

from San Jose, CA. I am only going to take a few moments.

But I would like to just say on behalf of the people of the State of California, certainly my colleagues in the U.S. Congress and certainly the Asian-American community and people of color generally that we are losing in this institution in the next few weeks truly one of the champions and one of the leaders that, in my opinion, will go down in history as truly an outstanding legislator.

When I decided to run for Congress in 1978, one of the first individuals that called me was NORM MINETA to offer his assistance, even though I was going to be engaged in a very, very difficult Democratic primary. I cannot tell you how much that moment meant to me when that phone call came in, and from that time on I have looked upon NORM MINETA as really not only a colleague and a dear friend but as a mentor, as somebody that I would look to in terms of a rule model for leadership, for values of what it is to be a legislator.

I think that all of us, as a result of NORM'S leaving this institution and going in the private sector, will miss him truly, dearly.

As many know, he was born in 1931 in San Jose, CA. One of the great achievements, I believe, of this institution over the last 20 years was the passage of House bill 442, which was the bill to provide compensation to Americans of Japanese ancestry, a bill that NORM MINETA introduced and which NORM was really the singular most important leader in moving that legislation through this institution.

NORM was 10 years old in 1942, 11 years old. He was a member of the Boy Scouts in San Jose, Cub Scouts in San Jose. His father was in the insurance business, and his mother and other brothers and sisters were living in San Jose. As I mentioned, he was born in San Jose, 11 years earlier, in 1931.

In 1942, in April, Executive Order 9066 was passed, which asked that Americans, Americans of Japanese ancestry, be interned for the duration of World War II. As I said, NORM was 11 years old. No charges were filed against him, although he was an American citizen. No trial was had. But NORM was incarcerated, along with his parents, brothers and sisters, and 120,000 other Americans of Japanese ancestry for a period of 4 years.

Some 40 years went by before Americans of Japanese ancestry were even able to talk about this, and one of the real problems that we had was the fact that to talk about the incarceration by your own Government raised the specter of disloyalty, and so it was something that we had a very difficult time discussing. It was better to hide it than to bring it out. I remember when I was in junior high school and we were discussing World War II, and one of my teachers, very well-intentioned, said to me, "BOB, weren't you in one of those camps?" I was a 6-month-old infant when I was interned, and I recall look-

ing around my at my classmates, and I denied it, because it was easier to deny it than to explain why you were jailed by your own Government because that would raise the issue of whether or not you were loyal or not.

Well NORM MINETA, when he came to Congress, decided that he was going to rectify that wrong, that injustice. Over the years, NORM introduced, as I mentioned, House bill 442, which would provide an apology by the U.S. Government to those surviving Americans of Japanese ancestry, 66,000 at the time, about a half of the 120,000, and also token compensation of \$20,000 per surviving internee, and as everyone knows, on September 17, 1987, the 200th anniversary of the signing of the Constitution of the United States, and that date was picked by then Speaker Jim Wright after NORM MINETA requested that he pick that date, the House of Representatives, by an overwhelming majority, passed that legislation. It went to the Senate, and Senator INOUE, Senator Matsunaga, and a number of others were very instrumental in having that legislation passed, and then President Reagan, in August of 1988, signed that legislation.

I have to say that if that were NORM'S only feat, he would go down, in my opinion, and I think in the opinion of many, as a giant, a legislative giant, because in the middle of a period of austerity, to pass that kind of legislation, in my opinion, most people would have thought was impossible.

NORM is now known only for those kinds of achievements. NORM, as many recall, was the chairman of the House Public Works and Environment Committee. He was the leader in moving the legislation, which later was known as ISTEA, a bill that provided sums of money to localities to build up and repair the infrastructure of this country, which, in my opinion, still in America is so sorely needed, but with NORM'S leadership we were able to do this in a very, very important, environmentally secure way.

I will not take any more time, I say to the gentleman from California [Mr. BROWN], but I would like to just close by making one final observation, if I may. There is so much that one can say about my colleague, NORM MINETA, but I would like to just close by making this one final observation about him. I think that if one looks back at history 50 years from now and one looks at this period, one will find that the legislation that he led and sponsored to provide compensation to Americans of Japanese ancestry will go down in history as one of the most monumental legislative feats that has occurred in the last 25, maybe 30 or even 40 or 50 years.

