

EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE  
HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE  
HONORABLE PATSY T. MINK,  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM  
THE STATE OF HAWAII

SPEECH OF

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 1, 2002*

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Hawaii for yielding, it is with great sadness that I rise today to address the House.

I offer my deepest sympathies to PATSY MINK's family, husband John Francis Mink, daughter Wendy and brother Eugene Takemoto. Anyone who was fortunate enough to have been touched by her life knows that this Nation has lost a true warrior in the constant struggle for justice.

We will all miss her counsel and guidance as well as her friendship.

She encountered early on the difficulties of prejudice and sexism. She also understood the importance of coalition building that she would carry on for the rest of her career.

She was a person of firsts: first Japanese American woman to become a lawyer in Hawaii in 1952, first Asian American woman and woman-of-color elected to Congress, being 1 of only 12 women total in 1964.

Her energy in awakening all of our social consciousness through her tireless advocacy, work and dedication, inspired students, community leaders, political appointees and especially elected officials of the APA community and beyond.

Congresswoman MINK's record as an advocate for civil rights is unassailable, a crowning achievement being the passage of Title IX of the Federal education amendments in 1972. This landmark legislation banned gender discrimination in schools, whether it was in academics or athletics.

As I have indicated, she has been a role model for countless women as well as those of us from the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. Though she is not physically present, her spirit and legacy will live on through those of us who believe that the fight for fairness and equity is never over.

Mr. Speaker, as we all know, PATSY had a fierce passion for freedom and equal treatment for all persons and during these tense times as our Nation faces growing poverty rates and international turmoil, I'd like to close with two quotes from PATSY MINK. The first quote underscores her passion for the need to stand up for the underrepresented and the second quote makes the point that when our national security is tested, we as a people must not ignore the basic principles that this country was founded on:

If to believe in freedom and equality is to be a radical, then I am a radical. So long as there remain groups of our fellow Americans who are denied equal opportunity and equal protection under the law \* \* \* we must remain steadfast, till all shades of man may stand side by side in dignity and self-respect to truly enjoy the fruits of this great land.

America is not a country which needs to punish its dissenters to preserve its honor, America is not a country which needs to demand conformity of all its people, for its strength lies in all our diversities converging

in one common belief, that of the importance of freedom as the essence of our country.

We all know that Hawaii was founded by Polynesian travelers guided by the stars. Today in the skies of Hawaii shines yet another star in the constellations to still guide the islanders and those of us here on the mainland.

I will miss her very much.

USS SIERRA TRIBUTE

**HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 2, 2002*

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay recognition to the men of the USS Sierra Veterans Association, who will be gathering at their annual "Ship Reunion" this weekend.

The *Sierra* (AD-18) had a long career of distinction within the U.S. Navy. A *Dixie*-class destroyer tender commissioned in 1944, the *Sierra* was named for the famous Nevada mountain range, which means "Snow Mountains."

Almost immediately after her commissioning, the *Sierra* began repairing battle-damaged destroyers in Pearl Harbor. During one nine-day period, the *Sierra*'s crew performed 21,393 man-hours of work on 65 ships, for which they were commended.

As the Japanese forces were driven back across the Pacific, the *Sierra* followed the fleet, performing battle repairs and maintenance upkeep at the Admiralty Islands, Caroline Islands, Solomon Islands and the Philippines. Her early postwar duties included work on ships stationed in Inchon, Korea; Okinawa, Japan; and Tsingtao and Shanghai, China.

After transferring to Norfolk, Virginia in 1950, the *Sierra* served with the Sixth Fleet until 1992. Operating both in the Mediterranean and in the Atlantic near Norfolk, the *Sierra* performed maintenance support to Sixth Fleet logistics, amphibious, combatant ships and submarines. This service included support to naval forces during operation Desert Storm in 1991.

In late August 1992, Hurricane Andrew, a devastating category 5 storm, left a wide swath of destruction throughout Southern Florida. Within 26 hours of being notified, the *Sierra* was en route to help rebuild shattered communities in South Florida. In less than one month, the *Sierra*'s crew restored 12 schools, erected a tent city, provided federal emergency management agency case workers, supplemented Navy relief volunteers, provided Spanish linguists to U.S. Army medical units, and prepared tens of thousands of meals for relief workers, fire fighters and police officers. In this relief effort, the *Sierra* was the first ship to arrive, and the last to leave.

