

Many people do not realize that the State of Illinois has the fifth largest Asian-American population of any State. Over the years, NORM MINETA and I have worked closely on many issues, particularly those affecting our Asian-Pacific-Americans constituents.

In the 1970s, we worked together on the inclusion of Asian-Americans in the decennial census. In the 1980's, we worked to ensure that Asian Americans were included in the Higher Education Act. In this decade, we have worked on passing hate crimes legislation and saving the immigration preference for brothers and sisters of U.S. citizens, which sadly is being threatened again today. In 1992, he was particularly helpful to me and my staff on extending the important bilingual provisions of the Voting Rights Act.

Perhaps most of all, NORM MINETA will be remembered for his work to do what should have been done long previously by Congress—enactment of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 providing redress for Japanese-Americans interned during World War II. I was a teenager living on the west coast when that episode occurred in our Nation's history. My family was not uprooted like NORM MINETA's and those of 120,000 Japanese-Americans. But my father, who was a Lutheran minister, spoke out publicly against what was happening to Japanese-Americans. He was criticized for that, but, as I look back, it was one of the things I am most proud of him—standing up for what was right in the face of what was the popular mood.

NORM MINETA has always stood for what is best in public service and I wish him well in his future endeavors.●

#### AWARDING OF THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM TO GAYLORD NELSON

● Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I want to take this opportunity to extend congratulations to Gaylord Nelson, a former Member of this body and a distinguished former Governor of the State of Wisconsin, who is receiving America's highest civilian honor today—the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Gaylord Nelson receives this award in recognition of his lifelong commitment to leadership on issues of environmental protection, and his tremendous efforts to ensure that both our country's public policy and its citizens sustain and preserve America's invaluable natural resources.

Nelson's career is truly a remarkable one, and I am proud to now hold the Senate seat he held with distinction from 1963 to 1981. Gaylord Nelson began his political career in 1948, when he became the first Democratic State senator elected from Dane County in this century. He served three terms in the Wisconsin State senate from 1948 to 1956, acting as the Democratic floor leader for 8 of those years. He was a two-term Governor of my State, elected in 1958, and like the noteworthy accomplishment of his election to State

senate, Nelson was Wisconsin's second Democratic governor in this century and, upon reelection in 1960, he became the only Democrat in Wisconsin to win two terms at Governor since 1892. During his gubernatorial tenure, the environment became a priority for the State with the creation of a \$50 million outdoor resources acquisition program, putting Wisconsin far ahead in recreational opportunities for the general public.

As those who served with him in this body remember well, Nelson is best described like the main character in Dr. Seuss' children's story *The Lorax*—the man “who speaks for the trees.” During his 18 years of service in the Senate, Gaylord Nelson affected significant change for the “greener” in both our Nation's law and the institution of the Senate itself. He is the co-author of the Environmental Education Act, which he sponsored with the senior Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY), and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and sponsored an amendment to give the St. Croix and the Namekagon Rivers scenic protection. In the wake of Rachel Carson's book *Silent Spring*, Gaylord Nelson, along with Senator Philip Hart of Michigan, ushered in national attention to the documented persistent bioaccumulative effects of organochlorine pesticides used in the Great Lakes by authoring the ban on DDT in 1972. He was the primary sponsor of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore Act, one of Northern Wisconsin's most beautiful areas at which I spend a portion of my vacation time with my family every year, and an area which just celebrated its 25th anniversary last month with an event at which Nelson and I both spoke.

Nelson, of course, is best remembered as being the founder of Earth Day. As one of the first Senators to oppose the U.S. military buildup in Vietnam, Gaylord Nelson took his inspiration for Earth Day from the anti-war teach-ins on college campuses. He described in a floor statement on the development of the event:

It suddenly occurred to me, why not have a nationwide teach-in on the environment.

Gaylord Nelson announced the idea at a speech in Seattle in 1969, and the idea has been a sustained vision for 25 years.

Earth Day is an event which in addition to changing the environmental consciousness of the country, as colleagues who were present will remember, literally stopped the Senate. Members of both bodies voted to adjourn their respective houses in the middle of the legislative week to attend Earth Day events, an adjournment that would be extremely rare today. Here in this body, the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD indicates, at 3:31 p.m. on Tuesday, April 20, 1970, our colleague the senior Senator from West Virginia [Mr. BYRD] adjourned the Senate until Friday, April 23, 1970. In the other body, chamber action was adjourned from the middle of the day on April 21, 1970, the ac-

tual date of the first Earth Day, through April 23 of that year.

