

It's time for a national holiday to honor one of our women of achievement.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE LATE  
GOVERNOR PETER TALI COLEMAN  
OF AMERICAN SAMOA

**HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA**

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 1997*

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of a distinguished Pacific leader, the late Uifa'atali Peter Coleman, former Governor of American Samoa, who passed away last month after a long battle with cancer. A dedicated public servant with more than 50 years of public service, Governor Coleman was our first American Samoan statesman, a Pacific American with a truly regional vision. It is that vision for which he will always be remembered by our people.

He was someone important for whom I had tremendous respect. Governor Coleman was always cordial and courteous to me and always extended the hand of friendship. Although we disagreed on certain issues, we agreed on many others, and among them the importance of a strong American presence in the Pacific region.

I learned from him how to handle the stress of political life, how to take the storms in stride and never make a disagreement into a personal matter. He was the kind of individual of whom political opponents like former Governor A.P. Lutali could say, "Uifa'atali and I may have been adversaries in politics, but in life we were always friends."

Mr. Speaker, Governor Coleman exemplified all the traits of a true Samoan leader. He was a soldier and a warrior, a pioneer and a man of vision, a statesman and a man of wisdom. He possessed that quality which Samoans value most in our leaders, that of tofa mamao, which denotes a leader with a sense of vision or understanding and anticipating future events. Above all, Governor Coleman was a humble person who thought less of how he would be remembered in the future than of what he could accomplish today.

Uifa'atali Peter Coleman was born on December 8, 1919, in Pago Pago, American Samoa. He received his elementary school education in Tutuila and graduated from St. Louis High School in Honolulu, where he joined the National Guard and enlisted in the U.S. Army at the beginning of World War II. Assigned to the Pacific theater, he was stationed in the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Hawaii. By the end of the war, he had risen to the rank of captain. In 1982, for his military service, he was inducted into the U.S. Army Officers' Candidate School Hall of Fame in Fort Benning, GA.

After the war, Governor Coleman enrolled in Georgetown University, and in 1949 he received a bachelor of science degree in economics from that institution. While in college he worked as a staff secretary to a Member of Congress, became a member of the U.S. Capitol Police Force and in what was then the Office of Territories at the U.S. Department of

the Interior. He became the first Samoan to my knowledge to receive a law degree from a major U.S. university. After that, he returned to American Samoa, where he became the first Samoan to serve as public defender and later became attorney general.

In 1956, he was appointed Governor of American Samoa by President Eisenhower, one of the first Pacific Islanders to serve as governor in the Pacific. He held that position until 1961.

During those years he chaired the Convention which drafted American Samoa's Constitution and his administration laid the foundation for what has later become known as the American Samoa Government. To properly understand his achievements, Mr. Speaker, we must remember that at that time he had limited resources and hardly any staff to speak of—i.e., there were no younger, educated American Samoans to fill the positions in government. All that came later.

From 1961 until 1965, Governor Coleman served as Administrator of what is now the Republic of the Marshall Islands. So great was the regard in which he was held that he became, by special act of the Nitijela (the Marshallese Parliament) the first U.S. citizen ever accorded an honorary Marshall Islands citizenship.

During his subsequent 17 years in the northern Pacific, Governor Coleman served as Deputy High Commissioner of the U.S. Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and, subsequently, as Acting High Commissioner, which position he held until 1977. His performance firmly established him as a regional statesman.

When American Samoa held its first gubernatorial election in 1977, he ran for office and became the first elected Governor, a position which he held three times. During his elected years in office, he continued to forge close ties between the territory government and Washington DC and with Federal and State agencies and institutions. He was responsible for American Samoa's membership in both the National Governors Association and the Regional Western Governors Association. In 1980 he became the first territorial Governor to serve as chairman of the Western Governors Conference. He was elected a member of the executive committee of the NGA in 1990.

As a regional leader, Mr. Speaker, Governor Coleman's record is equally distinguished. He co-founded the Pacific Basin Development Council in 1980 and was its first elected President in 1982. In 1982 he hosted and chaired the South Pacific Commission's annual conference in Pago Pago, American Samoa. At a special SPC meeting in 1983 and later in a conference in Saipan, he argued strenuously for equal membership in SPC for Pacific territories. This he ultimately was successful in obtaining for the territories.

