

here to share this time with MIKE and the family.

I have strict instructions from MIKE to keep this brief since he wants to reserve as much time as possible in order to share a moment or two with each of you personally. That might be difficult, but MIKE always thinks big.

In remembering Jeanne I'm sure my thoughts will mirror many of yours since Jeanne was pretty much the same person no matter who she was with. She was comfortable in her own skin, so to speak, and never tried to be anyone but herself . . . and although MIKE casts a big shadow, both literally and figuratively, Jeanne was never overshadowed. She had her own life plan, developed her own career and went about it in her own unassuming but resolute manner.

I remember Jeanne as one of those rare individuals who knew early on what she wanted in life and set about achieving them in her own quiet and measured way . . . I think that all she really wanted was to marry MIKE, teach little kids and have a comfortable home where she could raise a family. She achieved all that, and I don't think she ever needed nor wanted anything more.

I first got to know Jeanne when she began dating MIKE over 40 years ago. We were all young then if that could be imagined. She was a 19-year-old freshman at SJS majoring in teaching.

She adored MIKE. As a brother, I couldn't see it, but, eventually, even I had to admit that Jeanne was a good judge of character. They were well suited to each other. They had a loving and playful relationship, they filled each other's voids, and their separate strengths—she being introverted, disciplined and structured and MIKE being extroverted, spontaneous and hardly a slave to the clock—rather than being incompatible, they dovetailed perfectly and like fine joinery their union was strong and enduring.

Now I have to say here that I'm younger than MIKE—I try to point this out every chance I get—being the more youthful is one of the few things I have over him. He's got me in most every other area—especially in that full head of hair. Anyway, I got married first—I don't know if that had anything to do with it, but one evening shortly after I got married, Jeanne visited Yoshiko and me at our little duplex apartment, and being MIKE's brother, she wondered if I had any insights into his intentions as far as their future was concerned. Well, hoping to reassure her but not wanting to commit MIKE to anything that he wasn't ready for, I told Jeanne that when MIKE was ready to settle down, it wouldn't be with anyone but her. I told her that I thought it might be soon. She seemed OK with this, but a couple of months later there goes MIKE, along with my credibility, joining the Peace Corps, and off to the jungles of El Salvador he went for the next 2 years.

So things didn't always come easy for Jeanne, but resolute as always, she simply turned her full attention to her studies, finished school and got a job teaching kindergarten in the little town of Agnew and waited for MIKE to come home. Two years passed and MIKE, or someone that looked vaguely like MIKE, finally came home—all 130 pounds of him—imagine a dark-skinned pumpkin-on-a-stick and you'll get the picture. He also morphed into an Asian Desi Arnaz speaking fluent Spanish and singing Latin love songs to his fiancée. But of

course to Jeanne he was the same MIKE and they married that following June of 1967; and with her home cooking and TLC, Jeanne got MIKE back up to his fighting weight and then some. I think, though, that she deferred to MIKE when it came to making the menudo. I'll let MIKE tell you about their belated honeymoon when he took Jeanne to visit El Salvador, deep in the heart of Central America—by the way, they didn't fly . . . they drove round-trip . . . in his Volkswagen beetle. Talk about a tough lady.

So just a month shy of turning 25, Jeanne had her man and she had her career. In a few short years she and MIKE moved into their first and only home where she raised two kids and a German shepherd named Orejas. Jeanne was a full-time Mom by then and under her ever present guidance, Mark and Michelle grew into adulthood, graduated from college, married and embarked on successful careers of their own—and to Jeanne's delight—one grandchild on its way. Once the heavy-lifting part of motherhood was completed, Jeanne returned to her other kids, this time at Baldwin School in the Oakgrove School District. I think she achingly missed her school kids as well as her colleagues this past year—the obvious became clear to me that school was a very big part of Jeanne's life.

Just a brief mention about Jeanne's values . . . Anyone who knows her would agree that she had solid June Cleaver values and a kind of childlike innocence, but she also possessed common sense wisdom and carried a kind of moral authority about her that was both subtle and understated—and not at all preachy or controlling. It was evident in her conduct and sometimes, as I've experienced on occasion, in just a look or a well-timed comment or two.

I think MIKE would be the first to agree that he owes much of his success to Jeanne. The constancy and stability she provided helped him stay the course in a hectic public life that often overlapped into their private lives, something that Jeanne had long ago adapted to and accommodated with grace. But the title of Honorable didn't exist at home. Over the years, Jeanne kept MIKE grounded in her gently assertive way. Her moral compass always pointed north and whenever MIKE needed to check his bearings he never needed to look any further than his partner. Jeanne will always remain in his thoughts—one could be certain of that.

Although Jeanne was very much a part of our family for all these years, she never stopped being a Yoshida. She continued to be a source of strength and a source of support to her mother, Rose Yoshida, who had been so extremely proud of her eldest and only daughter . . . and she never stopped being a big sister to her brothers, Stanley and Dick, whom she remained devoted to.