Gaylord Nelson's environmental activism also changed the way we in Congress run our personal offices. Last year, in an *E Magazine* interview which Nelson gave for the 25th Anniversary of Earth Day, he described that back in 1970 he believed he was the only person in the Senate to have a full time environmental staffer. In 1995, it is difficult to imagine that there is any Member of this body or the other that does not have a member of their staff designated to handle environmental issues.

After his defeat in the race for a fourth Senate term in 1980, Nelson joined the national conservation group, the Wilderness Society. In 1990, Nelson founded another group in Washington called Green Seal, which he created to certify the environmental claims of consumer products by developing innovative environmentally based product standards and comparing classes of marketed products to those standards.

Mr. President, leadership is not only the willingness to assume the role of being a primary spokesperson on important issues, but what one actually says and does about those issues. With a combination of words and activism, Gaylord Nelson actively used his position to make changes for the better. In a 1994 Chicago Tribune article, Thomas Huffman, a professor of history at St. John's University in Collegeville, MN, observed about Gaylord Nelson:

Almost every campaign speech he [Nelson] gave from 1960 on had an environmental component. Often times that was the whole speech. There were many in his party who thought he was crazy, that it was not really an issue.

Despite the fact that some were skeptical about Nelson's message at first, the directness and forcefulness of his statements are undeniable. In his 1969 book on the environment, entitled *America's Last Chance*, written after 6 years of service in the Senate, Nelson issues a political challenge:

Through the past decade of work in this field, I have come to the conclusion that the number one domestic problem facing this country is the threatened destruction of our natural resources and the disaster which would confront mankind should such destruction occur. There is a real question as to whether the nation, which has spent some two hundred years developing an intricate system of local, State and Federal Government to deal with the public's problems, will be bold, imaginative and flexible enough to meet this supreme test.

Nelson's message was one of urgency and of bipartisanship. His time in the Senate saw this body establish, under both Republican and Democratic administrations, an Environment and Public Works Committee, pass the majority of our Federal environmental statutes with significant bipartisan support, and create the Environmental Protection Agency. In his speech at the University of Wisconsin on the first Earth Day, Nelson said:

Our goal is an environment of decency, quality, and mutual respect for human creatures and all other living creatures. An environment without ugliness, without ghettos, without discrimination, without hunger, without poverty, and without war.

In recognizing Gaylord Nelson's accomplishments, I hope that all in this body will be mindful of the need to be committed to the protection of the environment and to work in a bipartisan fashion toward that end. I believe that to have this body embrace and resonate his enthusiasm on these issues would be a fitting tribute.●

#### HISTORIC RECONCILIATION BETWEEN ROMANIA AND HUNGARY

● Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, this week President Clinton welcomed President Ion Iliescu of Romania at the White House. On this occasion, I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues President Iliescu's initiative to bring about an historic reconciliation between Romania and Hungary.

I know from my visit to Romania, where I was an official observer of the 1992 elections, the Romanian and Hungarian peoples both have rich cultural traditions. As in many parts of Europe and elsewhere, ethnic and cultural traditions in these nations are not bound by national borders. Certain politicians in these nations have sought to repress ethnic and cultural minorities and increase long-standing tensions. Ethnic Hungarians in Romanian Transylvania in particular have been denied full human and civil rights. The tragic conflicts in the former Yugoslavia are a constant reminder of the risks of extreme nationalism and ethnic and cultural divisions.

Mr. President, on August 30, President Iliescu called for an historic reconciliation between Hungary and Romania. In a statesmanlike speech, President Iliescu committed himself and his country to seeking a peaceful solution to the problems which have long damaged normal relations between Romania and Hungary. He cited as his model the Franco-German reconciliation that occurred when Charles de Gaulle and Konrad Adenauer committed their governments and their nations to forgive the past and jointly move forward to help create a more prosperous and more peaceful Europe. It is an important model to emulate.

President Iliescu's overture is welcome news for Romanians and Hungarians, Europeans and Americans.

For the ethnic Hungarians of Transylvania and other minority groups in Romania and Hungary, there is new hope that human rights and freedom of expression will be respected.