The reason I say this is because it is not often when a government can admit it is wrong. It is not often when a government is willing to say to its own citizens, "We made a mistake, and we want to provide an apology and some minor token redress to you." I

think what NORM'S career in this institution and as a legislator represents is that one person, one person in this great country of ours, can indeed make a difference.

I would just like to say to NORM and his wife, Danny, and his children, thank you for your dedication, your commitment, and your courage of being a legislator in this great country of ours.

Mr. BROWN of California. I thank the gentleman from California [Mr. MATSUI] very much for those extremely eloquent remarks.

As I indicated, we are here to take note of NORM'S departure and to say farewell to him.

I think we are all aware that he has announced that he will be leaving us early in October to take a position in the private sector with one of the Nation's largest firms in an area in which Mr. MINETA has achieved nationwide, if not worldwide, recognition as a leader in the field of intelligent transportation systems and related activities, which I think will provide him with an opportunity, if it is possible to say this, for even greater public service than the opportunities that he has had here in Congress for more than 20 years.

I said, and I was not being entirely facetious, that this was an offer that would be hard to refuse and that I would be making the same decision that he made if I had received an offer such as that.

NORM has been a leader, a voice of reason and a voice of conscience since he was first elected to this House in 1974.

I would say that, in addition to the things that the gentleman from California [Mr. MATSUI] has already indicated about NORM'S career, that he has already more than justified a position in American politics which will be very difficult to match. The fact, as has already been mentioned, that he suffered the indignity of incarceration in a so-called relocation camp, and that this did not affect his commitment to public service, his love of his country and his desire to excel in providing leadership in this country is remarkable in itself. But he has been a community leader all of his life. He has a record of community activity in his home city of San Jose which is unexcelled. He has risen in the political hierarchy there as a member of the city council and then as mayor of that city, which, I am sure, will be remembered.

I had the pleasure of participating in the dedication of the portrait that he will have and has had mounted in the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, a marvelous portrait, I might say, but I am inclined to predict that that will be only one of many memorials that will be created in his honor over the next few years.

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I would not be surprised if there is a statue in the town hall of San Jose, or

the town square, that will commemorate his service as one of the outstanding citizens of that community.

The gentleman from California [Mr. MATSUI] has made some reference to the kind of service and leadership that he has given in the House. I want to mention some of the things that have not been covered.

He has, in addition to serving on the committee which was then Public Works and Transportation as chairman during the 103d Congress, he served as also chairman of several of the major subcommittees of that full committee. Noteworthy of course was the Surface Transportation Subcommittee, on which he made very great contributions to and, I think, advanced the cause of investment in transportation infrastructures as no other person could do. He served as chairman of the Aviation Subcommittee, and the stories about his contributions to aviation safety, and service to the public are manifold, and I will not put them all into the RECORD at this time. He also served on the Committee on Science, which I had the honor of chairing for a couple of terms, and I can tell my colleagues that he was one of the outstanding leaders on that committee. I regret that he had committed so much of his time to other major committees as he did, but he also provided that vital linkage between the two committees, and it was reflected, of course, in his commitment to the technological advancement in transportation, both surface and aviation, that he pioneered in that committee. But he was a voice of reason and of perspective on the future in the Committee on Science, and I want to pay tribute to the great service that he gave on that committee as we worked together on issues of importance to the Nation and to our home State of California.

I suppose it is important that I should mention incidentally that he served on two other major very important committees, the House Committee on the Budget in which he was also a leading force for a number of years, and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. It was in part because of my respect for the work that he did on that committee that I sought to follow him briefly on the permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and I learned a great deal from my conversations with him about that very important subject.

