

The love that this man had for his family, and this little girl in particular, practically jumped off the page. It saddens me deeply that Anna won't grow up knowing more of her grandpa, but I am certain that her parents and her grandmother will not let her forget him. She will grow up strengthened by his leadership, his integrity, and his kindness.

I couldn't look at Anna's pictures without thinking that, when BOB was her age, he was living in an internment camp with other Japanese Americans who had been rounded up and incarcerated after the attack on Pearl Harbor. It was, of course, one of the great stains on our Nation's history, and BOB spent his public life trying to somehow correct that ugly injustice. I imagine that BOB's connection to Anna was stronger because his own early years were so unsettled, because he wanted his granddaughter to have a childhood full of innocence and happy memories.

BOB MATSUI stood out in this Chamber—for his policy intellect; for his sense of compassion and justice; for the esteem he earned on both sides of the aisle; but most of all for his fundamental decency. That decency was apparent in his work, whether he was securing flood protection for Sacramento or fighting for Social Security. And there's no question that we'll miss BOB MATSUI's expertise as we debate the future of Social Security this year.

There was no separation between BOB MATSUI's private virtues and public virtues. They were one and the same. He treated everyone with respect; he didn't raise his voice a lot; he was a lot more steak than sizzle. To be honest, these are qualities that are not in abundance around here these days. I hope that our memories of BOB MATSUI will lead us to conduct ourselves with greater civility in this new Congress.

Very few of us knew that BOB was sick, which is why the news of his death came as such a shock. But that modesty was consistent with the way BOB lived. Rather than go public with his illness, he preferred simply to be surrounded by the love of his family.

Of course, even the most unassuming among us have another side to them. As I was reading the obituary in the *Sacramento Bee*, I was taken aback by one friend's remembrance—of a shirtless BOB MATSUI in the stands at a Cal

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

football game rabidly rooting for his team and challenging the other team's fans.

Now, if you asked the Members of this body to rank their colleagues in order of most likely to remove their shirt at a football game . . . BOB would've finished close to 435th of 435. And remember that includes more than 70 women.

Our thoughts and prayers are with BOB's wife, Doris Matsui, whom all of us know as an impressive advocate and public servant in her own right. And with Brian, Amy and Anna Matsui and everyone who loved this dear man. BOB MATSUI—rest in peace.

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of a man who represented the best in American politics and government.

Congressman MATSUI was what many of us aspire to be as lawmakers. He was a passionate advocate for his constituents, upheld the highest ethical standards, and conducted himself with the utmost civility.

He never failed to be there for others who were less experienced. When I first ran for Congress, he served as my mentor. BOB visited my district several times, and we became good friends. I appreciated his advice and benefited greatly from his expertise on issues such as Social Security.

But I was most impressed with how BOB went about his daily business calmly and with a composure that helped him gain the respect that he deserved.

His devotion to others was remarkable and unrelenting, and he could always be relied upon to do the right thing. His contributions to our country, particularly on behalf of Japanese Americans, will never be forgotten.

We are all better for his efforts. While I am greatly saddened that he is no longer with us, it is my honor to be able to recognize and pay tribute to such a fine American.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support this resolution to express profound sorrow upon the death of Congressman MATSUI. I join my colleagues to honor and remember my good friend Congressman BOB MATSUI, a true leader in the House of Representatives whose passing leaves us all with a sense of great loss.

I would like to thank my colleagues, Congressman Stark and Congresswoman Lofgren, and the rest of the California Democratic Delegation for their swift leadership to pay tribute to our friend, BOB.

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

I would like to say “thank you” to Doris, his wife and life-long partner, to his son Brian, his daughter-in-law Amy, and to his granddaughter for sharing him with us in Congress. In addition to the adoration of his wonderful family, BOB had the love and respect of both his constituents and his colleagues. He was a courageous and passionate leader who served California’s Fifth Congressional District for 26 years.

As a Member of Congress and as chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, CAPAC, I had the honor of working with Congressman MATSUI. BOB was instrumental in making CAPAC a reality, and served as a CAPAC executive board member since its inception in 1994.

Throughout his career, Congressman MATSUI championed causes affecting civil liberties and immigrants’ rights. As a dedicated member of the Asian Pacific Islander American, APIA, community, BOB fought for a formal apology from our government for its wrongful internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. Congressman MATSUI and Secretary Norman Mineta led the way in passing the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. As an American of Japanese ancestry, Congressman MATSUI helped obtain the land necessary for the National Japanese American Memorial, which recognizes Japanese American patriotism and honors members for never losing faith in the basic principles embodied in our Nation’s Constitution.

Along with Congressman MATSUI and Secretary Mineta, I experienced internment as a young Japanese American during World War II. BOB was only 6 months old when he and his family were interned at the Tule Lake Camp just months after the attack on Pearl Harbor. BOB understood the injustice of internment and sympathized with the other loyal Americans who suffered at the hands of the government in which they never lost faith.

BOB MATSUI listened to people, and set about helping them with compassion and dignity. Whether he was fighting for flood control on behalf of his constituents in Sacramento or defending those without a voice, BOB dedicated his entire career to public service. From the time he worked as a member of the Sacramento City Council, to serving as the vice mayor of Sacramento, and finally as a U.S. Representative starting in 1978, BOB MATSUI served as a constant reminder of what integrity and dedication can accomplish in public office.

Congressman MATSUI truly believed in the U.S. Constitution and its promise of “a more Perfect Union.” He relied on those values embedded in the Constitution in fights to en-

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

sure adequate health care for children and provide a safety net for needy families and the elderly. BOB's leadership as the third ranking Democrat on the House Ways and Means Committee and the ranking member on the Social Security Subcommittee earned him a reputation as an expert on tax and trade policy, Social Security and welfare programs. In the 109th Congress, BOB's presence, heart, and soul will be missed during the great debate over Social Security.

Mr. Speaker, BOB MATSUI should ultimately be remembered for his civility, his dignity, and his service to others. He was a selfless role model whose footprint will forever be imprinted on our Nation's history.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of the Honorable ROBERT MATSUI who served Sacramento, CA, for 27 years. Just last month, Representative MATSUI was reelected to another term by a winning percentage of 71.4 percent. Sadly, he passed from this life on New Year's Day, January 1, 2005.

For the past 2 years, I have been honored to serve with Representative MATSUI on the Ways and Means Committee and its Social Security Subcommittee. During that time, I observed that BOB had a deep understanding of Social Security and tax policy, which was reflected in his masterful handling of committee work and interactions with colleagues.

He was a Congressperson's Congressperson. He was a great leader. He was generous with his time and his talent. He was willing to share the limelight. On several occasions he invited me to serve as ranking member on the Social Security Subcommittee, what a privilege. His generosity will be sorely missed.

As the 109th Congress convenes today, it is fitting that we honor BOB MATSUI's legacy. During the 109th Congress we will undertake discussions on gutting the Social Security Program, a program that BOB understood as an important safety net for not only senior citizens but also disabled persons and minor children of deceased parents. BOB was a strong proponent of the idea that privatizing Social Security would lead to its demise by making it financially unviable. He worked tirelessly to reform the program and make it operate more efficiently, without compromising its purpose.

A biblical proverb states that "Good men must die, but death cannot kill their names." Representative ROBERT MATSUI's legacy will live on in the Congress as we continue his long-standing work to preserve Social Security and our coun-

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

try's ideals of helping those who need and deserve it. We will miss him, but his name will not be forgotten.

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, the death of Congressman ROBERT MATSUI is a tremendous loss for his family, the families he represented in California and everyone who knew him. BOB was a wonderful man, a kind and gentle spirit who loved his job and the people he worked for, and I feel privileged to have served as his colleague in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Throughout his distinguished career in public service, Congressman MATSUI, a third-generation American, vigorously defended justice and fairness—values forged very early in his life when his family was imprisoned in the Tule Lake Internment Camp in California during World War II. Despite being interned as a young boy, BOB remained optimistic and determined that everyone should be treated equally and with respect. He believed in the promise of America and took from his experience a strong belief in civil rights as well as a passion for public service.

In Congress, Mr. MATSUI was steadfast in acting on these values, championing basic rights for all Americans and leading the effort in which the U.S. Government formally apologized to Japanese Americans for the World War II internment program. In the 26 years that he served in the U.S. House of Representatives, BOB rose to national prominence as a senior member of the powerful Ways and Means Committee, a national spokesman for Social Security, and as the first Asian American in the leadership of Congress.

As a crusader for America's seniors, Mr. MATSUI led the fight to preserve Social Security. He reached out to Members, new and old, helping them understand the complexities of Social Security as well as its impact on the daily lives of our seniors.

BOB truly exemplified a gentleman. He served with distinction and integrity, winning the respect and admiration of all who worked with him.

I extend my deepest condolences to the Matsui family—his wife Doris, son Brian, daughter-in-law Amy and granddaughter Anna—as well as to his staff and the people of California. BOB's integrity, devotion and compassion will be greatly missed.

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a sad heart to honor a great man, a dedicated public servant and a good friend. In our own ways, each of us will miss something spe-

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

cial about BOB MATSUI. Let me share with my colleagues my own experience with him.

BOB MATSUI gave me my first job on Capitol Hill. In July 1979, I went to work for him as a part-time assistant, entering constituent information into a computer, and then helping to write legislative correspondence. BOB was a freshman Member then, but even at that time I realized he was to have a long and brilliant career in the Congress. Twenty-two years later we reunited on the floor. Just recently I showed him a photograph we took together on the steps of the Capitol. The color was faded and the paper brittle. But I kept it throughout the years to remind me of the first Member of Congress who gave me an opportunity in public service.

BOB MATSUI embodied the best values of public service. He believed so strongly in opportunity here at home and through sensible trade policies abroad. It was an honor to have had the opportunity to learn from a man who put the good of his constituents and of Americans generally over partisanship and political one-upmanship. It is a lesson I have strived to apply during my own tenure in this body.

BOB MATSUI set an example for all of us with his integrity and dedication. He will be greatly missed.

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise to express my deepest regrets over the loss of my friend and colleague, BOB MATSUI.

My thoughts and prayers are with the Matsui family—especially Doris, Brian, Amy, and Anna.

Our country has lost a great leader. BOB MATSUI personified integrity and passion. He served California and America with great conviction and dedication to his beliefs.

BOB MATSUI was an inspiration to all Americans. Although he was taken to a Japanese American internment camp at only 6 months old, he never gave up his dedication to bettering our great country. He later became a leader of the movement for redress of Japanese Americans interned during World War II. Even though much time had passed, he still sought justice for all Americans.

BOB MATSUI also fought tirelessly for America's senior citizens. As ranking member of the Social Security Subcommittee, he worked diligently to protect seniors' retirement funds. He strongly opposed risky schemes to privatize Social Security and worked to make seniors aware of the faults of these plans.

As chair of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, BOB MATSUI passionately believed in the message of

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

the Democratic Party, and dedicated himself tirelessly to spreading that message.

BOB MATSUI is an inspiration to all Americans. His strong desire to serve his community and his country led him to become one of the most beloved leaders of this Congress.

BOB MATSUI will be missed by his country, his community, his family and his friends. He will long be remembered as a great American statesman.

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to our departed colleague, BOB MATSUI. BOB was an extraordinarily talented patriot and Member of this House.

BOB's generation of House Members struck out to change the world—or at least change their government in the aftermath of Watergate and the abuses of power in the Nixon administration. He did change the world, representing a district in California and representing the House on the world stage.

He was a unique political mind and political talent. While he was passionate for caring for the less fortunate in our society, he was also pragmatic about how democratic ideals and reforms come about on the world stage.

We shared the philosophy that world trade engenders better relationships between nations and offers a greater opportunity to spread democracy to developing nations or nations that were not traditionally democratic.