He was two times a member of the standing committee of the Pacific Islands Conference of Leaders. He was on the founding board of the Pan-Pacific Alliance for Trade and Development and a founding member of the Offshore Governor's Forum, which he chaired from 1992 to 1993.

Governor Coleman was loved and respected by the people he served—both in

American Samoa and in the region. I know that everyone who ever had the privilege of working with him had tremendous respect for his common sense, his intelligence, and his decency.

His generosity of spirit was well-known. He was a role model and a mentor to many young people, myself included. As he gained political stature, he helped younger aspiring leaders—he opened up windows of opportunity and it is as a mentor that many of us will remember him best. From the "teaching stories" he shared to the examples of achievement which his own life offered, he inspired many of us to consider public service. As my distinguished colleague from Guam, Congressman ROBERT UNDERWOOD, has said, "He accurately saw himself as a developer of indigenous governments, bringing Pacific islanders to full recognition of their right to self-government and their capacity to implement the same."

His regional stature was widely acknowledged, Mr. Speaker. In 1970 he was granted an honorary degree by the University of Guam, who cited him as a "Man of the Pacific." In 1978, he received an honorary doctorate from Chaminade College in Hawaii, Pacific Magazine called him, "a man who is probably on a first name basis with everybody from the heart of the Pacific islands to their most distant corners."

This stature as a regional leader led to a number of special assignments. He was a member of numerous U.S. delegations to treaty negotiations, observances and regional conferences, among them the U.S. delegation which negotiated the 1981 Treaties of Friendship with Kiribati, Tuvalu, Tokelau and the Cook Islands, the second Pacific Islands Conference of Leaders in Rarotonga in 1985, the Pacific Democrat Union Conference in Fiji in 1987, the centenary observance of the U.S. Tonga Treaty of Friendship in 1988, and the American Samoa delegation to the Wellington Conference which banned driftnet fishing in the South Pacific in 1989.

In the words of his longtime political rival, former Governor A.P. Lutali, "I am proud that my friend Uifa'atali earned a place in history for his devotion and service to our people and the peoples of the Pacific." Whether we remember the dedicated public servant, the leader, the regional statesman, the role model for Pacific youth, the good friend whose personal warmth was always evident—or any of his other remarkable aspects, we all mourn his loss.

What stands out in my mind is Governor Coleman's regional stature. Here was a man, a Pacific islander, who saw beyond the shores of his own island—a man who clearly saw the link between the welfare of American Samoa and the welfare of other Pacific islanders. He fought for a responsible U.S. presence in the region, he cofounded, encouraged, and nurtured regional organizations and he inspired a whole generation of young Pacific islanders to strive to better themselves by following his example and his vision.

Mr. Speaker, I recently attended the funeral services which were held for Governor Coleman in Honolulu, HI. I am very glad to also note that our Governor Tauese P. Sunia and his lovely wife, Faga, were in attendance at the services. Additionally, the President of the Senate, High Chief Lutu Tenari Fuimaono and his wife Sinira, the Speaker of the House, High Chief Mailo Sao Nua, the Commissioner of Public Safety, High Chief Te'o Fuavai, plus a special honor guard from the Department of Public Safety in American Samoa were present.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer my condolences to Governor Coleman's wife, Nora, and his children and grandchildren. I am sure that the proud legacy which he left them will live on in their hearts and in the hearts of all the people of the Pacific.

Mr. Speaker, I recently attended the funeral services which were held for Governor Coleman in Hawaii. I am very glad to note that our Governor Tauese P. Sunia and his lovely wife Faga were in attendance at the services. Additionally, the President of the Senate, High Chief Lutu Tenari Fuimaono and his wife Sinira, the Speaker of the House, High Chief Mailo Sao Nua.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer my condolences to Governor Coleman's dear wife Nora and his children. I am sure that the proud legacy which he left them will live on in their hearts and in the hearts of all the peoples of the Pacific.

#### PROCLAMATION

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Governor of American Samoa, under the flag code prescribed by the Congress of the United States of America shall be flown at half staff as a mark of respect and a tribute to the memory of Uifatali Peter Coleman, former Governor of American Samoa, and one of the fathers of the government and the territory of American Samoa from April 28, 1997, until May 28, 1997.

Furthermore, by the authority vested in me by the constitution and laws of American Samoa, as executive head of this territory, I hereby order the flag of American Samoa to be flown also at half staff. I would also like to ask all the departments, agencies, and offices of the American Samoa to observe in the most appropriate manner and custom befitting the occasion of the passing of this great leader.