He is, of course it goes without saying, a very hard-working Member, and I would particularly point out the contribution he made in some of those great debates that we had on the space station in the committee that I was chairing, the Committee on Science. It was normal that we counted on him to round up the votes, to count the votes that were necessary, in some of those very close fights we had over continuing that very important part of our space program. I doubt if I have ever thanked him adequately for that serv-

ice, and I certainly will do so today. He took it as a matter of course that, if something needed to be done, you pitch in, and you do it, and you do it extremely well. I can think of no other Member of Congress that I would want to have on my side on a hotly contested policy issue than NORM MINETA.

We have already heard some reference to his responsibility on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, the role he played in the passage of the Surface Transportation Act of 1991 and the way that legislation has helped us map out new direction for transportation policy in this Nation. He has also been a steadfast defender of the environment, an issue which over the decades has been a major importance to our State of California and to the Nation, and the work that he has done on things like the Clean Water Act and on other very important pieces of environmental legislation that go through that committee.

Many of us can remember other significant accomplishments that the gentleman from California [Mr. MINETA] was engaged in. If I might mention, for example, one of the ones that impressed me the most was the fight that he carried on to protect the prerogatives of his committee, an authorizing committee, against what we who are on authorizing committees regard as the inroads and depredations of the appropriators even though they are our very good friends, and many of you will remember what I consider to be that historic battle, if we may call it that, between him and the chairman of the Transportation Subcommittee with regard to how we would handle the appropriation and authorization for the highway program, and this was a battle in which the appropriators sought to usurp what was clearly the responsibility of the Committee on Transportation, and in that fight, of course without any effort to derogate the great work of the appropriators, the gentleman from California [Mr. MINETA] prevailed in upholding the responsibility of his committee, and I want to commend him again for that great job that he did. I wish I could have been half as successful in my own battles with the appropriators.

His landmark contribution to civil rights of course has already been noted by the gentleman from California [Mr. MATSUI] in connection with the legislation which made some inadequate amends for the incarceration of the Japanese-American citizens during World War II. I probably am not in a position to fully respect all the work that went into that. I followed it as an interested supporter and observer and admired the way in which the gentleman from California [Mr. MINETA] handled that issue, and I think that as the gentleman from California [Mr. MATSUI] has already said, that he will be remembered in history for that great contribution he made to redressing a wrong perpetrated by our great

country on our Japanese-American minority.

Despite the fact that I was not as active a player in that, I felt the significance of it perhaps more than the gentleman from California [Mr. MINETA] will appreciate because I fought that action by our Government, and at the time that it occurred I was an employee of the city of Los Angeles where the mayor had taken the lead in removing all Japanese from city employment as his contribution to keeping our country safe, and at that point I sort of made myself obnoxious by forming a committee of city employees who went to the mayor and protested this action. I can still remember that I was accused of being a subversive for wanting to support fair play for our Japanese-American citizens in those very difficult times, and I want to personally express my thanks to the gentleman from California [Mr. MINETA] for the effort that he made, the successful effort that he made, to finally bring about a public official apology on the part of the citizens of this country for that kind of activity.

All of these actions that I have described are tributes to his legislative skill, to his dedication, to his tenacity, his willingness to work hard, and it is for these kinds of reasons that I say that the gentleman from California [Mr. MINETA] will go down in history as a native son of California of whom the entire State can be proud, and of course his own city of San Jose, I know, will be proud of him. He has been a leading citizen of San Jose and of the counties of Santa Clara and Santa Cruz since he began his public service now nearly 30 years ago.

I remember when he came to Washington in 1974. I enjoyed working with him as a part of the California delegation. He is one of the regulars who we count on to keep the delegation together, and we are going to hold open at least an honorary seat for him in all of our regular Wednesday morning breakfasts because he is one of those who will be impossible to replace.

I am both glad and sad about his decision to leave. I am glad of the opportunity that it gives him. As I said earlier, I think that we will see a great deal more of him in the future. I expect him to make an even greater contribution to the expansion of modern high-technology surface transportation and related kinds of activities in his career with Lockheed Martin, and I may even visit with him once in a while to find out what I can learn to help us here in the Congress in terms of improving our national transportation system.

We will miss him, but we know he is not dropping out of sight. We expect to see more of him. He will merely be changing his point of view as we discuss the important policy issues of this country.