BOB's greatest legislative talent—and there were many—was his down-to-earth ability to comprehend and explain in laymen's terms all matters related to Social Security. In this political season when the President has made clear his intention to raid Social Security, we will most certainly miss BOB's leadership in this important and fundamental debate in Congress.

Today the Nation says goodbye to a decent and big minded colleague. BOB was not afraid to learn. And he was not afraid to forgive. Even after his family was interned as a child—with Japanese Americans at the outbreak of WWII—BOB forgave the people who imprisoned his family. He forgave his country, then he went on to serve this Nation with enormous talent.

BOB wanted to make the world better. He did make the world a better place and he made the House of Representatives a better place given his presence in it. He deeply believed in what he said, but he was open enough to listen to—and hear—the ideas of others, as well.

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

I will miss him . . . we will all miss him. And we offer our deepest condolences to his dear wife, Doris, and his son, Brian.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to honor one of our country's great leaders, and a dear friend, Congressman ROBERT MATSUI.

BOB MATSUI was a valued colleague to every Member of the House. He was a leading expert on countless issues that have a profound effect on the lives of millions of Americans, not the least of which is Social Security. From his seat on the Ways and Means Committee, BOB fought on behalf of seniors and children, and sought to build thoughtful bipartisan consensus on one tough issue after another.

BOB approached this job with grace, fairness, and dignity. Even though he was chairman of our party's political committee, he never put partisanship above principle. His intelligence was only exceeded by his compassion. We always refer to one another as "gentleman" and "gentle lady" on this floor, but there is no Member of Congress for whom the term "gentleman" is more appropriate. It is indeed fitting to hold this tribute on the day we swear in the new Congress, because the way BOB conducted himself should be a model for all of us—freshmen and senior Members alike.

BOB was a cherished friend and valued mentor to both my late husband Walter and me. When Walter was first elected to Congress, BOB was one of the first people he sought out to ask for advice on his new job. As usual, BOB was generous with his time and his wisdom. We both learned much from him and I have relied on his policy insights and his political instincts more times than I can remember. I know that I will still instinctively look for him on the floor during a tough vote.

Mr. Speaker, BOB and Doris MATSUI were there for my family and for me when Walter passed away. Today I extend to Doris, Brian, Amy, Anna, and BOB's staff my most heartfelt condolences. I understand how difficult this time is for them. But I am buoyed by knowing that strength in families is never more evident, and important, than during times of adversity and grief. The Matsuis are a strong and wonderful family, and that, perhaps, is BOB's finest legacy of all.

We will miss BOB MATSUI very much. But we will never, ever forget him.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, this past Saturday, our country lost two beloved public servants. Representative

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

ROBERT T. MATSUI and former Representative Shirley Chisholm leave us behind, but our national consciousness will never forget their considerable contributions to pursuing equality and social justice for all Americans. Representatives MATSUI and Chisholm dedicated so much of themselves to others, and the outpouring of support demonstrates the deep impact each had on the lives of others.

Both leaders rose from humble beginnings to the heights of Congress. Representative MATSUI, one of the thousands of Japanese Americans taken to an internment camp during World War II, became an influential member on the powerful House Ways and Means Committee. His passion for social justice shaped the core of his being, reverberating through his promotion of adequate job training, equal access to health care coverage for children, and the preservation of Social Security for our Nation's seniors and disabled citizens. In 1988, he helped win restitution from the U.S. Government for the internment program that negatively affected many surviving Japanese Americans.

Representative Chisholm too overcame great obstacles. As the product of the working neighborhoods of Brooklyn, Shirley Chisholm became the first African American woman elected to Congress in 1968. Her advocacy on civil rights issues, particularly women's rights, was unparalleled as she reached out beyond her local constituency to all Americans. Never willing to allow America to mire in the status quo, Representative Chisholm again broke new ground by offering herself as the first woman to be considered for the Democratic Presidential nomination in 1972.

Though I never had the honor of serving with Representative Chisholm, her legacy echoes throughout the halls of Congress. I witness her strength in my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus, which she helped establish in 1969. I hear her voice in our continued pleas for justice in underserved communities. And I see her focus and passion in the eyes of American children who won't accept discrimination or barriers to opportunity.

Connected by the common bond of their love for humanity, Representatives MATSUI and Chisholm treaded down unmarked paths with determination, fortitude, and notable grace. As a generation of civil rights activists move into the twilight of their advocacy, we must honor their work by passing along their vision for what our country can still become, a land of equality and opportunity for all Americans.

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

Though we have lost these dear friends too soon, we continue to be led by their unmistakable footprints.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join in paying tribute to one of our colleagues whom we lost so unexpectedly on New Year's Day.

BOB MATSUI was one of the most respected Members of this House. During his 26 years of service in Congress, he was an advocate for our Nation's seniors, our children, and for social and economic justice.

From his family's experience in the Japanese internment camps during World War II, BOB learned the importance of protecting the liberties and civil rights that are the foundation of this great country. As an Asian American he understood the obstacles that minorities face in building opportunities for themselves and their families.

BOB MATSUI rose quickly to become a leader in this House because of his political savvy and his detailed knowledge of the issues.

He was dedicated to this House and its institutions. He was also dedicated to the ideals of the Democratic Party. We all know how tirelessly he worked as the chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

Many will remember BOB for his leadership in our party and on the critical national issues of trade and Social Security.

It is true that he understood the values of free trade and the economic prosperity it can provide to communities. He was not afraid to stand up against even his own party on issues in which he passionately believed. As the ranking member of the Social Security Subcommittee, BOB was also a national expert on the subject of retirement and pension.

His knowledge of the intricacies of the Social Security system and his wisdom will be sorely missed during this year's upcoming debate on Social Security reform.

I, however, will remember BOB for something else. I will remember him as a friend and champion of migrant children and their families. BOB helped us in the fight for funding for migrant education programs. For years he also hosted a college assistance migrant intern in his office.

Many of his former interns are now leaders in their professions and communities because of the start BOB gave them.

I want to express my deepest condolences to his family: his wife Doris, his son Brian, his daughter-in-law Amy and his granddaughter Anna. I know how proud BOB was of all of

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

them. The people of California and of this Nation have truly lost a great advocate.

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, my family and I would like to convey our heartfelt sympathy to the Matsui family upon the death of Congressman ROBERT MATSUI on Saturday, January 1.

BOB's passing is a tragic loss to all who knew him. It is also a loss to all Americans who didn't know him personally but whose lives were enhanced by the legislation and the leadership he provided. BOB was one of the smartest and most principled people in Congress, a dedicated public servant and a friend. He will be greatly missed in Congress, especially by me.

First elected 26 years ago, Congressman MATSUI and I entered the U.S. House of Representatives in the same incoming class. We were colleagues and friends throughout these years; our families each moved to the Washington area and our wives Sylvia and Doris also became good friends. One of my fond memories together was attending Brian and Amy's wedding in California a few years ago. Brian also gave me my first official tour of the U.S. Supreme Court facilities, where he clerked recently. His parents were so proud.

Sylvia and I are shocked and deeply saddened by BOB's passing, and we offer Doris and the Matsui family our most sincere condolences.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my late colleague ROBERT T. MATSUI. While his life was cut tragically short, his many achievements and contributions to our Nation will serve as a constant reminder of his hard work, integrity, and determination to advocate for those who were not able to fight for themselves.

Elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1978, BOB served the people of Sacramento for 14 terms focusing on the city's public safety by bringing adequate flood protection to his hometown. He also served as a senior member of the Committee on Ways and Means, covering an array of policy issues such as preserving Social Security for future generations, as well as having adequate basic health care rights for children. Most recently he served as chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee leading the Democratic Party's congressional effort for the 2004 cycle.

When he was 6 months old, BOB, a third-generation Japanese American, and his family, were taken from their home in Sacramento and interned at the Tule Lake Camp after Ja-

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

pan's attack on Pearl Harbor in 1942. He carried this experience with him throughout his life. In 1988, he helped steer the Japanese American redress act through Congress, in which the government formally apologized for the World War II internment program and offered compensation to victims. This experience helped shape his strong belief that every American is entitled to basic civil rights despite their ethnicity.

BOB was also a member of the executive committee of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus. Because of his many achievements and contributions, he was and always will be a role model to the more than 11 million Americans of Asian and Pacific Islander descent in our country.

His presence and driving force will certainly be missed. However, his legacy will live on through the people of Sacramento, the Asian Pacific Islander American community and our Nation as a whole. I offer my deepest condolences to his wife, Doris, son, Brian, daughter-in-law, Amy and granddaughter, Anna. We will miss you, BOB. All Hawaii sends with you on your final journey our deepest and most loving *Aloha*.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to my colleague and friend, BOB MATSUI. As Members of Congress, many factors determine who we form close relationships with. One of those factors is committee assignment. I had the tremendous fortune of serving on the Ways and Means Committee with BOB MATSUI for 15 years. As we worked on tax reform, trade, health, and many other issues, I learned many valuable lessons from him. His dedication to the people of his district and to all the people of this Nation shone through at every hearing and markup.

He had a lifelong commitment to public service and the public good. Even though his early years were spent in a Japanese American internment camp in California, that injustice did not dim his love and devotion to our country. He remained in California, served on the Sacramento City Council and as vice mayor of Sacramento, and eventually came to this House, which he also loved so very much.

For his entire career, he was devoted to the welfare of children, the promotion of free trade, and the preservation of Social Security for future generations. I know that the committee will miss his expertise and good counsel for many Congresses to come. I want to personally extend my heartfelt condolences to his wonderful wife Doris, his son Brian,

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

daughter-in-law Amy, and his granddaughter Anna. We will miss BOB and forever treasure his camaraderie.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, this week our Nation has lost a great leader and statesman from my home State of California, BOB MATSUI. And it is with a great deal of sadness that I join my colleagues to pay tribute to BOB's life and his distinguished record of service and accomplishments during his 26 years as a Member of the House of Representatives. A model of integrity and commitment to his district, his State and our Nation, BOB exemplified the best of this great institution.

By having the privilege of representing an area of Los Angeles with a rich and diverse Asian American population that includes Little Tokyo, Koreatown, Filipinotown, and Chinatown, I am very aware of the positive impact BOB had on the Asian Pacific Islander community and the Japanese American community in particular. Like so many Japanese Americans, BOB's early years were spent with his family in an internment camp during World War II. Anyone viewing the large photo of a youthful BOB MATSUI with his little league baseball teammates which adorns his office wall was reminded of the difficult challenge an Asian American faced growing up in 1950s California. As a young man in that volatile ethnic environment, BOB MATSUI was a standout student who gained admittance to the University of California at Berkeley and distinguished himself academically both there and at the Hastings College of Law.

His early experience became the foundation of his academic success as a young man, and ultimately led him to a career of distinguished public service, first for his local Sacramento City Council, then to this great House. His respect for this institution and his personal and professional integrity were well known and helped BOB become a persuasive advocate on the issues he cared deeply about.

As a member of the Energy and Water Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee, I was honored to work with him on one of the most important issues to California—water. BOB's knowledge of water issues affecting our State, including southern California, and his long record of support for adequate flood control protection for the Sacramento area were brought to bear each year during our committee deliberations as we set priorities for funding the water projects so crucial to Sacramento and to California.

BOB was also a strong advocate of trade and of protecting the rights of our senior citizens. In fact, as the ranking Dem-

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

ocrat on the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Social Security, BOB was our Democratic expert and a leading advocate for the protection of this critical program. BOB was to be our Democratic point person for the upcoming and pivotal debate on Social Security. Understanding the importance of Social Security to our Nation's seniors and the need for the Democratic Party to effectively and successfully confront attacks on the system, his wife Doris told me that BOB continued to plan a Democratic strategy to the very end at Bethesda Naval Hospital.