In witness whereof I set my hand and seal on the 28th day of April, 1997, at Utulei, American Samoa.

TAUESE P.F. SUNIA,  
*Governor of American Samoa.*

[From the Hawaii Star-Bulletin, Apr. 29, 1997]

PETER COLEMAN, "MAN OF THE PACIFIC"

(By Mary Adamski)

HONOLULU.—Peter Tali Coleman was called "a man of the Pacific" in one of the many honorary degrees he was awarded, but that was not a fanciful title. It would serve as a summary of his life.

He was the first Samoan to be appointed governor of American Samoa, a US territory and later the first elected governor there.

His service as governor bridged five decades, first from the appointment in 1956-61, to three elected terms, the most recent ending in 1993.

He spent nearly 17 years as an American appointee in administrative roles in the former U.N. Trust Territories of Micronesia. Then he served as an advisor to the govern-

ment and the emerging Western Pacific nations as they gained independence. He founded PTC Inc., a government relations firm specializing in Pacific island matters, was the Republican national committeeman from American Samoa, and an attorney.

Coleman, 77 died yesterday (Monday) at his Honolulu home after a two-year struggle with cancer.

"He was early recognized as a leader and will be remembered as one of the forerunners in the Pacific among native-born leaders who helped their nations chart their own destinies," said Hawaiian Governor Ben Cayetano.

"His contribution will be long and recalled with respect and affection."

Governor Tauese P.F. Sunia of American Samoa ordered the United States and American Samoa flags to be flown at half-staff for 30 days in Coleman's home islands. Sunia will attend services in Honolulu next week, according to his Chief of Staff.

"There is no question of Peter Coleman's place in history, not only in American Samoa, but throughout the Pacific," said Sunia in a message to the Coleman family "I am proud to say I knew him, that I worked for and with him, and that I witnessed the progress and change he brought to American Samoa."

Kitty Simonds, Executive director of the Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management said: "He really knew the heart of the Pacific people." She recalled Coleman's effort to affirm native islanders' fishing rights, a move not popular with the American fishing industry or the tuna packing firms in Pago Pago.

City Councilman Mufi Hannerman said: "He was definitely a role model for many Samoans. Through his example, he embodied the best ideals and value of a public statesman."

D.E. "Rags" Scanlan, president of Royal Guard Security, said Coleman was "distinguished by his work for the betterment of all in the South Pacific." Scanlan whom Coleman tapped to coordinate relief efforts after a 1981 hurricane devastated Samoa, said the man was "very unpolitical. He was in politics but wasn't a politician, he worked behind the scenes."

J.E. Tihati Thompson of Tihati Productions said: "I will always respect him for the assistance he gave not only to the people of Samoa, but also to the Tokelau people of Swains Island Atoll while in office. He grew into a very gracious statesman who many would consult for political advice."

[From the Samoa News, May 15, 1997]

A EULOGY IN MEMORY OF PETER TALICOLEMAN

(The following eulogy was presented by William Patrick "Dyke" Coleman at the recent funeral of his father, former Governor Peter Tali Coleman. Dyke was Governor Coleman's chief of staff in his most recent administration (1989-1993).)

Dad introduced us to Samoa during the summer of 1952 when we first arrived in Pago Pago Harbor on board the Navy transport vessel the USS Jackson. We kids were just overwhelmed and excited by the beauty of the Harbor and the majesty of the surrounding mountains on that July morning.

Grandma Amata had accompanied us on the trip from Honolulu and Chief Tali, Aunt Mabel and Snookie and other family members were there to welcome us.

The living quarters we were assigned to was the old nurses' quarters at Malaloa, the house was spacious, wide open and structurally sound and we kids loved it. Mom and Dad learned later that these quarters had been condemned but that really never both-

ered us because we didn't know what that meant and didn't care anyway.

To Dad, as long as the family's safety and health were not being compromised, the label was of no consequence and the condemned house he viewed as a minor, temporary inconvenience that was not worth complaining about.

The house, for now, served our purposes. He adapted and taught us to do the same. Don't get hung up on the minor things. He never lost focus of his larger destiny.

Things that would bother many of us never seemed to bother him. He handled criticism the same way. Those who knew him well can attest to that. He reserved his energies for life's larger problems.

