

speaking volumes about the great burden this natural disaster has placed on the people of at least eleven nations. During this difficult period, I know that all Americans stand in support of the nations and people affected by this unfortunate series of events, and stand united in our determination to assist these people in rebuilding their shattered lives. President Bush has pledged the support of the United States government, and our federal agencies and military personnel are doing everything possible to be of the utmost assistance, and fulfill that pledge. Likewise the American people are responding with overwhelming charity and generosity.

Indeed, this horrible catastrophe has created a virtual global army of compassion, and I rise today to recognize and applaud the leadership and generosity of a small portion of that army, namely the country of Equatorial Guinea, for their generous donation of \$200,000 toward the Tsunami Relief Efforts.

The government of Equatorial Guinea has faced many challenges in restoring order to a country that has been ravaged and neglected for decades. While the country still faces many struggles, such as rebuilding the country's schools, hospitals and infrastructure, Equatorial Guinea is the first African country to make a financial donation to the Tsunami relief effort.

I am pleased to see President Teodoro Obiang Nguema's humanitarian spirit which has served the people of Equatorial Guinea so well, has spilled over to aid the many thousands in need in Southeastern Asia. I fervently hope that Equatorial Guinea's neighboring countries will soon follow the example set by President Nguema and offer any assistance possible to those who have been affected so greatly by this tragedy.

HONORING MR. EDWARD FAUTH,
JR.

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 6, 2005

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker. It is with great pleasure that I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Edward Fauth, Jr., of Corfu, New York, for his fifty years of active service as a volunteer firefighter.

For the past fifty years, Edward Fauth, Jr., has served the Corfu community as a member of the Corfu Rescue Hook & Ladder Company. During that time with the company, he has played a vital role in community safety, holding a number of different positions including Chief, Assistant Chief, Second Assistant Chief, Trustee and Vice President.

Anytime a citizen volunteers his or her time for the betterment of the community, it is commendable. For one man to have given fifty years as a volunteer firefighter is nothing short of remarkable. His commitment to his fellow citizens and dedication to his community truly exemplify the ideals of public service. Through his dedication, Edward has made a considerable and lasting contribution to our community, and for that he deserves our deepest gratitude.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this Congress join me in honoring Mr. Edward Fauth, Jr., of Corfu, New York, and thank him for his fifty

years of active service as a volunteer firefighter.

HONORING CONGRESSWOMAN
SHIRLEY CHISHOLM

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 6, 2005

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, "Just wait, there may be some fireworks." These words were spoken by Ms. Shirley Chisholm after she was elected the first black woman to serve in Congress. And, Mr. Speaker, there were fireworks.

As a founding member, Shirley Chisholm made the Congressional Black Caucus the "Conscience of the Congress." Throughout her career, she was an advocate for the unemployed, for low-wage workers, for women, children, and people of color. The daughter of a laborer and a domestic worker, Shirley Chisholm won awards for her debating skills at Brooklyn College and went on to receive her masters in education at Columbia University. When she came to the House in 1968, she became a teacher to us all.

And Mr. Speaker, there were fireworks. Shirley Chisholm carried the double burden of being black and being a woman. She was no stranger to resistance, but when Shirley wanted something done for her constituency or for her country, nothing could stand in her way. She called herself "unbossed and unbought," and she was. From the moment she entered the Congress, she worked to make it a more fair and equal body. She said, "Our representative democracy is not working, because the Congress that is supposed to represent the voters does not respond to their needs. I believe the chief reason for this is that it is ruled by a small group of old men." Shirley did not rest until she got the committee assignments she wanted and the respect she deserved. Mr. Speaker, there were fireworks.

Shirley Chisholm made history, twice: as the first black woman in Congress, and then as the first African American to run for President in 1972. She said, "I am an historical person at this point, and I'm very much aware of it." When asked of her legacy, Shirley said, "I'd like them to say that Shirley Chisholm had guts." Mr. Speaker, we will say that and we will say more. Shirley Chisholm had spunk and spitfire, she had commitment and courage, she had wit and wisdom—she was an inspiration to us all.