It was this kind of commitment coupled with his integrity and sincerity that helped to make BOB one of the most respected Members of Congress. This respect also made him one of the most successful chairmen of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. We all know that the DCCC set many records during the 2003–2004 election cycle. I believe this success stemmed from the leadership model that BOB conveyed at the DCCC's helm, and it was also a result of the great esteem in which BOB was held by all segments of our party. I was proud to serve with him as vice chair of the DCCC, and BOB made sure it was indeed a working position. Few Members could have motivated me in quite the same way as BOB MATSUI.

In short, I will miss BOB as a friend and colleague. This House, the Democratic Party, and our Nation have lost a great statesman and a quiet and effective leader. His legacy of accomplishments as a trailblazing Asian American Californian is unlikely to be surpassed. His dedication, dignity, and bipartisan approach to addressing the Nation's problems will be the hallmark of his legacy for both Republicans and Democrats.

In this time of extreme partisanship and frequent legislative gridlock, it is my hope that we can all learn from the example of our friend and colleague, BOB MATSUI.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in paying tribute to Congressman BOB MATSUI of California. The American people will miss this outstanding public servant, and we in the House of Representatives will miss a skilled legislator who approached every issue with a fair mind.

I've lost a friend. BOB and his wife Doris were friends of my wife Pat and me. Our son Chadd and their son, Brian, grew up together as congressional kids.

For the past 2 years, BOB and I were hallmates. In fact, I moved into his old office on the third floor of the Rayburn Building. He always had a smile and hello for anyone he

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

passed in the hall, whether it was a fellow Member, a staffer, or a visitor.

BOB MATSUI was a courageous legislator. He showed great resolve in helping to win approval for the North American Free Trade Agreement. There isn't a tax or trade bill in the last 20 years that doesn't have his stamp on it. He was positively heroic when he had Congress squarely face the issue of the treatment of Japanese Americans during World War II. BOB MATSUI showed us the meaning of dignity and humility as he helped us to acknowledge a wrong. He and his parents were among those held in internment camps, but what was more important to him than his personal history was righting history for thousands of innocent Americans.

Our thoughts and prayers are with BOB's family. As we start a new session of Congress, we should all look to the distinguished career of BOB MATSUI as an example of how we can remain true to our ideals and beliefs while ultimately working together for the good of all Americans.

Ms. BONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a respected colleague in the U.S. Congress whose recent passing will be mourned by all who knew him. With Congressman ROBERT MATSUI's untimely death, America has lost a tireless leader.

As a fellow Californian, I had the pleasure of working with Congressman MATSUI on several issues of importance to our State. I admired his leadership and dedication to his constituency as well as the high level of integrity with which he served.

Congressman MATSUI's 26 years of service are filled with a remarkable number of legislative achievements such as his commitment to free trade that have bettered the lives of many Americans. He was a powerful and respected voice whose memory will continue to be an inspiration for many years to come.

Congressman ROBERT MATSUI was a true leader and served his constituents and country with honor and distinction. The people of Sacramento, CA, were fortunate to have such a talented person for their Representative in Congress.

I will always remember Congressman MATSUI's thoughtfulness; he was always quick with a smile and a kind word. He was a bridge for communication between both sides of the aisle. His legacy of effective leadership will be a model for those that follow him.

My thoughts and prayers are with Doris and the entire Matsui family during this difficult time. Congressman MAT-

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

SUI's positive impact on his country will be remembered forever.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to honor a valued colleague and true gentleman, the late Congressman BOB MATSUI. I met him when I served as a State legislator within his congressional district in Sacramento. Since that time, I have been taken by his approachability and his ability to make those around him feel that he is truly listening to their concerns.

During his 26 years in Congress, he has been a champion on issues that affect the lives of all Californians and Americans, from protecting Social Security to working for civil rights. Congressman MATSUI's fight against privatizing Social Security showed his deep commitment to fighting for the poor or less fortunate in our country. He led the efforts to ensure its fundamental purpose was never compromised.

Congressman MATSUI's strong belief in social justice is apparent by looking at the legislation he championed. He drafted bills that became the backbone for child welfare reform, proposing to expand the social services available to at-risk children and families in the child welfare, mental health and juvenile justice systems. He also fought welfare changes, arguing that adequate job training and education programs were essential to helping parents become self-sufficient. And his bipartisan work to provide health care coverage to uninsured children became the basis of the State Children's Health Insurance Program.

His personal journey, however, could be his most lasting legacy. After spending his infancy in an internment camp during World War II, Congressman MATSUI led the legislative effort to compensate victims of the camps and officially apologize to those held there. A grateful Japanese American community is indebted to his work, as are the rest of us.

I want to send my prayers and condolences to his family: his wife Doris, son Brian, daughter-in-law Amy and granddaughter Anna. For those of us who remain in Congress, we would like you to know that we will continue to fight for the causes and ideals that BOB fought for his entire life.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I am saddened by the sudden loss of ROBERT MATSUI, and I would like to join my colleagues in honoring him today. BOB was one of the finest Members to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives. His strength of character, wisdom, civility, and attention to detail were inspiring to many of us serving with him. His thoughtful and

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

helpful nature has been remembered by many today, but I will always be grateful for his desire to seek out and befriend younger and less senior Members of Congress like me. I join my colleagues in mourning the loss of a friend, a mentor, and a great leader in Congress.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness that I recognize the death of a former colleague and a great Californian, Representative ROBERT MATSUI, who passed away earlier this week.

A third-generation Japanese American, BOB was born in Sacramento and was just a 6-month-old baby when he and his family were imprisoned at the Tule Lake Internment Camp following the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941. Forty years later, he was instrumental in passing the Japanese American redress act, which produced an official apology from the Federal Government for the World War II internment program and offered compensation to victims.

BOB was a quiet and admired Member of Congress. His passion for issues he believed deeply in was respected by his colleagues on both sides of the aisle. He brought dignity and honor to the House of Representatives. BOB was a tax and trade maven on the House Ways and Means Committee, and his knowledge and expertise in these areas will be sorely missed. He was one of a small number of Democrats who pushed for passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

First elected in 1978 following his service to the city of Sacramento, BOB and I were in the same freshman class of Congress as I too was elected that year. I got to know, and become very good friends with BOB during the 26 years we served in the House together.

The people in the Sacramento-based Fifth District lost a good legislator when BOB passed away on January 1, and he will be missed by his friends and family.

It is with a heavy heart that I say goodbye to BOB. My wife Cheryl and I would like to express our condolences to his wife, Doris, and the entire family, in this time of sorrow and sadness. They will be in our prayers.

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a sad heart that I rise today to honor my colleague, the Honorable ROBERT T. MATSUI. Far before these past 4 years where I had the opportunity to work with him in Washington, BOB's work effort, faith and determination were a constant source of inspiration for me.

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

BOB fought in Congress for 26 years on principles that were unshakeable for the betterment of all. He took a genuine interest in Members' concerns, visited Members' districts—including mine in the San Gabriel Valley—and fought hard to ensure equality for the underserved and to bring justice to those wronged. BOB was a champion for Social Security, fought for all of our children and was determined to achieve economic justice.

I am proud to say that BOB MATSUI is among those I consider close personal friends. I send my condolences to his family and I am consoled only by knowing that BOB's legacy will live on, and the world will be better for it.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember my colleague and friend, BOB MATSUI. Both California and America have lost a respected leader and more important, a good man who was committed to his constituents, his family and his Nation.

BOB was a dedicated public servant who worked tirelessly on behalf of his constituents. He always fought for America's children, to create economic justice, and to protect Social Security. His work, accomplishments, and life are an inspiration to all Americans.

I have been honored to serve with and know BOB. Even in a partisan and closely divided Congress, BOB always brought civility and intellect to policy debates. He was an example for all who seek to advance the best public policy.

I know that his colleagues and his constituents will not soon forget BOB—his untimely passing leaves an emptiness in everyone who knew and loved him.

Mr. Speaker, I hope you will join with me in sending our sincerest condolences to his family. I hope that his wife, Doris, and his family can find peace in this difficult time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and the contributions of my good friend and colleague, the Congressman from California, BOB MATSUI, who passed away last Saturday.

During his 26 years of service here in Congress, Mr. MATSUI was a great leader in the House of Representatives, introducing legislation on issues such as welfare reform, health care, tax issues and the environment. His thorough knowledge of the Social Security system made him a strong advocate against proposed reforms that would negatively impact America's elderly population.

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for many of my colleagues when I say I will miss the Congressman from California deeply. When I started here over 16 years ago, Mr. MATSUI was already well established, and I was one of the many beneficiaries of his knowledge and experience.

In many ways Mr. MATSUI brings to mind the late Martin Luther King. In the same way that the Reverend King was able to rise above the challenges facing him in his fight for civil rights for African Americans, Mr. MATSUI, who began his life in a Japanese internment camp during World War II, never retreated into bitterness and instead remained an inspiration and a strong positive force throughout his career, representing not just the Asian American community but his constituency and our country, with honor and pride.

Mr. MATSUI dedicated his life to serving our country. Due to his contributions, the lives of our great country's children, our elderly, and our oppressed have been made better. For that, we are supremely thankful.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues to remember our departed friend not with sadness, but with joy in their hearts that we had the opportunity to be associated with such a strong, inspiring, devoted man.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Congressman ROBERT MATSUI. BOB MATSUI was one of those elected officials who earned the right to be called a "statesman." He was a force for compassion, competence and integrity—as well as a wonderful human being whom I was honored to call my friend. I extend my heartfelt sympathies to his loving wife and family.

Mr. Speaker, BOB MATSUI embodied America's promise, demonstrating how a citizen of humble beginnings could rise to the heights of American governance. BOB also reminded us of our country's sins. During the Second World War, BOB's family was interned in the Tule Lake Internment Camp. This time of curtailed liberties and rampant xenophobia is one of the darker moments of American history.

Mr. Speaker, internment left an indelible mark on BOB MATSUI's family. BOB's mother contracted German measles at Tule Lake, and as a result, BOB's sister was born blind.

The experience also deeply affected BOB, inspiring him to use his platform in Congress to reclaim the dignity of those wrongly interned. BOB worked tirelessly to enact the Japanese American redress act, in which the government formally apologized for internment and offered compensation.

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

Mr. Speaker, James Baldwin once said, "I love America more than any other country in the world, and, exactly for this reason, I insist on the right to criticize her perpetually." BOB MATSUI loved America in just this spirit. When John F. Kennedy told Americans to ask what they could do for their country, BOB pledged to become a public servant. He served diligently for 26 years.

Mr. Speaker, we will miss BOB's leadership as the new Congress wades through the murky waters of Social Security policy. Our Democratic House Leader, Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, was quite accurate when she noted that "America's seniors have lost their best friend in the Congress." I would add only that so have this Nation's children and all of us who seek balanced, progressive solutions to the challenges at the center of people's lives.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of an admirable citizen, respectable public servant and a generous, kind man. Congressman ROBERT MATSUI served the people of California and his Nation in the House of Representatives for 26 years.

BOB gave our country and Congress years of his knowledge and dedication to fighting for civil rights after beginning his life in 1942 in a detention camp for Japanese Americans. He embraced his heritage as well as the hardships Asian Americans faced and channeled it to positive change to make our Nation formally apologize for the internment of Japanese Americans and provide financial compensation to the survivors.

BOB was a true inspiration: as a Member, he was a vital member of the Democratic Party and worked to make his party stronger but never let his dedicated ties refrain him from working with his Republican colleagues; as an American, he listened to President Kennedy to give to his country a life of service and commitment to making life better for all Americans; and as an Asian American, he served as a role model to young Asian Americans that the impossible is never that far away and that they too can become active in government to serve the American people.