Only he knew that, very soon thereafter, he would occupy the best house on the island, the governor's mansion. Occupying the governor's house itself was not the goal. He aspired to lead his people and never lost focus of that objective.

Dad practiced law during these early days and his clients would often instead of cash pay him with live chickens and pigs. The house was the perfect place in which to learn and develop responsibility to raise and care for them.

Of course some of these animals soon became pets. We had a pet pig named Porky that we let into the house all the time, and Grandma Amata would get angry and chase the pig out with a broom. On school days Porky would always greet us when we got home. One day Porky didn't meet us. We combed the entire area around the house and the mountainside. We couldn't find him.

Dad had now become Attorney General and we kids had become so upset and distraught that Dad called the police force to help look for our pig. We never found Porky. We knew he ended up in someone else's umu. It took a long time for us to get over that loss.

Dad used to cut our hair, even after he became Governor. His haircuts made us very sad and we cried every time we had to get one. We wanted to look like Elvis but ended up looking like Fred Flintstone. The hairline was almost always uneven and so we would get teased and slapped in the head by the other kids.

One time my brother Milton ran away from home because he didn't want his hair cut. Anyway he finally returned home when he got too hungry. And of course the rest of us promptly reported him to Dad. Misery loves company. Milton got his spanking, which made us gleeful and after his haircut, lost his appetite.

As kids we didn't fully appreciate that those haircuts showed Dad to be a true visionary. Today these haircuts are considered fashionable and quite stylish with the younger crowd. Dad was ahead of his time.

Mom was always behind the scene, providing her strengths to support Dad and the family. For all this intelligence, strength of character and self-discipline, his sense of humor was how he kept life in perspective, everything in balance.

He used humor to fend off criticism, to laugh with others, to tolerate the inflated egos his line of work brought, and even to laugh at himself. His sense of humor was his way of remaining within himself.

One day when he was still at Queen's Hospital I went to visit with him. He had just awakened and I sat there making loose talk and joking with him. I told him casually that Amata had called earlier from Washington.

He asked what she had wanted. I told him she asked how he was doing and that he should start thinking about the governor's race for the year 2000. He laughed so hard he cried.

God bless you.

A TRIBUTE TO SHIMON EREM

**HON. BRAD SHERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 1997

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise today to recognize Shimon Erem as the recipient of the Lawrence J. Weinberg Distinguished Service Award. This award recognizes Shimon for his outstanding grassroots political service which has helped to strengthen relations between the United States and Israel.

Shimon Erem has been a tireless leader of our community and our Nation recognizing the necessity of open dialog, particularly over difficult issues which jeopardize freedom and peace. He has personally arranged meetings among the leaders of France, Norway, Poland, Israel, and the United States, as well as conferences between Christian and Jewish pastors to better Judo-Christian relations.

In addition to his national leadership Shimon has served our local community by participating in California statewide politics, while personally forging relationships between State officials and party activists. Shimon is a true champion of democracy locally in California and throughout the world.

Shimon understands the basis of democracy and the need for strong leadership. He has headed several organizations including B'nai B'rith, the World Alliance of Christians and Jews, Center for Strategic Studies in Los Angeles, and countless others. The Los Angeles community and I thank Shimon for his exceptional service and dedication to the preservation of democracy throughout the world.

Alexis de Tocqueville once said that:

A people among whom individuals lost the power of achieving great things single-handed would soon relapse into barbarism.

Tocqueville meant that democracy would not survive without people like Shimon sacrificing time and energy for the benefit of this Nation. I honor Shimon Erem for his work toward peace and congratulate him as the recipient of the Lawrence J. Weinberg Distinguished Service Award.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE OF REGULATORY ANALYSIS CREATION ACT

**HON. SUE W. KELLY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 1997

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing legislation that will greatly assist this body in obtaining information that it can use to fulfill its responsibilities under the Congressional Review Act. My legislation would create a Congressional Office of Regulatory Analysis, or CORA, whose sole purpose would be to provide Congress substantive information on the potential impact of new regulations on our Nation's small business.

In March 1996, the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act [SBREFA]

was enacted. Contained within this legislation is an often overlooked, but nevertheless significant, provision that gives Congress the authority to prevent new Federal regulations from taking effect. This new regulatory disapproval authority is designed to allow Congress to become a more active participant in the regulatory process.