Brother Dick and daughter Michelle were Jeanne's primary care givers over this past year—joined of course by MIKE, who rushed home when she took a turn for the worse, and son Mark and his bride Mekar who both made repeated trips from LA, and not least of all Jeanne's son-in-law, Travis Phillips, who shuttled back and forth from Seattle.

In the end Jeanne was surrounded by her family and by an abiding love that had its genesis in that 19 year-old freshman who began dating MIKE over 42 years ago. In a very real sense Jeanne's life had come full circle. She wanted to go on of course and she fought the

good fight, devoid of self-pity and with extraordinary courage and a stubborn optimism. But Jeanne prevailed long before the events of the past year, because she had attained the only things that were important to her. Those life accomplishments, and the values that she instilled, will live on.

You did good, Jeanne. I know I speak for everyone here, family and friends, when I say thank you, Jeanne. Thank you for being part of our lives. We're all the better for it."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the extraordinary life of Jeanne Yoshida Honda and in extending our deepest sympathies to her beloved husband, our colleague, Congressman MIKE HONDA, their children and their entire family.

TRIBUTE TO THE AMERICAN LEGACY FOUNDATION

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2004

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the American Legacy Foundation as they celebrate their 5th Anniversary. Founded on March 4, 1999 as a result of the historic Master Settlement Agreement between the attorneys general of 40 states and the tobacco industry, the foundation is committed to building a world where young people reject tobacco and anyone can quit.

Thanks to the American Legacy Foundation and other life-saving organizations that work every day to prevent our young people from starting to smoke and help those already addicted to successfully quit, youth smoking prevalence in the U.S. has hit its lowest level in nearly three decades.

The American Legacy Foundation is best known for its award winning truth® youth counter marketing campaign. With its blunt messaging and frank approach, truth® has been cited as one of the reasons behind sharp declines in youth tobacco use. The foundation's programs also extend beyond youth. Circle of Friends creates circles of support around women who want to quit; Great Start helps provide information and counseling to pregnant women about the risks of tobacco use during pregnancy and the earliest days of a baby's life; and the foundation's Priority Populations Program focuses on minorities and other groups that are disproportionately harmed by tobacco use.

I urge my colleagues to join me today in celebrating five years of accomplishment by the American Legacy Foundation and hope that you will work with me to ensure that organizations like the Legacy Foundation are able to continue their critical work to protect our nation from tobacco's deadly toll.

TRIBUTE TO GLORIA AND BAUDELIO FLORES

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is a great pleasure to rise and pay tribute to Baudelio

and Gloria Flores, who for over fifty years have provided a valued service to their Salt Creek, Colorado, community. The Flores are the proud owners of Flores Grocery and Gift Shop, a business they started in the late 1950's that is well known for providing authentic Mexican products in their region.

The Flores invested their entire life savings to start their Mexican-style grocery, with the hope that the profits from the business would one day send their four sons to college. Due to their hard work, the store has grown into a thriving business and is considered a staple of the local business community. Today, people drive from all over the region to purchase authentic Mexican products and sample Gloria's delicious baked goods.

Mr. Speaker, Gloria and Baudelio Flores are two wonderful people living the American Dream. Through their business acumen, hard work, and dedication to excellence, all four of the Flores children were provided the opportunity to graduate from college and today enjoy successful careers. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Gloria and Baudelio for their service to their community and congratulate them on remaining dedicated to achieving their goals and dreams. Their efforts have enriched the lives of their children and the Salt Creek community.

CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE CIVIL AIR PATROL

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2004

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support and appreciation for the Civil Air Patrol. In December 1, 1941, just before the attack on Pearl Harbor, in the great tradition of American volunteering and patriotism, civilian aviators and watchers organized the Civil Air Patrol to help protect our borders. During World War II, they attacked 57 submarines and sunk 2 in addition to diligent reporting of suspicious sightings. In recognition of their contribution to the war effort, President Roosevelt declared the Civil Air Patrol an auxiliary of the Air Force.

The Civil Air Patrol represents what is great about America. Volunteers come together to assist each other in defending our homeland. The government did not direct them, but they cooperated with the government to help all Americans.

The Civil Air Patrol has three missions. It assists with Emergency Response throughout the country. The Michigan Wing flew more mission hours than any other Great Lakes wing. Second, it works with students to teach aerospace science and aviation. The Michigan Wing was given an award by the National Civil Air Patrol headquarters for the best aerospace education program in the Great Lakes.

And third, it trains Cadets. Today, I met with Lt. Col. Tim Neill and three Michigan Cadets, Cadet Lt. Sean Croff, Cadet 2nd Lt. Holly Growe, and Cadet Captain Teresa Olson, who impressed me with their intelligence and dedication. Like many young people they have a desire to serve their country and understand how they can contribute to our country and to our armed services. And they are learning about aerospace science and aviation. Addi-

tionally, learning discipline and hands on technical experience is excellent.

