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The first Asian Pacific-American Senator was Senator Hiram Leong Fong from Hawaii, who served from 1959 to 1976.

Currently we have nine sitting Members of both the House and the Senate that make up our congressional Asian Pacific Caucus, which was formed on May 16, 1994, to establish an effort in the Congress to cause other Members of Congress perhaps to be more sensitive and aware of Asian and Pacific-American issues within their own constituencies.

The caucus idea came about from former Congressman Norm Mineta, and he is to be congratulated for having put in the effort to organize this caucus.

The Member of the House of Representatives who has the most Asian and Pacific Members is Congressman NEIL ABERCROMBIE from the First District in Hawaii, and his constituency is about 66.5 percent Asian Pacific. In my own case, the second district, I have about 57 percent Asian Pacific. The gentleman from California [Ms. PELOSI] has the next highest at 27.8 percent.

The other participant of our caucus who has been instrumental in leading the fight on all of the Asian Pacific issues throughout his entire tenure is the gentleman from California [Mr. MATSUI]. The other Members, the gentleman from American Samoa, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, the gentleman from Guam, Mr. UNDERWOOD, Senator INOUE, Senator AKAKA, and Senator MURRAY, all constitute the original membership of our caucus. Recently we added 10 additional Members.

Mr. Speaker, I submit the following material for the RECORD:

REMARKS OF CONGRESSMAN NEIL ABERCROMBIE IN CELEBRATION OF ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH, MAY 21, 1996

Now, more than ever, the need to recognize America's rich and diverse cultures is crystal clear. America is at a crossroads and a few would rather forget that this is a nation built by immigrants whose ancestral roots trace back to every corner of the earth.

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month gives us the opportunity to acknowledge one of the great communities of this country. Across this nation, over 7.3 million Asian and Pacific Islanders make America their home. Asian and Pacific Islanders have made notable contributions in industry, education, science and government. Along with other immigrant groups, Asian and Pacific Americans helped to strengthen the fabric of American society.

Against the backdrop of America's multicultural society, the push for "English-Only" and other anti-immigrant measures are indefensible and are an affront to the heart of this nation. During Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and every month of every year, let us not forget what we so often take for granted: America has been made great by the collective contributions of every group who has settled in this country. The distinguished contributions of Asian Pacific Americans are a superb example.

CONGRESSIONAL ASIAN PACIFIC CAUCUS

The Congressional Asian Pacific Caucus was formed on May 16, 1994 to establish an organized effort within the Congress to advocate for the needs of Asian Pacific Americans.

Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus Executive Committee:

Neil Abercrombie (HI-1)—66.5%.
Patsy T. Mink (HI-2)—57.0%.
Nancy Pelosi (CA-8)—27.8%.
Robert Matsui (CA-5)—13.9%.
Eni Faleomavaega (AS)—?.
Robert Underwood (GU)—?.
Sen. Daniel Inouye (HI)—55.6% (State of Hawaii).
Sen. Daniel Akaka (HI)—55.6% (State of Hawaii).
Sen. Patty Murray (WA)—5.7% (State of Washington).

New Member of Congressional Asian Pacific Caucus:

Tom Lantos (CA-12)—25.6%.
Matthew Martinez (CA-31)—22.8%.
Xavier Becerra (CA-30)—21.2%.
Zoe Lofgren (CA-16)—21.1%.
Nydia Velázquez (NY-12)—19.6%.
Pete Stark (CA-13)—19.4%.
Ronald Dellums (CA-9)—15.6%.
Bob Filner (CA-50)—14.8%.
Anna Eshoo (CA-14)—12.2%.
Lucille Roybal Allard (CA)—4.0%.

NOTABLE ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS

Asian Pacific Americans have made significant contributions to the United States and the world in a variety of ways. In the arts, academia, business, sports, politics, Asians have reached the top of their field:

I.M. Pei, the internationally renowned architect.

Samuel C.C. Ting who won the Nobel Prize in physics.

Ellison Onizuka, one of the seven astronauts of the Challenger.

Christie Yamaguchi, the young figure skating Olympic champion.

Vivienne Tam, fashion designer who built a \$10 million business.

Amy Tan, Author.

Elaine Chao, head of the United Way.

Robert Nakasone, CEO of Toys R Us.

Brigadier General John L. Fugh, Former Judge Advocate General of the Army.

Chang Lin Tien, Chancellor, University of California—Berkley.

ASIAN PACIFIC MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

Seventeen Asian Pacific Americans have been elected to Congress from 1903 to the present. Their ancestry has included Chinese, Chamorro, Asian Indian, Japanese, Korean, Native Hawaiian, and Samoan.