Mr. Speaker, there were a number of others who wanted to participate in this, but we all recognize that the lateness of the hour and the turbulence of

these times makes that difficult. There are a number whose names I will not mention who had intended to participate.

Mr. Speaker, we have asked for time today to say farewell to our colleague, Congressman NORM MINETA. Mr. MINETA has announced that he is leaving public service to take a well-deserved job in the private sector. Those of us who stay here in Congress, we who have not been given an "offer we could not refuse," will miss him. Mr. MINETA has been a leader, a voice of reason, and a voice of conscience since he was first elected in 1974.

Mr. MINETA has served on a number of committees during his time in the House of Representatives. He has been on the Budget and the Select Intelligence Committees. He was also on the House Science Committee until he became chair of the Public Works and Transportation Committee. During his 9 years of service on the Science Committee I got to know him well, as we worked together on issues of importance to the Nation and to our home State of California. Mr. MINETA is one of the hardest working Members of this body that I know and many of the votes on the space station might have gone the other way if not for Mr. MINETA's tireless effort to round up supporters. I can think of no other Member I would like in my corner than Mr. MINETA.

Mr. MINETA has been known most recently for his work on the House Public Works and Transportation Committee. He was responsible for the 1991 Surface Transportation Act that mapped a new direction for transportation policy in this nation. He has also been a steadfast defender of the environment, working to fashion a solid Clean Water Act reauthorization bill. Throughout his congressional service, Mr. MINETA has been one of the best defenders of the environment and he took his stewardship perspective to the Public Works Committee.

Many of us remember Mr. MINETA's other significant accomplishments, most notably his work on behalf of Japanese-Americans interned by the United States government during World War II. Mr. MINETA spent part of his childhood in one of those internment camps and he spent part of his adulthood making sure that the Federal Government made partial restitution and a public apology. The legislation that Mr. MINETA authored and shepherded through the legislative process is a testimony to his legislative skills and his sense of honor.

Within the California delegation, Mr. MINETA has been a native son of whom the State can be proud. Mr. MINETA has represented his home town of San Jose and the other parts of Santa Clara County and Santa Cruz County since he began his public service with his election to the San Jose City Council in 1967. He was later elected as mayor of San Jose and then came to Congress in the Watergate class of 1974. I have enjoyed working with Mr. MINETA as part of the California delegation and he will be sorely missed. We are going to hold open a chair for him at our Wednesday Democratic delegation breakfasts, an event to which he was a regular.

I am both glad and sad with Mr. MINETA's decision to leave us. I am glad for Mr. MINETA and the opportunity that this move represents for him. I am sad to see him leave and to lose his presence in the House. We will miss you,

but we know that you aren't dropping out of sight, just changing your view.

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, when NORMAN Y. MINETA—whose constituents all know as NORM—announced his retirement from the House of Representatives earlier this month, it marked the end of a congressional career that has spanned 20 years and enriched the lives of people in California's 15th Congressional District and throughout our entire Nation. His leadership will be missed, and his special friendship with many in this institution will never be forgotten.

NORM's hometown newspaper called him a calming voice for civility, compassion, and reason. I agree. His service to America is more than the sum of his votes and his legislation.

It is more than his reputation as Mr. Transportation—even though NORM certainly deserves to be recognized as the person who heralded a new era for public transportation in the South Bay area and the country as a whole.

It's more than his expertise on high technology and science issues—although NORM can certainly take credit for being one of the leading spokespeople for Silicon Valley and educating everyone in Congress about the importance of high technology to America's economy, work force, and future in the international market.

And it's more than his ability to know and represent successfully the views and interests of his constituents—even though NORM's highly regarded as a classic public servant who started in local government as a member of the San Jose Human Relations Commission, a San Jose City Councilman, and mayor of San Jose before he was elected to Congress.

To truly understand who NORM MINETA is, you must understand where he has come from and how that has shaped his life.

When he was a 10-year-old boy at the beginning of World War II, NORM was sent to an internment camp where Japanese-Americans were held for no other reason than their national ancestry.

He was still wearing his Cub Scout uniform and clutching his baseball, glove, and cap when his family was rounded up and shipped off to Wyoming. NORM says that "a lot of what I am today is really that 10-plus-year-old kid who got on that train" in May 1942.