Mr. Speaker, BOB MATSUI's loss will leave a large void in this Chamber. Our prayers and thoughts are with his wife Doris and his son Brian.

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise with great sadness as we honor our dear friend and colleague, Congressman BOB MATSUI, who passed away this New Year's Day. I always say

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

that it is a privilege to serve in this body. But for 26 years, it was this institution that was privileged—privileged to call BOB MATSUI one of its Members. He was a compassionate man dedicated to his constituents and family, and resolute in his ideals.

Each of us knows the adroit knowledge of Congress BOB possessed—from his grasp of tax and trade law intricacies, to his drive for basic social justice, to his tireless opposition to those who would weaken Social Security’s guarantee. He was not only smart—he was also principled, and he used both to the fullest throughout his illustrious quarter century in public life.

I know he would have relished the forthcoming debate to fundamentally reform Social Security, to which he surely would have brought the same passion and intelligence he took to his efforts to help his party over the years. As was the case with all things he put his mind to, win or lose, whatever the battle—whether it was welfare reform, Social Security or his chairmanship of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee—the level of discourse was elevated when BOB MATSUI added his voice to the debate. At a time when the tenor of politics in our country has become so abrasive, what BOB MATSUI offered was a precious commodity indeed.

On a personal note, I always felt a close bond to BOB, as we were both children of immigrant parents—his from Japan, mine from Italy. He spoke of how spending the first 5 years of his life in a Japanese internment camp haunted him for the rest of his life. But the experience unquestionably gave him a lifelong commitment to civil rights and social justice. It gave him a genuine empathy for people that one could trace from his friendships to his work on issues like trade, welfare and retirement security.

He was, in the truest sense of the word, a patriot—someone for whom America meant the promise of a better life for one’s family and community. As such, BOB MATSUI will be sorely missed, but his legacy will live on for generations. My thoughts and prayers are with him and his family.

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of our colleague, BOB MATSUI, as we honor his life and his long service to this Congress and to our Nation.

I had the pleasure of serving alongside BOB on the Ways and Means Committee since 1996 and knew him to be a statesman of enormous ability and integrity, a man of kind and gentle nature, a rare individual with whom one could

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

disagree without finding him to be disagreeable. These are the most important qualities a public servant in this House of Representatives could possess. BOB made an immeasurable contribution to the House. His keen intellect and ability to craft bipartisan legislation will be missed by me and the entire Congress.

Our thoughts and prayers are with BOB's family at this difficult time. His passing is truly a great loss for our Nation.

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, on January 1, 2005, the U.S. Congress lost one of its finest Members with the passing of BOB MATSUI. Recently reelected to his 14th term by an overwhelming margin, BOB was an outstanding leader, beloved by his colleagues in Congress and his constituents alike.

As the third ranking Democrat on the powerful House Ways and Means Committee, and the ranking member on the Social Security Subcommittee, BOB served as an outspoken champion for the preservation of our Social Security system. In addition, BOB was a member of the executive board for the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), one of the most active caucuses in Congress. The trust and respect that his colleagues had for him was demonstrated last Congress, when he was elected as chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

As we convene to begin the 109th Congress, it is important that we all pause to remember the noble work that Congressman MATSUI had accomplished during his 26 years in these halls. I would ask that all of my colleagues also keep his loved ones in their thoughts, including his beloved wife Doris; his son, Brian; his daughter-in-law, Amy; and his granddaughter Anna. BOB MATSUI was a great man, as well as an outstanding leader, and his service to our great Nation will never be forgotten.

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, every now and then you encounter someone in public service who is a public servant in every sense of the word, who transcends petty partisan politics, who brings a depth of character and a depth of knowledge surpassed by no person, someone who loves his country, works hard for the people he represents but loves his family even more. That person was BOB MATSUI who we lost over the weekend.

BOB was someone I grew to know and love. My first contact with BOB was a campaign check he sent to me in my

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

first run for Congress in 1996. I had never met him before then but he must have seen something in me that motivated him to help me out a little during my first campaign when a lot of other people didn't think I could win.

And when I came to Congress, I quickly got to know BOB and appreciate him. He was someone who made everyone feel special. He would solicit your opinions on the issue before us, even though his depth on the issues like tax policy, trade, Social Security and Medicare, surpassed anything anyone else had. He cared for this institution and the process of democracy and he exuded boundless optimism about the future of our great country even though his first few months as a citizen of this country was spent in an internment camp in California shortly after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. He later led the effort in Congress to right that gross injustice by having our government apologize for that action.

In short, BOB MATSUI was someone I respected, looked up to and tried to emulate here in Congress. You can't replace a BOB MATSUI; he was rare and never fully appreciated to the extent he deserved. But we all can learn from BOB MATSUI and take his legacy of compassion, justice and fairness and make it our legacy to the next generation.

To his wife Doris, son, Brian, daughter-in-law, Amy, and granddaughter, Anna, may you surround yourself with family, friends and loved ones during this difficult time and find comfort and understanding. Perhaps one day Anna will be old enough to read these testimonials to her grandfather and better appreciate how truly special he was. Please know that BOB was loved by many and will be missed by all.

May God bless him and keep in his company.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay my respects to one of the giants of the House of Representatives, Congressman BOB MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I cannot tell you how shocked and saddened I was when I heard the news of Congressman MATSUI's passing. The constituents of the Fifth Congressional District of California, the Democratic Party and our Nation have suffered an enormous loss.

I had the honor and privilege of serving with Congressman MATSUI since I was elected to Congress in 1990. I was always impressed with BOB's knowledge, dedication and concern about the issues that he held close: health care for those who need it—especially for children, tax policy, fiscal responsibility and trade; as well as the issues that were important to his district: flood control, transportation, housing, and en-

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

vironmental preservation. His knowledge and passion on these and many other issues will be missed dearly.

Even on the rare occasion when we differed on an issue, such as trade, Congressman MATSUI presented his positions fairly and without rancor. He approached issues with an open mind and demonstrated a great ability to reach across the aisle. He had opponents, but no enemies.

Congressman MATSUI served the people of Sacramento for 26 years. While BOB MATSUI was a valued member of the Democratic Party, he never forgot that his primary responsibility was to all of the people of California's Fifth Congressional District, regardless of party affiliation. BOB always did what he thought was best for his constituents and for the country. He worked tirelessly for them in Congress and they have lost a valuable advocate.

BOB MATSUI had the respect and confidence of his peers. Time and again, Democrats elected him to leadership posts and he used these positions to be a capable and articulate spokesman for the Democratic Party. There is perhaps no other issue in which Congressman MATSUI proved to be more valuable—or will be missed more—than Social Security. His knowledge was second to none and as Congress debates the future of this vital program, we will miss his wise counsel about the importance of preserving Social Security as we know it for future generations.

Congressman MATSUI's experiences as a Japanese American who was detained in an internment camp during World War II gave him a special sensitivity to the importance of preserving civil rights and civil liberties. His legislative work securing relief for those who were wrongfully held during World War II was a historic achievement and a fitting tribute to this great and good man.

Over the past several days, we have heard dozens of tributes honoring Congressman MATSUI. The words that were most often used in these accolades to describe BOB MATSUI were "integrity," "dignity" and "ability." For those that knew him, these words were only part of what made BOB MATSUI a terrific person, a dear friend and valuable Member of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, it is amazing to think that public service was not BOB MATSUI's first passion; architecture was. We are tremendously fortunate that Congressman MATSUI happened to read the biography of Clarence Darrow, which he always credited for inspiring him to enter law and eventually politics. California and, indeed the Nation, has benefited from

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

Congressman MATSUI's service and we thank him and his family for sharing him with us.

Congressman MATSUI will be sorely missed. My prayers are with his wife Doris, his son, Brian, his daughter-in-law, Amy and granddaughter Anna, and his many friends and family. God bless you, Congressman MATSUI. We will never forget you.

Mrs. MALONEY. BOB MATSUI was a dear friend. His long and distinguished public service on behalf of the people of California and all Americans was a tremendous benefit to his State and our Nation.

As a Member of Congress, he was a respected leader, an effective lawmaker, and a tireless leader of his party. With a major debate on Social Security looming, we will sorely miss his unparalleled expertise and foresight on that issue.

Most of all—in that fight and in many to come—we will miss his compassion and his dedication to serving the most needy among us.

Throughout his career, BOB MATSUI was a champion of the vulnerable, leading the fight for civil rights. He said that he was inspired to go to law school by Clarence Darrow and to go into politics by John F. Kennedy. And he never stopped advancing those ideals.

Imprisoned as a young child in the Japanese American internment camps of World War II, he authored the landmark bill that provided restitution to Japanese Americans held in those camps and, more important, tendered an official apology on behalf of the government.

Never one to shirk the tough jobs, he worked over decades on the thankless but essential task of improving flood protection for the Sacramento region, and recently reached a historic agreement on that critical issue.

BOB MATSUI was a thoughtful and prescient legislator. An early advocate of free trade, in the early 1990s, he provided critical assistance to President Clinton in getting NAFTA through the House—despite opposition from labor groups that traditionally support Democrats. In 2000, he played a key role in obtaining permanent normalized trade relations with China, again at President Clinton's behest. And he was a strong backer of giving the President fast track trade authority. At the same time, he was increasingly concerned over how little was being done to help Americans who had lost jobs.

Even those who fought the hardest with BOB over policy issues admired his intelligence and dedication and enjoyed

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

his humor and warmth. He was a truly kind person and we will all miss his friendship.

My thoughts and prayers are with BOB MATSUI's family.
May he rest in peace.

Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 11 expressing profound sorrow on the occasion of the death of the Honorable ROBERT T. MATSUI.

I am saddened by the loss of a great man and wonderful colleague in BOB MATSUI. He was a person dedicated to others, not just in his remarkable public service, but also in his warm and embracing character. His passing is a loss to the people of his district, California, and all Americans who benefited from his wisdom in Congress for the past 26 years.

Most of all, my heart goes out to his family. His wife, Doris, his son, Brian, his daughter-in-law, Amy, and, of course, his granddaughter, Anna, were the most important things in the world to him, and I only hope that their grief can be tempered by the knowledge of his constant and unwavering love for them.

While it will be difficult for Californians, and all of BOB's colleagues in Washington to accept this tragic loss, I think we owe it to him to remember all of the positive things that BOB stood for. He was the first Japanese American elected to the Sacramento City Council and one of the first Japanese Americans to serve in the U.S. Congress.

These are remarkable feats for any American, but are simply astounding coming from BOB MATSUI, who was forced into an internment camp, along with his family, when he was only 6 months old.

But BOB would never hold a grudge against the country that had done him and so many other Japanese Americans wrong. He was too great a man, and he had too big a heart. He continued to strive for what was right for decades, using his energy to improve those systems that so many Americans rely on. He was as committed to Social Security and protecting older Americans as he was to upholding the ideals and principles of the Democratic Party, creating a strong future for the next generations.

BOB MATSUI was a terrific mentor and a terrific friend to me. While our time together was cut too short, he provided an excellent role model of how to stay true to your beliefs even in the face of adversity. Today I join all Californians and Americans in mourning Congressman ROBERT MATSUI. Serving with him in this body will always be one of the great honors of my career.

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the gentlewoman from California (Ms. Zoe Lofgren) for taking out this special order on our dear friend BOB MATSUI and to all of our colleagues who participated in it.

I hope it is a comfort to the Matsui family, to Doris, Brian, Amy and Anna, that so many people in this Chamber and I know throughout the country share their grief and are praying for them at this sad time.