The first Asian Pacific Member of Congress was Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalanianoʻle (Native Hawaiian) who represented the Territory of Hawaii as a non-voting delegate from 1903 to 1922. The first voting Asian Pacific American Member of Congress was Dalip Singh Saund (D-CA), an immigrant from India who served in the House from 1957 to 1963.

The first Asian Pacific American Senator was Hiram Leong Fong (R-HI), who served from 1959 to 1976. Senator Fong was also the first American of Chinese ancestry elected to the Congress.

Congresswoman Patsy T. Mink was the first Asian Pacific woman to serve in the House, serving from 1964 to 1976, and from 1990 to present.

There have been only two Asian Pacific American women in the Congress—Patsy T. Mink (D-HI) and Patricia Saiki (R-HI).

ROMER VERSUS EVANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May

12, 1995, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. CANADY] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. CANADY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was a sad day in our Nation's history. In one fell swoop, the U.S. Supreme Court managed to seriously undermine our tradition of democratic self-governance, and, at the same time, to deliver a harsh slap-in-the-face to all Americans who seek to preserve traditional moral standards regarding homosexuality. I hope and expect that American citizens share my sense of outrage at the Court's action.

I'm referring to the Court's decision in the case of Romer versus Evans. The case involves an amendment to the Colorado State Constitution adopted in 1992 by the citizens of that State. The amendment, known as amendment 2, would have prevented the State or any of its political subdivisions from enacting, adopting, or enforcing any law granting homosexuals protected status or other preferential treatment. Amendment 2 was adopted in response to the actions of several Colorado cities that had adopted so-called gay rights ordinances, which had added homosexuals to the list of protected persons under local antidiscrimination laws.

By a 6-to-3 vote, the court yesterday ruled that amendment 2 violates the equal protection clause of the U.S. Constitution. The Court held that amendment 2 "lacks a rational relationship to legitimate state interests, and so could only be understood as an expression of animosity toward homosexuals."

That might sound like stale legal doctrine, but don't be deceived. What the Court did yesterday has profoundly troubling implications for our democracy and for our civilization. As Justice Antonin Scalia, writing for himself, Chief Justice Rehnquist, and Justice Thomas, pointed out in his dissenting opinion, the Court has unleashed a new constitutional doctrine that has no rational limitation.

We must be clear on one important fact: Notwithstanding the majority's portrayal of amendment 2 as an effort to make homosexuals "stranger[s] to [Colorado's] laws," the measure did no such thing. All amendment 2 would have accomplished is to prevent the government from making homosexuals a protected class, or otherwise to make homosexuality the basis for any preferential treatment. Every Colorado law of general applicability applies fully to homosexuals. This case, no matter what the majority held, was about whether or not homosexuals could be given special protections under the law.

I quote from Justice Scalia's dissent:

The only denial of equal treatment [the majority] contends homosexuals have suffered is this: They may not obtain preferential treatment without amending the state constitution. That is to say, the principle underlying the Court's opinion is that

one who is accorded equal treatment under the law, but cannot as readily as others obtain preferential treatment under the laws, has been denied equal protection of the laws.

It is tough to argue with Justice Scalia's conclusion that the Court's constitutional jurisprudence "has achieved terminal silliness."

Confessing itself unable to fathom a rational, legitimate governmental purpose that might be served by amendment 2, the Court concluded that the amendment thus raised "the inevitable inference that the disadvantage imposed is born of animosity" toward homosexuals. The Court characterized it as "a bare desire to harm a politically unpopular group."

This conclusion, which lies at the core of the Court's opinion, is as puzzling as it is offensive. It's puzzling because, just 10 years ago, the Supreme Court held that nothing in the Constitution prevents States from enforcing laws criminalizing homosexual sodomy. In *Bowers versus Hardwick*, the Court expressly held that government can put citizens in prison for engaging in homosexual conduct.

Now, however, we learn that the same Constitution forbids States from deciding that homosexuals should not be granted protected or preferential status under their laws. I defy anyone to explain how these two results can be reconciled.

In a truly amazing display of intellectual dishonesty, the Court majority didn't even attempt such a reconciliation, and indeed, it didn't even mention the *Bowers* case.

So there are some serious legal flaws in the Court's decision. But what truly offends me—and, I would expect, a great many Americans—is the Court's conclusion that amendment 2 was motivated by "animosity" toward homosexuals. Again, I quote from Justice Scalia's dissent: "To suggest," he writes, "that [Amendment 2] springs from nothing more than 'a bare desire to harm a politically unpopular group' is nothing short of insulting."