He could have emerged from that humiliating and stressful experience as a bitter person, and no one would have blamed him. Instead, NORM MINETA gained a greater appreciation for the need to champion justice in our society. That appreciation led him to launch a public career that made NORM the first Japanese-American elected to Congress from the mainland.

His passion for justice and his recognition of the need for someone to speak out on behalf of Asian-Americans are woven like threads throughout his years of service.

And those threads can clearly be seen in the crowning achievement of his congressional career—the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, with which he won a formal apology and compensation for all Japanese-Americans thrown into internment camps by the United States Government.

NORM has taken his sense of fairness and applied it in other ways, too, both large and small. It's no accident that when you walk down the Halls of the House, he can be heard saying hello by name not only to Members of

Congress, but also the guards, elevator operators, and other workers. He takes the time to know them all.

NORM also has taken the time to keep himself firmly rooted in the community that sent him to Congress. He was asked on several occasions to run for statewide office. And while he doesn't talk about it much, it's generally known that he was President Clinton's first choice for Secretary of Transportation.

But NORM turned down those opportunities because he wanted to represent people—his people, his community—rather than a State or an agency.

And when he announced his retirement, he didn't do it in Washington. He did it the only way he knew how—back home at his father's house in San Jose among his family, friends, and constituents.

His internal compass has always pointed home. It's only fitting that he chose to end his career where it all began.

In closing, let me say that I shall miss NORM's comradery in the House and his extraordinary service to our country.

NORM always finishes his speeches by saying "Thanks a million." And as he finishes his career on Capitol Hill, I ask my colleagues to join me in saying "Thanks a million, NORM" for giving so much of yourself to help build a more compassionate, progressive Nation. We wish you every success in the next chapter of your life.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to NORM MINETA. NORM is leaving this House after 21 years of exceptional service to the people of California's 15th Congressional District. He has been a leader in the Democratic Party, a leader in our State's delegation, and a leading voice on national transportation and infrastructure policy.

First elected as a Member of the post-Watergate class of 1974, NORM has become one of the most prominent Asian-Americans in politics. He was a driving force behind the 1988 legislation to compensate Japanese-Americans interned by the United States Government during World War II.

NORM worked to redress this "act born of racism" for more than a decade. As someone who himself had suffered the indignity of internment during the war, NORM's voice and passion on this issue carried added moral authority during the debate on this bill.

In addition to this landmark legislation NORM has used his position as the chairman of the House Subcommittee on Aviation to make air travel safer, to protect the rights of transportation industry workers, and to benefit consumers. As chairman of the House Public Works and Transportation Committee during the 103d Congress, NORM continued these efforts and expanded them into the fields of maritime and surface transportation, water resources, public building construction, and the environment.

When viewed separately, any of NORM's accomplishments would be considered to be the crowning achievement of one's congressional career. Yet, this is what has made NORM's tenure even more impressive. He has accomplished so many important things in so many different areas. This House will surely miss his drive, his intellect, and his dedication to realizing many difficult legislative goals.

As a fellow Californian and member of the San Francisco Bay area delegation, I will miss NORM more than most. From my first days in

Congress, we have worked together on many projects of importance to our region. He has been a leader, teacher, and a true friend.

We will all miss him very much and wish him all the best in his new endeavor.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to extend my best wishes to NORM as he leaves the House of Representatives to begin a new chapter in his life. I do so sadly, though, because he embodies the qualities that every American should have in their representative. NORM's integrity and tireless commitment to the public interest has served his district and our Nation extraordinarily well.

I have always thought of NORM as a pragmatic idealist, and that rare combination has made possible his many legislative efforts in the House of Representatives.

NORM and I both came to Congress as part of the historic Watergate class. Like our other Democratic classmates, we came to Washington with the purpose of opening the decision-making process to the American public and making the Federal Government more responsive to its citizens. As Californians, we often found ourselves working on issues together, and I soon discovered that he was one of the best allies one could ever hope to have. I won't list his many achievements that improved the quality of our environment now, but I do want to note that his work has been instrumental in enhancing the quality of our air, water, and natural resources.