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. I would like to conclude by thanking all those who have participated this evening as well as some of our colleagues who were unable to actually physically be here but who have prepared their statements for our colleague, a giant of the legislature, a man who warmed our hearts, who broke our hearts when he died, someone who was never petty, always modest but always a leader, always someone who could make America proud.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 11, I move that the House do now adjourn in memory of the late Honorable ROBERT T. MATSUI.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 25 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Thursday, January 6, 2005, at 11 a.m., in memory of the late Honorable ROBERT T. MATSUI of California.

THURSDAY, *January 6, 2005*

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO ATTEND THE FUNERAL OF THE LATE HONORABLE ROBERT T. MATSUI

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. Blackburn). Pursuant to House Resolution 11, and the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the committee to attend the funeral of the late Honorable ROBERT T. MATSUI:

The gentleman from California, Mr. Stark;
The gentlewoman from California, Ms. Pelosi;
The gentleman from California, Mr. George Miller;
The gentleman from California, Mr. Waxman;
The gentleman from California, Mr. Lewis;
The gentleman from California, Mr. Thomas;
The gentleman from California, Mr. Dreier;
The gentleman from California, Mr. Hunter;
The gentleman from California, Mr. Lantos;

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

The gentleman from California, Mr. Berman;
The gentleman from California, Mr. Gallegly;
The gentleman from California, Mr. Herger;
The gentleman from California, Mr. Cox;
The gentleman from California, Mr. Rohrabacher;
The gentleman from California, Mr. Cunningham;
The gentleman from California, Mr. Doolittle;
The gentlewoman from California, Ms. Waters;
The gentleman from California, Mr. Becerra;
The gentleman from California, Mr. Calvert;
The gentlewoman from California, Ms. Eshoo;
The gentleman from California, Mr. Filner;
The gentleman from California, Mr. McKeon;
The gentleman from California, Mr. Pombo;
The gentlewoman from California, Ms. Roybal-Allard;
The gentleman from California, Mr. Royce;
The gentlewoman from California, Ms. Woolsey;
The gentleman from California, Mr. Farr;
The gentlewoman from California, Ms. Zoe Lofgren;
The gentleman from California, Mr. Radanovich;
The gentlewoman from California, Ms. Millender-McDon-
ald;
The gentleman from California, Mr. Sherman;
The gentlewoman from California, Ms. Loretta Sanchez;
The gentlewoman from California, Mrs. Tauscher;
The gentlewoman from California, Mrs. Capps;
The gentlewoman from California, Mrs. Bono;
The gentlewoman from California, Ms. Lee;
The gentleman from California, Mr. Gary G. Miller;
The gentlewoman from California, Mrs. Napolitano;
The gentleman from California, Mr. Thompson;
The gentleman from California, Mr. Baca;
The gentlewoman from California, Ms. Harman;
The gentlewoman from California, Mrs. Davis;
The gentleman from California, Mr. Honda;
The gentleman from California, Mr. Issa;
The gentleman from California, Mr. Schiff;
The gentlewoman from California, Ms. Solis;
The gentlewoman from California, Ms. Watson;
The gentleman from California, Mr. Cardoza;
The gentleman from California, Mr. Nunes;
The gentlewoman from California, Ms. Linda T. Sánchez;
The gentleman from California, Mr. Daniel E. Lungren;
The gentleman from California, Mr. Costa;
The gentleman from New York, Mr. Rangel;

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

The gentleman from Minnesota, Mr. Oberstar;
The gentleman from Massachusetts, Mr. Markey;
The gentleman from Michigan, Mr. Kildee;
The gentleman from Michigan, Mr. Levin;
The gentleman from North Dakota, Mr. Pomeroy;
The gentlewoman from Texas, Ms. Jackson-Lee;
The gentleman from Texas, Mr. Hinojosa;
The gentleman from Ohio, Mr. Kucinich;
The gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. Holt;
The gentlewoman from Ohio, Mrs. Jones;
The gentlewoman from Minnesota, Ms. McCollum.

TUESDAY, *February 1, 2005*

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call the attention of the House to a wonderfully written column by Norman Ornstein about the memory of our colleague, the Honorable ROBERT T. MATSUI, who passed away on January 1. Mr. Ornstein's column, published in the January 26 edition of *Roll Call*, captured the very essence of BOB's spirit and reminded us why we all will miss him so much—because he was an “all-around great guy” whose warmth, wit and bipartisanship will live on and inspire future leaders in this Chamber to serve with the same kind of grace and style that BOB possessed in spades.

[From *Roll Call*, January 26, 2005]

BOB MATSUI: WONK, FIGHTER, AND ALL-AROUND GREAT GUY

(By Norman Ornstein)

Some years ago, I had the good fortune (or misfortune) of appearing on the cover of a now-defunct glossy magazine called *Washington Dossier*, wearing a fancy tuxedo while dancing with an elegant model (who was about 6 inches taller than me).

A couple of weeks later, I got a call from the office of Rep. BOB MATSUI (D-Calif.) asking me to come by for a meeting on some issue he was dealing with on the Ways and Means Committee. I dutifully showed up, to find that it was a pretext for BOB to give me a nicely framed picture with the *Dossier* cover and the inside picture.

I treasure that picture—but I treasure even more the photograph I received later. It was taken by one of BOB's staffers, showing MATSUI giving me the gift, beaming about the surprise he'd managed to pull off.

That was vintage BOB MATSUI: a delight in surprising one of his friends, a warmth and goodness that is rare in any group of people but even rarer at the top reaches of rough-and-tumble politics. Weeks after the fact, I am still having trouble coming to grips with the reality that he is gone.

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

I first met BOB and his wife, Doris, soon after he was elected to the House in 1978. BOB drew people to him because he was so warm, open, unpretentious and bright. I shared with him a love of baseball and of politics. He and Doris and my wife and I became good friends, sharing news of our kids growing up, dissecting current events, talking about the Orioles and sometimes going to games.

Unlike many people in elite levels of politics, television, law or business, BOB was not self-absorbed. The line, “But enough about me. What do you think of me?” applies to many (as each of us could name) but it did not apply to him. He was genuinely interested in others, and took genuine delight in their achievements.

Through the years, I watched BOB up close as his career in Congress soared. He first shot to national prominence when he led the effort to get reparations for the Japanese-Americans who had been forced into internment camps during World War II. Of course, he had been among them, spending the first few years of his life in such a camp. He and his House colleague Norm Mineta (D-Calif.) handled that issue with determination and drive—but without bitterness or recrimination. The process became a template for reconciliation. It also showed BOB as a proud American, not cynical or bitter but simply wanting to see his country make amends for a huge mistake.

That alone would have made a terrific career. But BOB made his mark in so many more areas. In trade, he was a model bipartisan, willing often to take on his own party as he fought for the free-trade ideals he believed in, looking to find common ground with allies such as Reps. Jim Kolbe (R-Ariz.) and David Dreier (R-Calif.), and looking as well to find common ground on issues such as labor and environmental standards as a way of broadening the free-trade coalition. (He was disappointed to find that the current House was not interested in broadening coalitions beyond the majority of the majority party.)

BOB became a world-class expert on welfare and Social Security. He was a policy wonk who loved politics, a gentle man who had a fierce attachment to his values and policy views, a partisan who also wanted to work with those across the aisle, and a man who could use ferocious rhetoric to defend the downtrodden but who seemed to have no enemies, even among those he excoriated.

I have had the privilege of having many members of the House and Senate as friends, spanning both parties and all viewpoints. They have included many currently serving or recently retired, along with such now-deceased leaders as Speaker Tip O’Neill (D-Mass.) and House Minority Leader John Rhodes (R-Ariz.), and superstars of public service like Rep. Barber Conable (R-N.Y.) and Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.).

I think what all my friends in Congress have shared is their love and respect for the institution, their joy of serving, and their delight in politics. That was true, in spades, of BOB. He embodied all that is right about politics and the legislative process, all that is great about America. As partisan as he grew in the ever-more-partisan House, he refused to divide the world into friends and enemies. He carried himself with class. His dismay with the House led him to take the brutal job as chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, which he did dutifully and well over the past two years, without any of the sleaze now so common in elections.

During the beautiful memorial service for him in Statuary Hall, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-N.Y.) provided the take-home phrase: She hoped

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

that during the coming years, as we face nasty and brutish partisan politics and debate, that we could pause from time to time for a “Matsui moment.”

Everybody in the hall understood what she meant, including Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-Ill.), who had the class to allow the memorial service to be held in that hallowed and rarely used space. Despite the tension of recent years, the Speaker noted that BOB MATSUI never failed to come across the aisle to say hello to him, to be pleasant and forthcoming. I hope he, and his colleagues, will remember the idea of the Matsui moment and apply it. God knows such moments have been in short supply.

BOB knew about his disease for some months. He and Doris decided that he was not going to change his life or curb his energy in face of it. Rather, he was going to carry on with what he believed in and what he was dedicated to do. That included finishing his responsibilities with the DCCC and preparing for his crucial role as point man for the Democrats on Social Security. Up to the last, he followed what was going on in the world and worked on a strategy for Social Security.

My family and I got back from our holiday late on the evening of Jan. 1. I opened the mail, and went right for the famous Matsui Christmas card, which was especially delightful this year, with its gorgeous pictures showcasing BOB and Doris’s beautiful pride and joy, granddaughter Anna. The next morning, I checked my e-mail and saw the news about his death—and literally fell off my chair.

I am glad that BOB will be replaced by Doris, who, like Lindy Boggs, will come to Congress as a remarkable talent from day one. But I miss my friend and miss even more what he brought to politics, to Congress and to America.

WEDNESDAY, *April 13, 2005*

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 787) to designate the U.S. courthouse located at 501 I Street in Sacramento, CA, as the “Robert T. Matsui United States Courthouse”.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 787

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The United States courthouse located at 501 I Street in Sacramento, California, shall be known and designated as the “Robert T. Matsui United States Courthouse”.

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the United States courthouse referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Robert T. Matsui United States Courthouse”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Shuster) and the gentleman from California (Mr. Honda) each will control 20 minutes.

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Shuster).

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, H.R. 787 introduced by the gentleman from California (Mr. Thompson), honors the late BOB MATSUI, a distinguished and well-liked Member of this body.

A well-respected attorney and former city councilman, BOB MATSUI served in this body for 26 years before his passing away on New Year's Day of this year.

Since his passing, much has been said about our late colleague by Members that knew him better than I, many of whom are here today. So I will leave it to them to speak of his many and varied talents and abilities.

This naming is a fitting tribute to an exceptionally fine person, a dedicated public servant, and a respected colleague.

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 787, a bill to name the courthouse in Sacramento in honor of our former colleague, ROBERT T. MATSUI. This bill has broad bipartisan support from both his California colleagues and all of us who had the distinct privilege of serving with him.

Congressman MATSUI's legislative interests and accomplishments are legendary here in the House. Health care, welfare reform, tax issues, the environment, immigrant issues, and of course Social Security are just a few of the issues that BOB made his own.

BOB was only 6 months old when, just months after the attack on Pearl Harbor, he and his family were interned at Tule Lake Camp in California. His childhood experience in the internment camp shaped his future actions on behalf of those fighting for fairness. BOB understood the injustice of the internment and sympathized with other loyal Americans who suffered at the hands of the government in which they never lost faith.

He embraced his heritage and channeled his energy into making positive changes for all Americans. From the time he worked as a member of the Sacramento City Council to serving as the vice mayor of Sacramento and finally as a U.S. Representative starting in 1978, BOB MATSUI served as a constant reminder of what integrity and dedication can accomplish in public office.

BOB MATSUI should ultimately be remembered for his civility, his dignity and his service to others. He was a selfless

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

role model whose footprint will forever be imprinted on our Nation's history.

BOB MATSUI was intelligent and principled. As a skilled, respected politician willing to reach across the aisle, his voice elevated any debate. His leadership style and his character served as a model for all of us.