As we move forward into this new Congress, let us learn from our great teacher Shirley Chisholm. Let us remember her courage to be independent, to speak her mind, and to fight for the under-represented in this country. Let us remember that she cared not what the Congress was, but what it could and should be. Let us remember her sense of historical purpose and find our own. Mr. Speaker, in the name of justice, equality, and fairness—in the memory of Shirley Chisholm—let there be fireworks.

EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE
HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE
HONORABLE ROBERT T. MATSUI,
MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM
THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SPEECH OF

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember my colleague and friend, BOB MATSUI. Both California and America have lost a respected leader and more importantly, a good man who was committed to his constituents, his family and his nation.

BOB was a dedicated public servant who worked tirelessly on the behalf of his constituents. He always fought for America's children, to create economic justice, and to protect Social Security. His work, accomplishments, and life are an inspiration to all Americans.

I have been honored to serve with and know BOB. Even in a partisan and closely divided Congress, BOB always brought civility and intellect to policy debates. He was an example for all who seek to advance the best public policy.

I know that his colleagues and his constituents will not soon forget BOB—his untimely passing leaves an emptiness in everyone who knew and loved him.

Mr. Speaker, I hope you will join with me in sending our sincerest condolences to his family. I hope that his wife, Doris, and his family can find peace in this difficult time.

EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE
HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE
HONORABLE ROBERT T. MATSUI,
MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM
THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SPEECH OF

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and the contributions of my good friend and colleague, the Congressman from California, BOB MATSUI, who passed away last Saturday.

During his 26 years of service here in Congress, Mr. MATSUI was a great leader in the House of Representatives, introducing legislation on issues such as welfare reform, health care, tax issues and the environment. His thorough knowledge of the Social Security system made him a strong advocate against proposed reforms that would negatively impact America's elderly population.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for many of my colleagues when I say I will miss the Congressman from California deeply. When I started here over 16 years ago, Mr. MATSUI was already well established, and I was one of the many beneficiaries of his knowledge and experience.

In many ways Mr. MATSUI brings to mind the late Martin Luther King. In the same way that the Reverend King was able to rise above the challenges facing him in his fight for civil rights for African-Americans, Mr. MATSUI, who began

his life in a Japanese internment camp during World War II, never retreated into bitterness and instead remained an inspiration and a strong positive force throughout his career, representing not just the Asian American community but his constituency and our country, with honor and pride.

Mr. MATSUI dedicated his life to serving our country. Due to his contributions, the lives of our great country's children, our elderly, and our oppressed have been made better. For that, we are supremely thankful.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues to remember our departed friend not with sadness, but with joy in their hearts that we had the opportunity to be associated with such a strong, inspiring, devoted man.

EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE
HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE
HONORABLE ROBERT T. MATSUI,
MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM
THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Congressman ROBERT MATSUI. BOB MATSUI was one of those elected officials who earned the right to be called a "statesman." He was a force for compassion, competence and integrity—as well as a wonderful human being whom I was honored to call my friend. I extend my heartfelt sympathies to his loving wife and family.

Mr. Speaker, BOB MATSUI embodied America's promise, demonstrating how a citizen of humble beginnings could rise to the heights of American governance. BOB also reminded us of our country's sins. During the Second World War, BOB's family was interned in the Tule Lake internment camp. This time of curtailed liberties and rampant xenophobia is one of the darker moments of American history.

Mr. Speaker, internment left an indelible mark on BOB MATSUI's family. BOB's mother contracted German measles at Tule Lake, and as a result, BOB's sister was born blind.

The experience also deeply affected BOB, inspiring him to use his platform in Congress to reclaim the dignity of those wrongly interned. BOB worked tirelessly to enact the Japanese American Redress Act, in which the government formally apologized for internment and offered compensation.

Mr. Speaker, James Baldwin once said, "I love America more than any other country in the world, and, exactly for this reason, I insist on the right to criticize her perpetually." BOB MATSUI loved America in just this spirit. When John F. Kennedy told Americans to ask what they could do for their country, BOB pledged to become a public servant. He served diligently for 26 years.