Of course, the enactment of legislation that brought compensation to Japanese-Americans uprooted and forced into internment camps during World War II was NORM's greatest personal achievement. NORM worked to rectify a grievous wrong, and it was a grievous wrong that he and his own family experienced. This law would not have been possible without the unquestionable moral authority NORM brought to the debate and his insistence that our Nation live up to its commitment to justice and equality.

NORM MINETA may leave this House, but I know we will continue to have the warmth of his friendship and the benefit of his dedication and ability.

Mr. DELLUMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues to honor and congratulate my dear friend NORMAN MINETA. We have truly benefited from his devotion to duty and his commitment to open up doors and opportunity for all Americans, regardless of national origin, race, gender, age, or economic status.

For years NORM has been in the forefront of the struggle for human and civil rights and social justice. During the historic 100th Congress, NORM was the driving force behind the passage of H.R. 442, the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which redressed the injustices endured by Americans of Japanese ancestry during the World War II.

During 103d Congress, he was elected chair of the House Committee on Public Works and Transportation, thereby becoming the first American of Asian ancestry to chair a major committee in the Congress. Also during 103d Congress, NORM was an original cofounder with nine colleagues from the House and Senate, of the Congressional Asian Pacific Caucus, the Asian American and Pacific Islander counterpart to the Congressional Black and Hispanic Caucus. He currently serves as deputy whip, House Democratic leadership.

NORMAN MINETA was just recently honored by George Washington University with the Dr.

Martin Luther King, Jr., Commemorative Award for Professional Achievement in the area of civil and human rights. We should all be in his debt because of his commitment, courage and determination to have this Nation live out the principles proclaimed in our own Declaration of Independence. There are many men for the moment, but NORM MINETA is truly a man for all seasons. His dedicated struggle for the cause of all humanity, and the testament of his personal courage cannot be understated.

So, on this day, I pay special tribute to my distinguished colleague and applaud his record of public service. More importantly, I am proud to call him friend.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend my colleague, friend, and neighbor, the Honorable NORMAN MINETA. As an ex-officio member of each of the six transportation subcommittees, chairman of Public Works and Transportation Committee, and currently, the ranking Democrat of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Congressman MINETA championed highway safety standards for the Nation, and particularly, the entire San Francisco Bay Area, where his district is located.

Throughout his career, spanning more than two decades, Mr. MINETA has made a great contribution toward maintaining and improving the infrastructure of this country, to the U.S. Congress and the people of California. His wisdom, knowledge, and dedication will truly be missed by those who were privileged to serve with him and by those whom he has served with distinction.

Concern for human rights and and dignity is a personal issue for NORMAN MINETA. As a child, MINETA and his family, along with 120,000 Japanese-Americans, were sent by the United States Government to live in internment camps during World War II. One of the highlights of Congressman MINETA's career was realized when the 100th Congress passed the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, granting redress and a formal apology by the United States Government to the 60,000 surviving Japanese-Americans who suffered injustices by the Government of their own country during World War II.

I salute Congressman MINETA for his distinguished service in the U.S. Congress and for his unyielding dedication to his constituents. I truly wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with decidedly mixed feelings that I rise today to pay tribute to my friend and colleague, NORM MINETA. I am delighted with his pleasure at beginning a new and rewarding career, but I am also among those who will miss his acumen, his dedication and his great contribution to matters of importance to California.

The story of NORM MINETA, who was sent to an internment camp in Wyoming during World War II—and then became the instrument by which the injustice suffered by Americans of Japanese ancestry was redressed—is one of enormous interest and appeal. The young boy wearing a Cub Scout uniform became friends with another youth who would grow up to be a U.S. Senator. ALAN SIMPSON and NORM MINETA, decades later, worked together until the Japanese-American redress bill, apologizing for the internment and providing compensation for those detained, became the law of the land.

A distinguished military veteran of tours in Japan and Korea who then became a successful business executive, NORM was a natural for public service.