It is certainly fitting that the House honor his exceptional life and public service with this very appropriate courthouse designation. I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. Lewis) and the gentleman from California (Mr. Thompson) for bringing up this measure in such an expeditious manner.

Again, I strongly support H.R. 778 and urge my colleagues to join me in support of this bill.

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. Ryan).

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman yielding me time.

I just wanted to come and pay tribute to this legislation and speak in favor of this tribute to BOB MATSUI, and it is very fitting legislation to designate this courthouse.

I wanted to speak personally as a member of the Committee on Ways and Means, as a younger member of the Committee on Ways and Means, who had the opportunity to serve with BOB MATSUI for 4 years. I have not served with BOB for the decades that many have in the past, but the BOB MATSUI that I got to know in the Committee on Ways and Means was a very special man and person.

BOB MATSUI was intellectually on the top of his game and was one of the best intellectual debaters and sparring partners we had, especially when it came to the issue of Social Security.

My favorite kind of people in the world and in this body are those who are passionate about their beliefs, whether or not we agree on those beliefs, and BOB MATSUI had a great lesson for those of us younger Members and it was that you can be as strong and tough in debate when the microphone's on, but when it is turned off, you can be good human beings to one another.

BOB MATSUI was a very kind gentleman. I was half his age, about the age of his kids, and I always just felt that he gave me sort of a mentoring-ship kind of relationship and role. Because every time I had a conversation with BOB MATSUI, he had this nice glint in his eye, and he was always a person offering a kind word of advice or a kind word of

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

friendship. That is something that I do not think we have enough of in this institution. It is something that I thought was a great lesson on how to conduct yourself among your colleagues, especially across the aisle.

So I am really sad to see BOB leave us here, but I think this is an extremely fitting tribute. I wish that more of us conducted ourselves in the way that he did, and I just want to lend my word of support to this fine legislation for just an outstanding and fine man who taught us a lot on how we can be civil with one another.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for his kind words.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. Thompson), my friend and colleague and the author.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, we are here today to honor a colleague who honorably served in the House for 26 years, our good friend, the late ROBERT T. MATSUI.

This bill to rename the U.S. courthouse in Sacramento after BOB is a small tribute to our friend who always rose above petty, partisan politics to do what was good and what was right for his district and for our country.

BOB provided more than a voice for those who could not speak for themselves. He provided monumental victories and results, not by being the loudest but by always being the smartest and the most informed person in any debate.

BOB's legacy of legislative victories directly improved the lives of millions of Americans spanning several generations. His victories included protection for single mothers with infants, stronger civil rights laws and protection of our Nation's most vulnerable seniors.

He also played a key role in crafting fiscal policy for the past 26 years, and before his very untimely death he was leading the effort to protect Social Security benefits for America's seniors.

BOB left an indelible mark on national policy, but he never forgot the needs of his district. His district and the greater Sacramento region were always his number one priority.

Today we will vote to rename the U.S. courthouse in Sacramento after BOB MATSUI. This courthouse is a symbol of BOB's commitment to his district. Here in Congress, he was able to secure \$142 million that was used and needed to build that courthouse.

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

The courthouse not only created 1,200 new jobs in the Sacramento area, but it was the anchor for redevelopment and revitalization of downtown Sacramento, CA.

It is more than fitting that we name this important building in honor of a very important figure in our history and our friend, BOB MATSUI. I urge everyone to cast a vote for this bill.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. Johnson).

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for the time.

I rise to recognize the life and work of BOB MATSUI and to support this legislation which will name the courthouse after him.

BOB was truly a remarkable individual, intellectually very smart but, more important, humanly, deeply in touch with the challenges that America has faced over his many years of service here. He focused on the fundamentals. Often they were not sexy, often they did not attract a great deal of attention in the press. For example, he spent many years working with me and others on trying to build the R&D tax credit into our Tax Code in a way that would recognize the dependence of American companies on invention to maintain their position in an intensely competitive global economy.

He understood the big issues and he understood the small steps that had to be taken for us to be successful in the macro arenas, whether the macro arena of economics, the macro arena of strengthening and supporting families struggling through difficult matters, or the security of our retirees. On so many fronts, BOB MATSUI was a thoughtful voice, profoundly in touch with the challenges our society faces today and over the many years of his long service.

I salute him and I thank the gentleman (Mr. Thompson) for bringing forward this legislation to name a courthouse after him in his home base.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. Stark), the dean of the delegation.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise just to comment. My colleagues will hear a lot of people talking about our friend BOB MATSUI and his legislative accomplishments. I want to remind everybody that his name on this Federal courthouse will remind people that it was Executive Order 9066 that in-

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

terned Japanese Americans in the 1940s in violation of what we then thought were human and civil rights. As we proceed to violate people's human and civil rights under the PATRIOT Act, I think it will be appropriate that the Matsui courthouse will be the place where, hopefully, these rights will be corrected and restored to the American citizens and residents who deserve them.

I think it is most fitting that this building is named for ROBERT MATSUI.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. Rangel), my friend.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation, and I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. Thompson) and those others who thought about doing this for our friend BOB MATSUI.

So often we read about outstanding Americans who make great contributions to the country, and yet some of us have never heard of them. So I feel indeed privileged and honored at having served with one of those people. Notwithstanding how his country treated him, he decided to make his country treat other people so much better.

Here is a person that served on the Committee on Ways and Means, where it is a privilege to serve, and he enjoyed each and every minute of it. He was involved in every debate, whether it was fairness in taxes, Medicare, Social Security, or providing assistance to those people who have less than most people in this country. His compassion was always mixed with a lot of humor, to make certain that people would take time out to listen to him when he was serious and at the same time to know that he was not a politician but was someone who was a patriot who loved this country.

I really think he has set an example for many people who have reasons to be bitter but certainly can make a better contribution to life as BOB MATSUI has made to his country, to his Congress and to his family.

I thank God that I had the privilege to know and to be his friend.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. Brady).

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege of serving with BOB MATSUI on the Subcommittee on Social Security, and it was a real privilege.

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

You always hope that we will send to Congress men and women of just great decency, who love their country, love their community, love their family so dearly and are willing to give back to all that and do it in such a good, positive way. That is what BOB MATSUI stood for and still stands for in my mind.

There is a saying that you make a living by what you get; you make a life by what you give. By that measure, BOB MATSUI had a very rich life because he gave back so much to this body. He gave back so much in his example to other Members like myself, and he truly gave back to his family and his Nation, and I consider it a privilege to have served with him.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. Levin).

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, BOB MATSUI was a pillar of his beloved Sacramento. He was a pillar of the congressional community. So it is truly fitting that the courthouse in his beloved city be named after him.

I think today we should pause and ask what would be the best monument to BOB MATSUI here in Washington, and I think it is clear and that is that we join together with his wife Doris, who is now a colleague, to try to carry out his hopes, to fulfill his dream that everybody in this country counts, and when it comes to our work here, everybody should count equally.

So I am pleased to join with my colleagues and this is another moment of emotion. We very much remember BOB.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDermott).

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity in Seattle to help bring about the renaming of a courthouse there for a man who won the Congressional Medal of Honor, a Japanese American. He served in the 422d and died, and it is very fitting on the West Coast that we find another courthouse, and we put BOB MATSUI's name up.

He was also a hero. He was a Congressional Medal of Honor winner in the civilian society because he stood for the principle that we are all in this together, and we are not going to let the past stand in our way of moving forward.

He was one who was reluctant to come forward on the whole issue of repayment to Japanese who suffered losses. He felt that once the war was over it was his job to help the

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

community move forward and be one Nation, where we all stand together and look after everybody.

The monument to BOB MATSUI will be what we do with the PATRIOT Act in this House in a few weeks. It will be a statement about whether we learned the message that guys like BOB MATSUI tried to teach us.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. Lewis).

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of H.R. 787, to designate the U.S. courthouse located in Sacramento, CA, as the ROBERT T. MATSUI United States Courthouse.

It is so fitting and appropriate that we honor BOB MATSUI. In spite of what the American Government did to him and his family, this good and decent man never lost faith in America. He loved America. He loved the people of his district. He was a wonderful human being. Every day he tried to do his best to bring America together, to create one America, one family, one House, the American House.

Mr. Speaker, with this legislation I think we are doing the right thing by honoring BOB MATSUI.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. Jones).

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I say to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. Matsui), it gives me great pleasure to speak on the floor this morning with regard to BOB MATSUI. As a former judge, I do not believe a better name could be placed upon a courthouse for someone who stood for justice and integrity and looking out for the little people.

I am pleased to have an opportunity to be here this morning to support the legislation, and I bring something no other Member has brought to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. Matsui) yet: My sister and her husband are moving to Sacramento and are building a house. I am bringing the gentlewoman two more votes, and I will introduce them to the gentlewoman when I have an opportunity.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Emanuel).

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill to name this courthouse the Robert Matsui Courthouse. I cannot think of anything more fitting, as others have said, the notion of a courthouse where justice is weighed and

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

issued for a person who had injustice done to him and never lost his sense of right and justice. It would have been easy for BOB to be angry, but he always sought fairness both personally and professionally.

I think it is quite fitting and it has a sense of poetic justice that we are naming a courthouse for a gentleman who was not treated fairly at one time by his country, but who always sought fairness and justice and equality throughout his life. It is fitting to remember him this way, someone who will always be part of our family here; and I thank the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MATSUI) for allowing us to be part of his family.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. Matsui), the wife of BOB MATSUI.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank, first of all, the gentleman from California (Mr. Doolittle) and the gentleman from California (Mr. Thompson) for sponsoring this legislation. I know that BOB would have been so proud to know how much effort his two colleagues have put in to bring this bill to the floor to honor him.

This courthouse, which symbolizes equal justice for all, was a major accomplishment for BOB personally, but also for the city of Sacramento. It is such an appropriate way to honor him and his many years in public service, for the city he loved, Sacramento, and the country he absolutely adored.

I would also like to thank his other colleagues here, now my colleagues, for honoring him by speaking here today. I would like to thank all Members very much and on behalf of Brian, Amy, and my granddaughter, Anna, for this wonderful honor.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the leadership for this opportunity to honor BOB MATSUI, who sought to make this country a more perfect place, and urge passage of the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, it was an honor for me to manage this bill and to serve with BOB MATSUI. I know my father and my en-

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

tire family's thoughts and prayers go out to the Matsui family. As I said, he is a respected colleague, a fine gentleman, and this is a very fitting tribute. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise today in support of H.R. 787 and to say a few words for our late colleague, the Honorable ROBERT T. MATSUI. When BOB passed away on January 1, 2005, we lost a friend, his constituents lost their most ardent supporter and America, as a whole, lost a dedicated statesman.

BOB was well respected on both sides of the aisle. A brilliant man and an honest and fair politician, his leadership on the House Ways and Means Committee and his expertise and knowledge of Social Security will be sorely missed in the House for many years to come.

Naming the federal courthouse in Sacramento is a fitting tribute for a man who did so much for that city. A member of the Sacramento City Council, vice-mayor and eventual Representative of the city in Congress, BOB served the city of Sacramento in every capacity he could. In Congress, BOB's efforts in securing funding for Sacramento were crucial in the revitalization of that city. Among the projects he was responsible for were the expansion of the city's light rail public transit system, and the courthouse that will soon bear his name. Both projects were crucial in creating new jobs and opportunities for the people of Sacramento.

His passing is a great loss for all of us and I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their work in getting this legislation before the House so quickly, so that we can honor a man we all loved and respected. I urge all my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 787, a bill to designate the new U.S. courthouse located at 501 I Street in Sacramento, CA, in honor of our friend, my dear and treasured friend and colleague, Congressman BOB MATSUI.

Congressman MATSUI's death this past January deprived this House of one of its most astute, most admired statesmen. The headline in the *Sacramento Bee* newspaper said it well: "A Good and Decent Man." A lifelong Californian, BOB MATSUI served the people of California's Fifth District with dedication, commitment and compassion.