I applaud these young men and women, and I understand their contributions. When I was in graduate school in Delaware, I was the squadron Commander in the Civil Air Patrol. As one of the pilots, I flew search and rescue missions and understand the real contribution that Civil Air Patrol makes to our "Homeland Security".

Mr. Speaker, we all thank the leaders and students that give their time for the Civil Air Patrol. They represent the best traditions of America.

NATIONAL PEACE CORPS WEEK

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2004

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize National Peace Corps Week which is being celebrated March 1-7 around the country. National Peace Corps Week recognizes the important role the Peace Corps has played over the last 43 years and reaffirms our country's commitment to the mission of the Peace Corps, as vital today as it was over 40 years ago.

The first Peace Corps volunteers were sent to Ghana in 1961. Since then, over 170,000 Peace Corps Volunteers have served in 137 countries to promote the Peace Corps' mission of world peace and friendship.

Last year, the number of individuals applying to serve in the Peace Corps rose by 10 percent. These Americans are eager to serve their nation by acting as teachers, business advisors, information technology consultants, and youth and agriculture workers. These Volunteers transfer life-changing knowledge and skills that are valued by the people of other nations.

Currently, more than 7,500 Volunteers are serving in 71 countries around the world—this is the highest number of Volunteers in the field in 28 years. Today's Peace Corps is more vital than ever, stepping into new countries like East Timor, working in emerging and essential areas and committing more than 1,000 new Volunteers as a part of President Bush's HIV/AIDS Act of 2003. Peace Corps Volunteers continue to help countless individuals who want to build a better life for themselves, their children, and their communities.

National Peace Corps Week recognizes all Peace Corps Volunteers, past and present. I would specifically like to recognize the forty volunteers from my congressional district who are currently serving around the globe. These people and all Peace Corps Volunteers have my gratitude for committing two years of their life to their country and to the spread of democracy through the goals of the Peace Corps.

FREEDOM IN HONG KONG

HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2004

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, the House Policy Committee met today with a distinguished del-

egation of Hong Kong legislators and advocates of democracy. I would like to briefly report on this meeting.

Last year, the Policy Committee met twice with representatives from Hong Kong:

First, on January 28, 2003, we met with Hong Kong representatives, including journalists, who briefed us on the PRC's efforts to restrict media and intellectual freedoms. Second, on June 5, 2003, we met with a delegation of legislators and human rights advocates. Today's was our third meeting on Hong Kong in the 108th Congress.

The Policy Committee has held approximately 30 meetings in the 108th Congress. The policy-setting organization for the House Majority has devoted fully 10 percent of our meeting time to the cause of freedom for seven million people on the other side of the earth for several reasons:

First, we are the policy-setting organization for the Republican majority. Our party was founded 150 years ago—more accurately, 149 years, 11 months, and two weeks ago—on the simple idea of individual freedom. Republican presidents helped secure freedom for millions of Americans in the Civil War and for millions more around the world in the Cold War. Today, President Bush has naturally made freedom around the world the primary means of securing victory in the war on terrorism. The basis of our party is freedom, and Hong Kong, today, is on freedom's frontier.

Second, the seven million people of Hong Kong represent the best hope for more than a billion others in Asia. It is vitally important to the world that China becomes more like Hong Kong, and not the other way around. Accomplishing that goal would be in the interests of the people of Hong Kong and all of China, and it would be in the interests of the United States and the rest of the world, as a free, democratic, and prosperous China would be a more stable and friendly neighbor and member of the international community.

One month after our previous meeting, the Hong Kong legislature was scheduled to vote on a PRC-backed law to severely limit free speech and civil liberties in Hong Kong, in the name of punishing "subversion." We and the House International Relations Committee proposed, and the House approved, a resolution in support of freedom in Hong Kong, and against the proposed anti-subversion law. Unprecedented demonstrations by over one-half million people in Hong Kong followed a few days later. The PRC withdrew the so-called anti-subversion legislation it was backing.

While the withdrawal of the so-called anti-subversion bill was good news, the more recent PRC freeze on the consultative process to provide for the popular election of Hong Kong's chief executive in 2007, and of its legislature in 2008, is of grave concern. It is vital to commence this process immediately. China will host the Olympics in 2008. Will the world discover that China has broken its promise? Only if the free world holds China to its commitment, and elections are held in 2007 and 2008, will this global shame be avoided.

Likewise, all the people of Hong Kong—including those who speak out for democracy—must be allowed the freedom to return to travel within China. The refusal of Beijing to grant permission for Chinese patriots in Hong Kong, including many who were born on the mainland, to travel to Beijing is an affront to freedom and to the Olympic spirit.