The *Sierra* was decommissioned on October 15, 1993 at the U.S. Naval Base in Charleston, South Carolina.

All too often, Mr. Speaker, ships like the *Sierra* have stood in the shadows of the more familiar front line combat vessels, the battleships and aircraft carriers, cruisers and destroyers. But as the history of this vessel has shown, these ships play a vital role in keeping those combat vessels operating at peak form.

Moreover, by making timely repairs at sea, ships like the *Sierra* save the Navy countless millions in more expensive upkeep and labor repairs in drydock.

The crew of the USS *Sierra* deserve the recognition of this house for their contributions to the U.S. Navy in times of war and peace. I want to further recognize the members of the USS *Sierra* Veterans Association for their efforts to keep the memory of their ship alive and strong, and extend my best wishes for a successful and memorable gathering this year.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. FRANK MASCARA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 2, 2002*

Mr. MASCARA. Mr. Speaker, on October 1, 2002, I was absent for personal reasons and missed rollcall votes numbered 424 through 426. For the record, had I been present I would have voted "yea" on all of these votes.

IN HONOR OF THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ELIZABETH  
UPHAM-MCWEBB

**HON. JOHN D. DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 2, 2002*

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Elizabeth Upham-McWebb, known to the world as "Aunt Bett" on the dedication of her statue of Little Brown Bear, and to commemorate her on ninety-eight prosperous years.

Born and raised in Monroe County, which is part of Michigan's 16th Congressional District, Aunt Bett grew up telling stories and writing with her parents and eight siblings. Aunt Bett has always loved working with children. After attending school, she became an elementary school teacher; she still enjoys teaching Sunday school to Monroe County youth. Aunt Bett's most famous accomplishments include authoring numerous verses and stories for children. The most well-known of these are Little Brown Bear and Little Brown Monkey. These remarkable stories have become favorites among children everywhere.

In May 1978, Aunt Bett was awarded a special state tribute. She also received numerous awards for her writing. Her rhymes and stories have been widely published in magazines, books and textbook readers.

Aunt Bett has benefited the community of Monroe County in countless ways. For decades she has been entertaining and assisting the reading world with her writing and teaching. In addition, she and her husband donated their playhouse to the Monroe County fair where it continues to serve as an exciting attraction to county children and adults. Aunt Bett has illustrated several safety posters that inform children of important safety rules. The Elizabeth Upham-McWebb "Little Brown Bear" Fund is endowed by the Trustees for the Community Foundation of Monroe County and with a major grant from the C.S. and Marion F. McIntyre Foundation to support programs which encourage children to read books.

Little Brown Bear has become a celebrity in the Monroe County Community. Monroe County libraries have organized a sign-up for residents who want to take Little Brown Bear along on their travels. This program has been very successful; in fact Little Brown Bear has traveled to countries such as England, Germany, Finland, Korea, Sweden, Thailand and Australia with Monroe County residents. In Germany he received an honorary pilot's license and German visa. Little Brown Bear has compiled an interesting collection of worldwide library cards for the Monroe libraries.

A pride and joy of Monroe County, Aunt Bett is admired and loved by all. Today Monroe is honoring Aunt Bett with this 900-pound bronze statue of Little Brown Bear, to be placed outside the Dorsch Memorial Library. The statue is a tribute to Aunt Bett and will remind residents of her legacy for decades to come. A community based event, more than fifty percent of the work on the statue was donated. Built to last centuries, the statue will undoubtedly remain an honorable Monroe County fixture.

Mr. Speaker, I would like you to join me in commending Elizabeth Upham-McWebb for her leadership in both her community and her country, as we dedicate this statue and celebrate her 98th birthday.

McGOWAN INSTITUTE FOR  
REGENERATIVE MEDICINE

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 2, 2002

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the House's attention to an important event that took place in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on Thursday, September 26. On that day, the McGowan Institute of Regenerative Medicine of UPMC Health System and the University dedicated a new building that will be used for important medical research.

The next-generation medical therapies that will be designed and tested in this building will be used to wage war on disease and suffering. In this new facility a coordinated partnership effort will enable Pittsburgh to make impressive advances in artificial heart technology, in designing artificial lungs for wounded soldiers, and producing artificial blood.