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

I was able to witness BOB MATSUI's commitment to his constituents firsthand when he and I worked together to address flood control issues for his beloved Sacramento area.

No other major metropolitan area faces as severe a flood risk as Sacramento. Congressman MATSUI believed, as do I, that the capital city of the world's fifth largest economy deserved to know that it would not face severe threats from flooding.

Following the high flows of 1986, when the levees almost failed, Congressman MATSUI worked tirelessly to improve flood protection. He examined every option. He worked to forge agreement to complete a dam at Auburn, CA. It was to be a multipurpose dam, then a dry dam, and then ultimately, no dam, but assurance of adequate water supply for up-country users represented by Congressman John Doolittle. Because of BOB MATSUI's persistence, original thinking, flexibility and collegiality, we were able to develop a comprehensive proposal that strengthens levees, makes use of the existing Folsom Dam, and preserves the beautiful American River Canyon.

As this project comes to completion over the next few years, every spring, when the snows melt and rains come, and the State Capitol in Sacramento stays dry, the people of California and the Nation will owe a debt of gratitude to BOB MATSUI for his persistence and wisdom on behalf of flood control.

Flood control is just one example of BOB MATSUI's dedication and effectiveness. There are countless other examples.

In his first congressional race in 1978, Congressman MATSUI campaigned as an underdog who vowed to bring new statesmanship to public office. His campaign was enriched by literally hundreds of volunteers that helped him achieve victory. BOB MATSUI did not disappoint his constituents. He brought not only statesmanship, but also dedication, competence, innovation, and integrity to public service.

Elected to 14 consecutive terms in the House, BOB MATSUI rose through the ranks to be a member of the leadership team. Under his quiet demeanor lay a man of keen intellect who was a trusted friend and a formidable competitor.

As a senior member of the Committee on Ways and Means, Congressman MATSUI was substantially involved with all the complex policy issues placed before the committee including international trade, health care, welfare reform, and tax issues.

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

Congressman MATSUI helped create the research and development tax credit in 1981 to fuel innovation in the American economy. In 1986, he spearheaded efforts that resulted in extensive reform of the Tax Code. His work on the earned income tax credit helped extend the tax credit for working poor families.

Most recently, Congressman MATSUI was preparing to lead the discussions regarding the future of Social Security and his desire to preserve Social Security for future generations. BOB MATSUI truly understood the varied complexities of the Social Security program, and he was determined that any reform of Social Security would provide for its long-term solvency without compromising its fundamental purposes.

BOB MATSUI was intellectually curious and honest. He was fairminded and evenhanded. His legacy is one of compassion, commitment to do the right thing, hard work, and wisdom.

Congressman MATSUI is ably succeeded by his wife Doris Matsui. She has already done an admirable job of representing the people of California's Fifth District and I am confident that she will continue to do so.

It is most fitting and proper that the career of this truly outstanding Member be honored with the designation of the new courthouse in his hometown of Sacramento, CA, as the "Robert T. Matsui United States Courthouse." I urge the bill's passage.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a co-sponsor of this legislation, which will name the Federal courthouse in Sacramento after our former colleague and friend, the late Representative BOB MATSUI.

As many of you know, we both arrived in Washington in 1979 as newly elected Congressmen from opposite ends of California's vast Central Valley. For more than 20 years, we worked together on issues of importance to California, such as securing funding to combat drug trafficking and to gain a better understanding of the challenges posed by California's air quality. Through these efforts, as well as through his work on the Committee on Ways and Means, I saw firsthand BOB's commitment to, and strong advocacy of, his principles and how he served his constituents with honor and distinction.

Naming a Federal courthouse, where our Nation's laws and Constitution are used to dispense justice, is a fitting way to remember BOB. Notwithstanding his service as a Member of the U.S. Congress, he was one of the more than 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry who, pursuant to Executive

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

Order 9066, were forcibly removed from their homes by our government and detained during World War II. Undoubtedly, this experience had a profound impact upon his life and career.

Accordingly, I now ask my colleagues to pass this legislation in honor of BOB's service to his constituents and Nation.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this resolution to name the U.S. courthouse in Sacramento, CA, after my dear friend and our beloved former colleague, BOB MATSUI, who passed away so suddenly on New Year's night.

Time and time again, BOB's constituents elected him to serve as their Representative in the U.S. Congress. As all of us know, he rose to national prominence as a senior member of the powerful Ways and Means Committee, a national spokesman for Social Security, and as the first Asian American in leadership in the Congress.

BOB was a living combination of intellect and passion—someone who understood the complexities of the Social Security system, and who never forgot what it meant to the lives of America's seniors. As an architect for a better America, BOB expanded opportunities for our county's children, built a more secure future, and protected precious freedoms for all of us.

In our more than 30 years of friendship, I deeply admired BOB's personal courage. Despite being imprisoned in an internment camp as a very young boy during World War II, BOB always had hope in the promise of America. He loved America enough to want to make it better. In fact, he worked tirelessly to pass legislation that awarded payments and an apology from the government to Japanese Americans who had been sent to internment camps.

When it came to politics, BOB was a maestro, orchestrating campaigns across the country that addressed the aspirations of the American people, particularly on his signature issues of economic opportunity, civil liberties, and retirement security.

It seems like only yesterday that BOB was among us, doing the people's work here in Congress. BOB's spirit and energy have been greatly missed. We are saddened by the loss of our dear friend and colleague, but we are fortunate to have his wife Doris here to continue and build on BOB's outstanding work.

President Bush rightly called him a "dedicated public servant and a good and decent man who served with distinction

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

and integrity.” I know that our friends on the other side of the aisle miss BOB as well, and join in paying him this tribute.

BOB MATSUI was a true patriot who had a dream for a better America. I urge my colleagues to support naming this courthouse in his beloved Sacramento in his honor.

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

Proceedings in the Senate

TUESDAY, *January 4, 2005*

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. STARK:

H. Res. 11. A resolution expressing profound sorrow on the occasion of the death of the Honorable ROBERT T. MATSUI, a Representative from the State of California; considered and agreed to.

Mr. CORZINE. Mr. President, this week, our Nation suffered the loss of two of the finest Americans to grace the public stage in my lifetime.

Congressman MATSUI and I served here together, and as a result of our passionate efforts to preserve and protect Social Security, and from leading our respective caucus's campaign efforts last year, BOB and I became friends.

BOB was a man of strong beliefs and principles and a tireless advocate for children, women, minorities, seniors and virtually every segment of society that too often has been left behind. I am saddened by his passing and my heart goes out to his family, friends and constituents.

Those of us who knew BOB are richer for the experience, and the institution of Congress is poorer now that he is gone.

THURSDAY, *January 6, 2005*

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I offer a few words about the passing of BOB MATSUI, one of California's great political leaders.

BOB was one of those people who you always thought would be there. His death has come as a great shock and surprise to many.

I extend my deep sorrow to Doris, Brian, and the rest of the Matsui family. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

Throughout his career his wonderful wife Doris has been by his side. One of the things I remember most about the two of them is the wonderful smile she always had whenever they walked into a room together. They truly were a fine couple.

I would also like to offer my sympathy to everyone in the Sacramento area—you were so well served by this wonderful man. He has done a fantastic job representing you in Washington for the last 26 years and before that on the Sacramento City Council.

I have known BOB MATSUI for a long time. I will remember him as a great human being, as a trusted colleague, as a fine public servant, and someone in whom I was very proud to place friendship, respect, and collegiality.

BOB was a superb public servant. He was a thoughtful, constructive leader who brought people together to find solutions for public policy issues. He was a reasoned voice; he was a dependable voice.

When we faced a problem related to the Folsom Dam, BOB was one of the most constructive figures in getting that very divided issue settled.

BOB was also a good thinker and a strong thinker. People knew that when BOB MATSUI said something that it was steeped in practicality. He was well respected and influential among his colleagues.

If BOB told me something was true, I knew it was true and not some variation of the facts. This is an important quality in someone who represents others because it gives them credibility among their colleagues. BOB MATSUI had that credibility.

We have all heard the story of BOB's family and their internment at the Tule Lake Camp in 1942. I think this probably had a very sobering impact on his life.

I think he knew what could happen in situations of stress and military conflict. I think it presented a challenge to him as a young man growing up. He clearly overcame that challenge and I think it probably had an impact in his knowing what he wanted to do with his life, and that was public service.

One of BOB's most significant legacies will be the work he did to help the government make amends with the Japanese Americans who were interned during World War II.

As a Member of Congress, BOB was successful in passing legislation that offered a formal apology from the government for the internment program and provided compensation

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

to victims. This is a great legacy and it will be well remembered.

Another of the areas in which BOB excelled is his knowledge and expertise of Social Security as well as tax and trade policy. He had an influential place on the House Ways and Means Committee. His leadership there will be missed.

BOB did what he did extraordinarily well. Throughout his career he showed that he was a skilled politician as well as a great policymaker.

In addition to his duties as a House Member, he took on heading the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee this past election cycle—a particularly demanding and grueling position. Despite the enormous challenges he faced, he did a superb job in guiding the committee through the elections.

Throughout his long and distinguished career BOB MATSUI proved to be a dedicated public servant and his constituents considered themselves lucky to have his representation. I consider myself lucky to have known him.

We will truly miss him.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise today to join my colleagues in expressing sympathies to the family of Representative BOB MATSUI, who passed away over the weekend. I was shocked and saddened to hear the news about our old friend.

While few Montanans may know BOB MATSUI, he did embody one trait Montanans are familiar with. He was always willing to reach out to those across the aisle to get the job done. He and I shared this work philosophy on free trade especially. He was a tireless advocate in the Congress for America's trade agenda and was essential to the enactment of many historic international agreements.

We will surely miss his leadership on critical issues this next Congress, such as Social Security, one issue where the American people expect and deserve a healthy, vigorous, and open debate. And for that type of debate, you could certainly count on BOB MATSUI to deliver.

Despite starting his life as a child unjustly interned by his own government during World War II, BOB later rose to serve in that very government at its highest echelons, as a Member of Congress. How proud his family must have been to see this dynamic man elected to public office, where he championed legislation to apologize for the internment of Japanese American families such as his. Overcoming obstacles and injustices to rise to a level of public admiration, re-

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

spect, and trust may sound like a Hollywood story; to BOB, though, it was his life story.

Wanda and I send our prayers and sympathies to his family; his wife Doris, son Brian, daughter-in-law Amy, and granddaughter Anna. He will be greatly missed by us all.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, it is with great sorrow that I mark the passing of Representative ROBERT MATSUI. In his quarter century of service representing California's Fifth District in the House of Representatives, ROBERT MATSUI won the deep respect and affection of everyone who ever worked with him. When he first ran for Congress in 1978, he pledged to bring to the office "a new form of statesmanship." For more than 25 years, on a daily basis, he fulfilled that promise, and his constituents honored him for it. This past November they returned him to the Congress for his 14th term, with 71 percent of the vote.

BOB MATSUI was a third-generation Japanese American. Like so many of us, he was part of a family that had come to the United States for the great opportunities this country offers, to build a better life for their children. Because BOB MATSUI's family was Japanese American, however, he and his parents were taken from their home in Sacramento in 1942, following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. They were interned for more than 3 years at Tule Lake, in one of the relocation centers specifically created for Japanese Americans. BOB MATSUI himself was very young at the time—barely 6 months old at the time of internment, not yet 4 years old when the war ended but he felt deeply the confusion and anguish of the adults around him. Yet he never lost faith in his country and in himself. Inspired by the Kennedy administration to enter public service, he dedicated his professional life to serving and protecting the rights of all Americans, first as a lawyer and then as a public official. He served 8 years on the Sacramento City Council before entering the Congress. But the experience of his early childhood never left him, and in 1988 he was instrumental in ensuring enactment of the Japanese American redress act, which offered recognition of the terrible, unconstitutional wrongs done to Japanese Americans.