Members of Congress have often protested that Federal agencies routinely promulgate regulations that exceed their legal authority. Given these complaints, and the fact that the regulatory burden has become unbearably large, one would expect that Congress would be vigorously employing its powers under the Congressional Review Act. However, in practice, the exact opposite is true. As of May 21, 1997, roughly 14 months after the Congressional Review Act became effective, 4,574 nonmajor final rules have been submitted to GAO and Congress, and 72 major rules, on which GAO is required to submit a statement to Congress, have been issued. Yet, not a single resolution of disapproval has been passed. The House of Representatives has failed even to consider one such resolution.

In my opinion, this is not how the Congressional Review Act was designed to operate. Congress must use its authority to exercise stronger oversight of the regulatory state. Before I describe the responsibilities of CORA, however, I would like to make one point very clear: this initiative is not based on the assumption that all regulations are bad. Some regulations have been instrumental in protecting our environment and ensuring the safety of millions of American workers. These efforts should not be weakened, and it is not the intent of this legislation to do so.

Having said that, let me explain more fully what CORA is designed to do. Under my bill, a new legislative support office, called the Congressional Office of Regulatory Analysis, would be created. Why is such an office needed? As discussed above, the Congressional Review Act is simply not being implemented. The executive branch continues to churn out new regulations at a staggering pace. In most cases, the only information that Members of Congress have available to them regarding a regulation is that which is provided by the promulgating agency. As we all know, Federal agencies are required to complete a number of reports and analyses on rules that they are promulgating. A problem exists, however, because agencies often ignore these requirements, or fail to thoroughly comply with them. Aside from what an agency may provide, there is no other source of information that Congress can rely upon. CORA's sole purpose would be to analyze new agency regulations to help Congress determine whether the use of its disapproval authority under the Congressional Review Act would be warranted.

How would the Office operate? Under current law, virtually all new regulations are required to be filed with Comptroller General of the General Accounting Office and each House of Congress. The Comptroller General has unique responsibilities if these regulations are determined to be major. A major rule, whose determination is made by the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, is defined as a rule that will likely have an annual effect on the economy of \$100 million or more. In these instances, GAO is required to submit a report to the committees of jurisdiction by the end of 15 calendar

days containing an assessment of the agency's compliance with the procedural steps required by various statutes and executive orders relating to the regulatory process. The usefulness of these reports, however, is minimal because they simply assess procedural steps taken by an agency, and do not at all address the substance of the regulation. As a result, they do little to assist Members of Congress determine the merits of the rule itself.

This would change under my legislation. Initially, the functions now designated to the General Accounting Office would be transferred to CORA. In addition to the report on an agency's compliance with procedural steps, CORA would also perform its own regulatory impact analysis of major rules. Such an analysis would provide a second opinion on the agency's actions and provide Members with a substantive assessment of the impact the regulation is likely to have. This information could then be used to facilitate use of the Congressional Review Act.

In addition, CORA could also conduct regulatory impact analyses of nonmajor rules. Currently, there is no type of review of these regulations by GAO or anyone else. CORA would undertake these analyses at the request of a committee or individual Member, based on a priority system established within the legislation and the discretion of the Director of the Office. Under such a system, CORA could analyze important nonmajor rules using limited budgetary resources.

Under the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act, the Congressional Budget Office also has certain regulatory analysis functions. CBO is required to estimate the costs of regulations that may be needed to implement a particular piece of legislation. Upon request, CBO is also required to compare its estimate with that of the agency promulgating the rule. Because CORA would be the repository of regulatory information for Congress, it would be appropriate for CORA to assume this function.

Mr. Speaker, Congress needs accurate, reliable, nonpartisan information that it can use to assess new regulations. A source for such information does not currently exist. My legislation would create a small, inexpensive, and focused office within the legislative branch that could provide such information. It would consolidate and centralize such a function, and greatly facilitate effective implementation of the Congressional Review Act. With the annual cost to our economy of Federal regulations estimated at roughly \$700 billion and growing, how can we afford not to have such an office?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HONORING LINDA VISTA SCHOOL

**HON. JAY KIM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 1997

Mr. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today and salute Principal Schara and the teachers and students of Linda Vista Elementary School in Yorba Linda, CA for having been awarded the Blue Ribbon School Award by the U.S. Secretary of Education. I am proud to represent such a fine institution in Congress.

Blue Ribbon awards honor 263 secondary, middle and junior high schools around the