His outstanding record as mayor of San Jose led him to run for Congress, where he was the president of the Watergate class of 1974. He helped push through many of the House reforms associated with that large group of House freshmen.

It was a great boon to the California delegation to see NORM take the helm of the House Public Works Committee, where he worked with all his might to protect the environment and to maintain and improve the infrastructure of the United States. He also earned the gratitude of America's working men and women by his work in protecting labor rights.

NORM also is much admired for his help in enacting the Americans With Disabilities Act, which requires increased accessibility to handicapped individuals.

NORMAN is a gentleman, a fine individual, and an outstanding legislator. We will greatly miss him here in Congress.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join with my colleagues tonight to pay tribute to our distinguished colleague and my dear friend from California, Congressman NORMAN Y. MINETA who is leaving Congress after 21 years of service. When I came to Congress in January of this year, I was excited about the prospect of a long-working relationship with NORM in representing the people of San Jose and am sad that he is leaving so soon after my arrival.

I have long admired NORMAN MINETA not only for his astounding record of achievement as a public servant, but also for his sense of dignity and grace. NORM is a true gentleman and has earned the reputation of being one of the brightest, most respected, and well-liked Members of Congress.

Before coming to Congress, NORM distinguished himself as a highly respected businessperson and public servant. He assumed his first public post in 1962 as a member of San Jose's human relations commission followed by an appointment to the housing authority board of directors. In 1967, he was appointed to fill a vacancy on the city council and in 1969 won election to a seat on the city council and then became vice mayor by appointment. In 1971 he was elected mayor of San Jose and served in that capacity until his election to Congress in 1974.

As a freshman in the 94th Congress, he quickly distinguished himself as one of the leaders of the 75 new Democratic Members and was elected to chair the New Members Caucus. Although he enjoyed many legislative accomplishments, the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which provided reparations for Japanese-Americans imprisoned during World War II was the most notable in his congressional career making him a hero to the Japanese-American community and other Americans who cherish civil rights and liberty.

NORMAN's broad legislative expertise includes transportation, trade, high technology, NASA, the American space program, the Federal budget, civil rights, and issues of specific importance to Americans of Asian and Pacific Islands ancestry. During his tenure in Congress he continued to maintain strong ties back home as a friend to Silicon Valley and the environment and at the same time keeping a close eye on local issues. As chairman of

the House Public Works and Transportation Committee in the 102d Congress, he was successful in directing hundreds of millions of dollars for South Bay highways, railways, and wetlands.

It is with a sad heart that I say goodbye to my dear friend. NORM you have been an inspiration to me and a great void will be left with your departure. The world and this country is a better place because of your service. You have been a true friend to the people of California and indeed all Americans and we wish you well and best of luck in this new chapter of your life.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of this special order tonight.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SALMON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

THE DEMOCRAT PLAN IS BETTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. BARRETT] is recognized for 30 minutes to conclude the time designated for the minority.

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute to the gentleman from California [Mr. MINETA] too. As a newer Member I can say that the highest compliment I can pay him is that I consider him a normal person. He is a person who is very approachable, one who has treated the younger, newer Members with a lot of respect, and I think he has done a great job for this institution, and I am sorry to see him leaving this fine institution.

Mr. Speaker, I was in my office earlier tonight, and I was listening to some of the discourse on the floor here and several of my colleagues talking about the Medicare debate that is going on in the House right now, and I was listening to one of my colleagues talking about the terrible crisis, the terrible crisis we are facing in Medicare and how can the Democrats possibly ignore the crisis, that this system is falling apart, that we have to do something now, right now, to insure stability for people in this country to have health care.

Mr. Speaker, as I was listening to that debate, I thought back to my hometown of Milwaukee, and I thought back to two older women I know in my community that I had the pleasure of working with several years ago, and there were two sisters who lived together, and they were living in the home that they had owned for many, many years, and they noticed there was some water in the basement, and they thought, "Well, we should deal with this problem. We are willing to pay the price to fix the damage of water in our basement."

So what they did was they called the contractor, and the contractor came

out and said, "Yes, there is water in your basement. The foundation of your home is collapsing. We are going to have to tear down a wall and rebuild it."