This new building has been made possible by the leadership of the McGowan Foundation, the McGowan family, Pittsburgh's dynamic local leadership, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The excitement about this new facility is enhanced, Mr. Speaker, by the fact that it is also a remarkable "green building." Designed at every step with the protection of the environment as its first and foremost concern, this building is achieving national recognition for its combination of cutting edge research space with environmental sustainability.

Mr. Speaker, the McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine will lead the way in artificial organ design, cell therapy, and tissue engineering. The research accomplished there will touch the lives of many of us in the years to come. I join the scientific community and the constituents of Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District in congratulating the McGowan Institute on this important milestone.

MEMORIALIZING DR. ROY E.  
YOUNG

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 2, 2002

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Dr. Roy Young of San Jose, California. As a devoted husband, father, and professor, Dr. Young deeply influenced the lives of thousands of Californians.

On July 26th, 1925, Dr. Young was born in San Angelo, Texas where he was raised. He studied theater at Cornell University and earned his Ph.D. at the University of Texas at Austin. During World War II, he served as an ensign on the battleship USS *West Virginia*. Eventually, Dr. Young moved to San Jose where he served as professor and chairman of the political science department at San Jose State University for 30 years. During his tenure, his research focused on American politics and elections. He created two new courses at San Jose State University on public opinion and ethnic politics.

The University and Bay Area were fortunate to be recipients of his work. He gave to his community as a professor and as an active community member. Twice elected chair of San Jose State University's Academic Senate, he challenged the University's governance policies. He was a proud democrat and an active member of the San Jose Board of Ethics and Campaign Finance. The University's College of Social Sciences presented him the Distinguished Service Award. In each position, he took seriously the responsibilities placed on him, often challenging the status quo.

His teaching was what he was most proud of. His passion for education overflowed into every aspect of his life. His dedication to his students went far beyond the prescribed role of a professor. If a student needed a book, he would purchase it with his own money. His love of learning extended beyond the classroom and into his home. A lover of books, his house is filled from floor to ceiling with texts covering a broad range of subjects. As testimony to his devotion to education, Dr. Young chose to be buried on a hill overlooking San Jose State University and the students of tomorrow.

In the last years of his life, Dr. Young recovered from a heart attack and battled Parkinson's Disease and cancer. Though his last years were difficult, they slowed his busy schedule giving him cherished time to spend with friends and family. In passing, he leaves his loving wife Linda and his two sons Jason and Joshua. He succumbed to pneumonia on August 8th at the age of 77.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my deepest condolences to Dr. Young's wife, children, and friends. Please join me in honoring a truly exceptional individual, Dr. Roy Young, who dedicated his life to the service of others. I want to give thanks for all he did throughout his life to make his community and our country better for human kind.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 2, 2002

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, October 1, 2002, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall numbers 424, 425, and 426. The votes I missed include rollcall vote 424 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended S. 434, providing Sioux Tribe Compensation; rollcall vote 425 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended H.R. 4125, the Federal Courts Improvement Act of 2002; and rollcall vote 426 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 538, Honoring Johnny Unitas.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 424, 425 and 426.

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SPEECH OF

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2002

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of my colleague Congresswoman PATSY MINK who served in the House of Representatives for twelve terms. She was the first woman of Asian descent to serve in the U.S. Congress. Representative PATSY MINK's ancestry is the classic story of immigrants seeking a better life in America for themselves and their families. Her four grandparents emigrated from Japan in the late 1800's to work as contract laborers in Maui's sugar plantations.

Representative MINK began college at the University of Hawaii, but transferred to the University of Nebraska where she faced a policy of segregated student housing. Working with other students, their parents, and even university trustees, this policy of discrimination was ended. She returned to the University of Hawaii to prepare for medical school and graduated with a degree in zoology and chemistry. However, in 1948, none of the twenty medical schools to which she applied would accept women. She decided to study law and was accepted by the University of Chicago because they considered her a "foreign student." Choosing not to inform the University that Hawaii was an American territory, she obtained her Doctor of Jurisprudence in 1951. Newly married, she became the first Asian-American woman to practice law in Hawaii.

In 1956, she was elected to the Territorial House of Representatives. It was the beginning of a long and effective political life. In 1959, Hawaii became the 50th state. In 1965, PATSY MINK was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and began the first of six consecutive terms in the House of Representatives. She was the first woman of color to be elected to Congress.

Representative MINK's ability to build coalitions for progressive legislation continued during her tenure in Congress. She introduced