And so it is. For 2,000 years, our Judeo-Christian ethic has taught that homosexual conduct is wrong. Accordingly, our laws have always embodied some moral disapproval of homosexuality. Sometimes that disapproval takes the form of criminal sanction, as with antisodomy laws. But often it is expressed in much more subtle ways. Here, for example, the voters of Colorado decided simply not to extend their antidiscrimination protections to homosexuals as a discrete protected class. The Supreme Court has now pronounced that decision to be the result of rank bigotry, motivated only by animosity toward homosexuals. Such a crass dismissal of our moral and religious heritage should provoke outrage on the part of the American people.

I do not come to the floor lightly to criticize our Supreme Court. I have deep respect for the institution of the Supreme Court, and I have been quick to praise the Court when it has per-

formed its assigned constitutional role. But yesterday's decision, Mr. Speaker, does not deserve our praise; in striking down amendment 2 and in labeling as "bigots" adherents to traditional moral values, the Court deserves our disapproval.

FLOODING IN WEST VIRGINIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from West Virginia [Mr. WISE] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, I want to report on the flooding in West Virginia over this weekend, and I particularly want to say, following 2 days of visiting hard-hit communities, there are a lot of people to thank. Particularly high up there is the West Virginia National Guard, which once again responded and provided the semblance of order and peace and hope that many people needed to seize on to during these troubled times.

Remember, Mr. Speaker, that this is the second time in 4 months that many of these communities have been hit by ravaging floods; the second time in 4 months.

Mr. Speaker, I started out Friday night in the Charleston office of emergency services headquarters. We moved Saturday and Sunday to preparing. Sunday I was with Governor Caperton as we toured much of the flood-torn area by helicopter and touching down in a number of communities, and then yesterday, Mr. Speaker, I traveled by car over 400 miles across many of the counties in central West Virginia that had been hit by floods.

Let me report to you, Mr. Speaker, that once again for the second time in 4 months a lot of our communities are digging out, and washing mud out of basements and homes, are having to look at fences that were just replaced in many of our farm fields, now torn again or damaged again, are having to regroup and reorder their lives. This is actually the third time in 10 years for floods of this magnitude.

I started, Mr. Speaker, in Buckhannon and Ellamore and Maibe and Cassity and Randolph, Jerusalem, a large town meeting in Elkins, then to Circleville and Big Run, Upshur and Randolph and Pendleton Counties on that swing, as well as other counties the day before.

In every one of the locations people are digging out, Mr. Speaker.

I am happy to report to you, Governor Caperton is submitting to the White House an application for Federal disaster assistance. This has moved very quickly, through a combination of the State office of emergency services officials, the Governor, working with FEMA, which is the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and, hopefully, that application will be acted upon today, perhaps tomorrow, and again, hopefully, as early as tomorrow afternoon or perhaps Thursday morning the declaration will be made.

At that point, Mr. Speaker, citizens in the designated counties will then be able to call a toll-free number to receive firsthand information and assistance in working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the FEMA agency.

At this point our staff, my staff, is out in the field distributing leaflets telling people what to do until that disaster assistance is received; telling them whom to contact in case of immediate emergency, the local office of emergency service officers.

At the point the declaration of disaster assistance is made from Washington, we will immediately race back out to the hardest-hit communities with leaflets and other information outlining the toll-free number that people can call.

I think that it is essential that people understand that very shortly the media, our office, the Governor's office, all other officials will be letting them know the toll-free number that they can call for assistance.

So the first step, Mr. Speaker, is digging out, and that is what the Red Cross is helping with. The Federal Emergency Management Agency is doing disaster assistance estimates right now. The local office of emergency service officers is assisting.

The second step, though, Mr. Speaker, after digging out and getting back on their feet is what a lot of citizens asked me yesterday in Elkins, "Bob Wise, why is it for the second time in 4 months we are having to deal with this? When will the investments be made to floodproof our areas to start to deal with the tributaries that are rising and dig out the streams that are silted up, to contain the stream banks in those areas where riprapping has occurred since the last flood?"

We were able to contain much of the flooding. But for the hundreds of thousands of dollars that it costs to floodproof a stream or area, we would save millions of dollars not spent in having to dig people out and put them back in their homes. So when the budgets are up for consideration, my hope is that my colleagues recognize what an investment it is in stream bank channelization and soil bank erosion control and building watershed and, in some cases, building dams, because what this does is to prevent millions of dollars of damage later.

In the case of West Virginia and other areas, what we have seen in just 4 months is you can have two crippling floods. So, hopefully, assistance is once again on the way. The disaster declaration should be coming within the next day or so. Individuals, businesses and units of government should be able to apply for Federal funds to assist them in getting back on their feet.

This is a process that should not have to be occurring every 4 months, and my hope is that very soon this Congress and others will recognize the importance of investing in flood control so that we do not have to go through this process so repeatedly.