For all the people of Hungary and Romania, there is new hope for freedom and democracy, peaceful cooperation, economic growth and integration with the West and its economic and political institutions.

For the people of America and Europe, there is new hope for strength-

ened economic and political ties which will integrate Hungary and Romania into economic and political institutions on the basis of shared values.

Romania and Hungary must now take real steps to ensure that these hopes are realized. Both governments must work to reach and implement broad and concrete agreements which will guarantee respect for human rights, confirm national borders, and expand opportunities for free and fair trade. Fortunately, this process is underway.

The United States should support reconciliation between Hungary and Romania, and their integration into Western institutions. This reconciliation would mean a more stable world with more economic opportunities for Americans.

Mr. President, I hope that President Iliescu's visit to Washington has strengthened the friendship between our two countries on the basis of a shared interest in freedom and democracy.●

#### TRIBUTE TO MR. JAMES N. RUOTSALA ON HIS RETIREMENT AS SHERIFF OF HOUGHTON COUNTY, MI

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. James N. Ruotsala. In so doing, I join with the members of his community who are honoring him on October 13, 1995 during a reception commemorating his 28 years of service and his retirement as Sheriff of Houghton County, MI.

James is a native of Hancock, MI and moved as a child to Flat Rock, MI where he graduated from Flat Rock High School in 1962. He entered the U.S. Navy in February of 1963. On January 16, 1965 he married Judith I. Walman and they have five sons: James, John, Jason, Jared, and Justin.

Following his honorable discharge from the service in February of 1967, he returned to the Houghton-Hancock area and began his tenure with the Houghton-County Sheriff Department in March of that year. During his affiliation with the Department he served as a Marine officer, a deputy, a sergeant, and finally as a lieutenant. He was elected Houghton County sheriff and served from 1981 through September 14, 1995.

During 1989 and 1990 Sheriff Ruotsala served as the President of the Michigan Sheriff's Association, and is highly respected by law enforcement personnel throughout the State.

Mr. President, I ask you along with all of my colleagues in the Senate to join with me in honoring this outstanding citizen. His legacy of unselfish service is something we all should strive to emulate.●

#### GORDON LAU

● Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend and associate, Gordon Lau. Over the

years, I have worked closely with Gordon as San Francisco supervisors and as partners in establishing the first Sino-America Sister City relationship between San Francisco and Shanghai. I am proud of what we have managed to accomplish together.

Gordon is a longstanding pillar of the Chinese community in San Francisco and a key leader for crucial non-profits such as the Self-Help for the Elderly and the Chinese Culture Foundation.

Since Gordon graduated from the University of San Francisco Law School he has worked as an attorney and spent a great deal of his time in public service. Gordon was appointed to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors by former Mayor George Moscone in 1977. He later kept his seat in district elections becoming San Francisco's first Asian-American supervisor.

Gordon also served the city of San Francisco as a past board member for the Legal Aid Society, as founding member of San Francisco Lawyers Committee for Urban Affairs and Civil Rights, and as a former San Francisco Port Commissioner and the San Francisco Planning Commission.

I have worked closely with Gordon and the San Francisco-Shanghai Sister City Committee. Since the creation of this sister city committee in 1979, Gordon has played a crucial role in its development and served, virtually uninterrupted, as its chairman. This partnership is very dear to me and nobody has worked harder to make it the success that it is than Gordon.

Since 1979, there have been 150 exchanges between San Francisco and Shanghai making it not only the first, but most active, sister city relationship between China and the United States. Sister Cities International ranks the San Francisco-Shanghai relationship as the most active of any cities involved in sister city partnerships.

People-to-people relationships are critically important in overall foreign relations. During many complicated times between the United States and China this sister city relationship has provided a strong link between the people of San Francisco and Shanghai.

Since its inception, the San Francisco-Shanghai Sister City Committee has produced 150 projects in art, culture, law, economics, medicine, education, development, trade, investments, and public works. One of the highlights has been business management training program in which San Francisco businesses participate in the training of China's new business leaders. This training of midlevel managers has been pointed to repeatedly as one of the most effective in supporting the economic changes underway in China.

The success of this sister city relationship culminated with the celebration of Shanghai Week in San Francisco this past July, celebrating a 15-year relationship between San Francisco and Shanghai.