As a senior member of the House Ways and Means Committee, BOB MATSUI worked unstintingly to assure the safety net for those most in need: children, seniors, the disabled, the poor and others who needed an advocate. As the ranking minority member of the Social Security Subcommittee, he was one of the Social Security system's best informed and

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

most eloquent advocates in the Congress. No one understood better than he the indispensable role that Social Security plays in assuring basic standards of security and dignity to Americans when their working years are over, and no one was more dedicated to keeping the system intact. ROBERT MATSUI believed in the social insurance system that Roosevelt created to care for retirees, but we as a society expanded to care for younger citizens in need, the disabled, widowed and survivors. He made politics personal, and because he cared so deeply for others, he was able to be a real leader in this realm. His voice will be sorely missed.

Congressman MATSUI leaves a legacy of extraordinary integrity, commitment and strength. It is fitting that in his memory BOB MATSUI's family and friends have established the Matsui Foundation for Public Service, which will carry forward the principles to which he dedicated his life. I express my deepest sympathies to his wife, Doris Okada, his son Brian, daughter-in-law Amy, and granddaughter Anna, and thank them for sharing him with us these many years.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 9:36 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to H. Res. 11, resolving that the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of the Honorable ROBERT T. MATSUI, a Representative from the State of California.

Resolving, That a committee of such Members of the House as the Speaker may designate, together with such Members of the Senate as may be joined, be appointed to attend the funeral.

Resolving, That the Sergeant-at-Arms of the House be authorized and directed to take such steps as may be necessary for carrying out the provisions of these resolutions and that the necessary expenses in connection therewith be paid out of applicable accounts of the House.

Resolving, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

MONDAY, *January 24, 2005*

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I am introducing legislation today to name the courthouse in Sacramento, CA, as the "Robert T. Matsui United States Courthouse." I am pleased to be joined in this effort by Senators Feinstein and Durbin.

Congressman MATSUI's death on January 1, 2005, was shocking to all of us. Naming the Federal courthouse in Sac-

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

ramento in his honor would be a very appropriate memorial to his continual efforts toward a just and fair society.

After his childhood internment, BOB MATSUI could have chosen to dwell on the sadness of his early years. Instead, he chose to give his life to public service, working to improve the lives of those in his congressional district and all Americans. He was a true patriot.

He was first elected to Congress in 1978, and spent the past 26 years representing the citizens of Sacramento with distinction and pride. He served as a senior member of the Committee on Ways and Means, and took a particular interest in complex public policy issues including tax, international trade, Social Security, healthcare, and welfare reform.

Congressman MATSUI's dedication to the well-being of America's children earned him the Congressional Advocate of the Year Award from the Child Welfare League of America in 1992 and 1994. The Congressman was also honored with the Anti Defamation League's Lifetime Achievement Award for his commitment to human rights.

Included in Congressman MATSUI's long list of legislative achievements were his accomplishments to benefit the people of his district including flood control, transportation, and his success in obtaining \$142 million in Federal funding for the courthouse in Sacramento.

A graduate of the University of California at Berkeley and Hastings College of Law, he founded his own law practice in 1967, and was elected to the Sacramento City Council in 1971. After winning re-election in 1975 he became vice mayor of Sacramento in 1977. Congressman MATSUI is survived by his wife, Doris Matsui, their son Brian and his wife Amy, and granddaughter, Anna.

TUESDAY, *January 25, 2005*

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I have joined Senators Boxer and Durbin in introducing legislation that would rename the Federal courthouse in Sacramento, CA, in honor of recently deceased U.S. Representative ROBERT T. MATSUI. This represents a fitting tribute to a great man and a dedicated public servant.

On January 1, 2005, the people of the Sacramento area, the State of California, and the Nation, suffered a great loss when BOB MATSUI passed away. For 26 years in Congress

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

and 7 years before that as a member of the Sacramento City Council, BOB was a reasoned and dependable voice. A problem solver, BOB was a thoughtful and constructive leader who brought people together to find solutions to public policy issues.

I had the distinct pleasure of working with BOB on a number of issues relating to our home State of California. I will remember him as a great human being, as a trusted colleague, as a fine public servant, and someone in whom I was proud to place friendship, respect, and collegiality.

Proud of his ideals, BOB never let disagreement lead to rancor. The sheer number of tributes paid from both sides of the aisle clearly demonstrates the enormous respect he inspired among his colleagues. Likewise, the tremendous outpouring of support shown at services held in his honor reminds us just how endeared he had become to those he represented over the years.

BOB's path to public service was greatly fueled by experiences in his youth, especially his internment along with thousands of other Japanese Americans during World War II.

When he was just 6 months old, BOB and his family were sent to an internment camp in Northern California, leaving behind their home and their livelihood. BOB would spend the first 4 years of his life there.

I think this experience had a very sobering impact on his life. But rather than let it lead to resentment and hatred, I think it had an impact on his knowing what he wanted to do with his life, and that was public service.

In fact, one of BOB's most significant legacies will be the work he did to help the government make amends with the Japanese Americans who were interned like himself.

As a Member of Congress, BOB was successful in passing legislation that offered a formal apology from the government for the internment program and provided compensation to victims. This is a great legacy and it will be remembered well.

BOB also excelled in his knowledge and expertise of Social Security as well as tax and trade policy. He had an influential place on the House Ways and Means Committee, which will miss his leadership.

The Sacramento area, where BOB was born and which he represented for over three decades in public office, shows numerous examples of BOB's achievements. From the light-rail

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

train system to comprehensive flood protection, BOB's mark is everywhere.

The renaming of this particular courthouse in BOB's honor is especially fitting. During his career in Congress, BOB was instrumental in obtaining more than \$142 million in Federal funding for the courthouse.

BOB did what he did extraordinarily well. Throughout his career he showed that he was a skilled politician as well as a great policymaker. His constituents considered themselves lucky to have his representation, and I consider myself lucky to have known him.

Through his many accomplishments, BOB MATSUI secured his legacy of devoted public service. I offer my gratitude for his service and support this legislation in his honor.

THURSDAY, *February 17, 2005*

DESIGNATING THE ROBERT T. MATSUI UNITED STATES
COURTHOUSE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 7, S. 125.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will state the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 125) to designate the United States courthouse located at 501 I Street in Sacramento, California, as the Robert T. Matsui United States Courthouse.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read the third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, and that any statements relating thereto be printed in the Record, all without further intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 125) was read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 125

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The United States courthouse located at 501 I Street in Sacramento, California, shall be known and designated as the "Robert T. Matsui United States Courthouse".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the United States courthouse referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Robert T. Matsui United States Courthouse".

(Trim Line)
—
(Trim Line)

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

Following are the program for and remarks of Congresswoman Doris O. Matsui at the July 7, 2005, rededication ceremony of the Robert T. Matsui United States Courthouse in Sacramento, CA.

Ms. Matsui was elected to fill the unexpired term of her late husband in a special election on March 8, 2005.

Unveiling of the
Robert T. Matsui United States Courthouse
Sacramento, California
Thursday, July 7, 2005

Program:

The Honorable David F. Levi
Chief Judge, Eastern District of California
Master of Ceremonies

Peter Stamison
Regional Administrator, General Services Administration

The Honorable Heather Fargo
Mayor of Sacramento

The Honorable Mike Thompson
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable John Doolittle
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
United States Senate

Brian Matsui

Unveiling of the
Robert T. Matsui United States Courthouse

The Honorable Doris O. Matsui
United States House of Representatives

Reception to follow

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

Congresswoman Doris O. Matsui. Thank you so much to each of you for being here to honor and commemorate the life and service of my husband BOB MATSUI.

To Senator Barbara Boxer, Representatives John Doolittle and Mike Thompson, Mayor Heather Fargo, and Judge David Levi: I am touched by and so grateful for your thoughtful and heartfelt words about BOB. And I also want to thank Peter Stamison and his staff at the GSA, as well as the deputy marshals and staff of the U.S. Marshal Service, without whose efforts this ceremony would not have been possible.

Brian: I can only begin to express how moved I am to see you here with your wife Amy, and your beautiful daughter Anna. Our family life has been so bound up with this wonderful city, ever since BOB and I began our marriage here. Today, it is impossible to express how much it means to me to both celebrate BOB and his history of work for our community while at the same time feeling such brightness for the future through you.

Rededicating this building as the Robert T. Matsui United States Federal Courthouse is a fitting honor for BOB's life and his accomplishments—and I am deeply grateful to Senators Feinstein and Boxer and Representatives Doolittle and Thompson for conceiving of this tribute and guiding it through Congress into law. This courthouse is so symbolic of BOB . . . of his quest for justice, of his pursuit of equality, and of the legacy he created in almost 35 years of public service to the city of Sacramento and to this Nation.

A career that was started when as a young person he read an autobiography written by Clarence Darrow who said, “as long as the world shall last there will be wrongs, and if no man objected and no man rebelled, those wrongs would last forever.”

It is not difficult to see how the words of Darrow would be so inspirational and you can see the influence they had on the path BOB pursued; from his start as an attorney in Sacramento to being elected to represent Sacramento in Congress. At each point he always returned to the idea of justice Darrow put forth.

BOB's legislative record is an embodiment of Clarence Darrow's words. And a reflection of his staunch and steadfast belief in our country and our Constitution—the ideals of justice and equality firmly embedded in both.

His record is an expression of the possibility that government can do good . . . for people, for communities, for this Na-

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

tion and for the world. It is an example of government upholding its promise to its citizens—of liberty and freedom.

And he valued the legislative victories in which justice triumphed. As when the legislation he was shepherding through Congress, the Japanese American redress act, was signed into law. It was a courageous moment for this Nation, it acknowledged mistakes. And BOB was deeply proud of our Nation and our leaders for their willingness to accept responsibility.

In the struggle for this legislation, BOB's philosophy on what it meant to be an elected official was clearly present. You could see his belief that being an elected official means making the difficult decisions—the decisions that are not always popular, but ultimately benefit the Nation.

This was typical BOB. He was an articulate, intelligent and passionate advocate for the least powerful among us. When Congress addressed welfare reform, he fought to ensure that the needs of children were met and not ignored, or worse, irreversibly hurt. He stood up during the reform debate for those who are not abusing the system, but do actually need help to get back on their feet. And he authored legislation, which became the guide for welfare reform that expanded access to social services for children and their families within the child welfare, mental health and juvenile justice systems.

And even though these are major pieces of legislation with national implications, BOB never lost sight of Sacramento. Sacramento influenced every decision he made.

BOB was born in Sacramento; he was raised in Sacramento. He loved this town and his values sprung from here. BOB truly felt honored and privileged that Sacramentans would place their trust and their futures in his hands by electing him to Congress. And in return, BOB was devoted to this city.

I would argue that this courthouse we are naming in his honor today is also a crucial and strategic contribution that BOB made to Sacramento. BOB had a vision for this courthouse as anchoring a revitalized downtown, and we see around us how his thoughtfulness and unique way of looking at challenges again benefited Sacramento.

But if BOB were here today, you wouldn't hear all of this, because he was modest about his accomplishments. In his mind it was the least he could do for the honor Sacramento gave him in allowing him to represent them in Congress and be a part of the 200-year history of this Nation. And he was humbled by it. It made his life truly extraordinary.

(Trim Line)
(Trim Line)

I thank you for recognizing BOB and all of the contributions he made to this city and its residents as well as to this Nation by rededicating this courthouse in his honor—this symbol of all BOB stood for, believed in and fought for throughout his career.

Thank you.

○