Well, the two older women were on fixed incomes, and obviously they were very shook up by this news, but they wanted to do the right thing, they wanted to pay their fair share, and they wanted to have the problem solved. So they agreed to do that. They agreed to pay several thousand dollars to have the wall replaced and rebuilt.

Mr. Speaker, no sooner had these contractors ripped down and built up a new wall in the basement, than they came back to the two sisters and said, "We have got even worse news for you. Doing the one wall isn't enough. We are going to have to rip down another wall, and rebuild that one." And ultimately it became a third wall.

□ 2115

The two sisters who had water in their basement and knew they had a problem, a problem that had to be solved, were faced with basically a \$10,000 bill for having three walls rebuilt in their basement.

What does that story have to do with Medicare? The reason that story is similar to Medicare is because the people in this country, and the older people in this country, recognize that there are some problems with Medicare. They are willing to pay a fair price to have the Medicare problem resolved, to fix the system, to get the water out of the basement, to make sure their home is stable. However, they are not willing to be duped by contractors who come in and tell them that their whole house is crumbling; that instead of having to pay \$1,000 or \$2,000 to repair a problem, they are going to have to pay \$10,000 or their entire house is going to collapse, and have the contractor run away with the money and pocket it for himself or for his friends.

I think that story is very, very analogous to the debate going on in Congress right now. As this debate has unfolded, I have listened to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle talk about the problems. I have tried to listen to them and agree with them where I think they are on the mark. But what I have noticed is while they make several statements that are true and that I agree with, and I think a majority of Americans agree with, they do not tell, as Paul Harvey would say, the rest of the story. That story, or the rest of that story, is why this Republican plan is so wrong, and should be rejected by this House.

Let me start out by telling the parts of the story that are being put forth by the Republicans that I agree with. I agree that the President and his trustees have said that there are problems with the Medicare system. This is, of course, something they have said many times before, and Congress has always acted responsibly, without raising the

flags and hooting and hollering and saying that the sky is falling. Congress has always addressed those problems. In fact, the trustees' report from last year says that the problem was worse than the problem this year. Of course, when the Democrats stepped to the plate to address the problem, the Republicans said they are too taking too much of a cut out of Medicare.

But now the situation is different. Now the Republicans are in control. They are saying, "Let us cut the growth." There is growth in Medicare, but they are saying, "Let us cut that growth \$270 billion," and at the same time they are saying, "Let us give a \$245 billion tax cut that disproportionately benefits the wealthy in this country."

I think what is going on there is very similar to the situation with the two older women with the basement. We do have some problems with Medicare. They should be fixed. They can be fixed for about \$90 billion.

The other \$180 billion is going to that tax cut that disproportionately benefits the wealthy in this country, and I think that is dead wrong. I think that is something that Congress should reject.

Mr. Speaker, the other place where I agree with the Republicans, and I actually had my staff check this because so many times I heard Members from the Republican Party step in this well and say, "Hey, there is growth in Medicare. We are not cutting spending. In fact," they say, "the spending per recipient is going to go from \$4,700 per recipient to \$6,800 in the year 2002."

The first time I heard that, I thought, "Wow, that sounds pretty good. It has gone from \$4,700 per recipient to \$6,080 per recipient." I actually did the math. It is a 45-percent increase. I thought, "All right, I'm not going to dispute that. I'm not going to say they are not telling the truth, because I have checked the figures and they are going to be spending 45 percent more in the year 2002 than they are in the year 1995."

However, as I talked to seniors in my district, and discussed with them this issue, their reaction was "Well, I'm not really that interested in what the spending is by the government per recipient, because that is the money that goes to physicians and hospitals and nursing homes, home health providers, groups like that. That really does not address the amount of money that I am paying out of my pocket." How much is that 68- or 69-year-old widow on a fixed income paying out of her pocket for Medicare? That is where we have to hear the rest of the story.

Let us use the 2 years that the Republicans have used in bragging about the growth in Medicare. Let us use 1995, and let us use the year 2002. Those are the 2 years that we have heard literally hundreds of times in this well talking about the growth of Medicare. Again, it is going to go from \$4,700 or