Mr. Speaker, we will miss BOB's leadership as the new Congress wades through the murky waters of Social Security policy. Our Democratic House Leader, Congresswoman NANCY PELOSI, was quite accurate when she noted that "America's seniors have lost their

best friend in the Congress." I would add only that so have this nation's children and all of us who seek balanced, progressive solutions to the challenges at the center of people's lives.

EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE
HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE
HONORABLE ROBERT T. MATSUI,
MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM
THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SPEECH OF

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of an admirable citizen, respectable public servant and a generous, kind man. Congressman ROBERT MATSUI served the people of California and his nation in the House of Representatives for 26 years.

BOB gave our country and Congress years of his knowledge and dedication to fighting for civil rights after beginning his life in 1942 in a detention camp for Japanese-Americans. He embraced his heritage as well as the hardships Asian Americans faced and channeled it to positive change to make our nation formally apologized for the interment of Japanese Americans and provide financial compensation to the survivors.

BOB was a true inspiration: as a Member, he was a vital member of the Democratic Party and worked to make his Party stronger but never let his dedicated ties refrain him from working with his Republican colleagues; as an American, he listened to President Kennedy to give to his country a life of service and commitment to making life better for all Americans; and as an Asian American, he served as a role model to young Asian Americans that the impossible is never that far away and that they too can become active in government to serve the American people.

Mr. Speaker, BOB MATSUI's loss will leave a large void to this chamber. Our prayers and thoughts are with his wife Doris and his son Brian.

EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE
HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE
HONORABLE ROBERT T. MATSUI,
MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM
THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SPEECH OF

HON. ROSA L. DELAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise with great sadness as we honor our dear friend and colleague, Congressman BOB MATSUI, who passed away this New Year's Day. I always say that it is a privilege to serve in this body. But for 25 years, it was this institution that was privileged—privileged to call BOB MATSUI one of its Members. He was a compassionate man dedicated to his constituents and family, and resolute in his ideals.

Each of us knows the adroit knowledge of Congress BOB possessed—from his grasp of tax and trade law intricacies, to his drive for basic social justice, to his tireless opposition to those who would weaken Social Security's guarantee. He was not only smart—he was also principled, and he used both to the fullest throughout his illustrious quarter-century in public life.

I know he would have relished the forthcoming debate to fundamentally reform Social Security, to which he surely would have brought the same passion and intelligence he took to his efforts to help his party over the years. As was the case with all things he put his mind to, win or lose, whatever the battle—whether it was welfare reform, Social Security or his chairmanship of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee—the level of discourse was elevated when BOB MATSUI added his voice to the debate. At a time when the tenor of politics in our country has become so abrasive, what BOB MATSUI offered was a precious commodity indeed.

On a personal note, I always felt a close bond to BOB, as we were both children of immigrant parents—his from Japan, mine from Italy. He spoke of how spending the first 5 years of his life in a Japanese internment camp haunted him for the rest of his life. But the experience unquestionably gave him a lifelong commitment to civil rights and social justice. It gave him a genuine empathy for people that one could trace from his friendships to his work on issues like trade, welfare and retirement security.

He was, in the truest sense of the word, a patriot—someone for whom America meant the promise of a better life for one's family and community. As such, BOB MATSUI will be sorely missed, but his legacy will live on for generations. My thoughts and prayers are with him and his family.

EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE
HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE
HONORABLE ROBERT T. MATSUI,
MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM
THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of our colleague, BOB MATSUI, as we honor his life and his long service to this Congress and to our Nation.

I had the pleasure of serving alongside BOB on the Ways and Means Committee since 1996 and knew him to be a statesman of enormous ability and integrity, a man of kind and gentle nature, a rare individual with whom one could disagree without finding him to be disagreeable. These are the most important qualities a public servant in this House of Representatives could possess. BOB made an immeasurable contribution to the House. His keen intellect and ability to craft bipartisan legislation will be missed by me and the entire Congress.

Our thoughts and prayers are with BOB's family at this difficult time. His passing is truly a great loss for our Nation.