

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.

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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.

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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.

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. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, on January 1, 2005 the United States Congress lost one of its finest Members with the passing of BOB MATSUI. Recently re-elected to his 14th term by an overwhelming margin, BOB was an outstanding leader, beloved by his colleagues in Congress and his constituents alike.

As the third ranking Democrat on the powerful House Ways and Means Committee, and the Ranking Member on the Social Security Subcommittee, BOB served as an outspoken champion for the preservation of our social security system. In addition, BOB was a member of the Executive Board for the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), one of the most active caucuses in Congress. The trust and respect that his colleagues had for him was demonstrated last Congress, when he was elected as Chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

As we convene to begin the 109th Congress, it is important that we all pause to remember the noble work that Congressman MATSUI had accomplished during his 26 years in these halls. I would ask that all of my colleagues also keep his loved ones in their thoughts, including his beloved wife Doris; his son, Brian; his daughter-in-law, Amy; and his granddaughter Anna. BOB MATSUI was a great man, as well as an outstanding leader, and his service to our great Nation will never be forgotten.

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. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, every now and then you encounter someone in public service who is a public servant in every sense of the word, who transcends petty partisan politics, who brings a depth of character and a depth of knowledge to surpassed by no person, someone who loves his country, works hard for the people he represents but loves his family even more. That person was BOB MATSUI who we lost over the weekend.

BOB was someone I grew to know and love. My first contact with BOB was a campaign check he sent to me in my first run for Congress in 1996. I had never met him before then but he must have seen something in me that motivated him to help me out a little during my first campaign when a lot of other people didn't think I could win.

And when I came to Congress, I quickly got to know BOB and appreciate him. He was

someone who made everyone feel special. He would solicit your opinions on the issue before us, even though his depth on the issues like tax policy, trade, social security and medicare, surpassed anything anyone else had. He cared for this institution and the process of democracy and he exuded boundless optimism about the future of our great country even though his first few months as a citizen of this country was spent in an internment camp in California shortly after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. He later led the effort in Congress to right that gross injustice by having our government apologize for that action.

In short, BOB MATSUI was someone I respected, looked up to and tried to emulate here in Congress. You can't replace a BOB MATSUI; he was rare and never fully appreciated to the extent he deserved. But we all can learn from BOB MATSUI and take his legacy of compassion, justice and fairness and make it our legacy to the next generation.

To his wife Doris, son, Brian, daughter-in-law, Amy, and granddaughter, Anna, may you surround yourself with family, friends and loved-ones during this difficult time and find comfort and understanding. Perhaps one day Anna will be old enough to read these testimonials to her grandfather and better appreciate how special he truly was. Please know that BOB was loved by many and will be missed by all.

May God bless him and keep in his company.

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. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay my respects to one of the giants of the House of Representatives, Congressman BOB MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I can not tell you how shocked and saddened I was when I heard the news of Congressman's MATSUI's passing. The constituents of the 5th Congressional District of California, the Democratic Party and our nation have suffered an enormous loss.

I had the honor and privilege of serving with Congressman MATSUI since I was elected to Congress in 1990. I was always impressed with BOB's knowledge, dedication and concern about the issues that he held close: healthcare for those who need it—especially for children, tax policy, fiscal responsibility and trade; as well as the issues that were important to his District: flood control, transportation, housing, and environmental preservation. His knowledge and passion on these and many other issues will be missed daily.

Even on the rare occasion when we differed on an issue, such as trade, Congressman MATSUI presented his positions fairly and without rancor. He approached issues with an open mind and demonstrated a great ability to reach across the aisle. He had opponents, but no enemies.

Congressman MATSUI served the people of Sacramento for 26 years. While BOB MATSUI

was a valued member of the Democratic Party, he never forgot that his primary responsibility was to all of the people of California's 5th Congressional District, regardless of party affiliation. BOB always did what he thought was best for his constituents and for the country. He worked tirelessly for them in Congress and they have lost a valuable advocate.

BOB MATSUI had the respect and confidence of his peers. Time and again, Democrats elected him to leadership posts and he used these positions to be a capable and articulate spokesman for the Democratic Party. There is perhaps no other issue in which Congressman MATSUI proved to be more valuable—or will be missed more—than Social Security. His knowledge was second to none and as Congress debates the future of this vital program, we will miss his wise counsel about the importance of preserving Social Security as we know it for future generations.

Congressman MATSUI's experiences as a Japanese-American who was detained in an internment camp during World War II gave him a special sensitivity to the importance of preserving civil rights and civil liberties. His legislative work securing relief for those who were wrongfully held during World War II was a historic achievement and a fitting tribute to this great and good man.

Over the past several days, we have heard dozens of tributes honoring Congressman MATSUI. The words that were most often used in these accolades to describe BOB MATSUI were "integrity," "dignity" and "ability." For those that knew him, these words were only part of what made BOB MATSUI a terrific person, a dear friend and valuable Member of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, it is amazing to think that public service was not BOB MATSUI's first passion; architecture was. We are tremendously fortunate that Congressman MATSUI happened to read the biography of Clarence Darrow, which he always credited for inspiring him to enter law and eventually politics. California and, indeed the nation, has benefited from Congressman MATSUI's service and we thank him and his family for sharing him with us.

Congressman MATSUI will be sorely missed. My prayers are with his wife Doris, his son, Brian, his daughter-in-law, Amy and granddaughter Anna, and his many friends and family. God bless you, Congressman MATSUI. We will never forget you.

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. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. BOB MATSUI was a dear friend. His long and distinguished public service on behalf of the people of California and all Americans was a tremendous benefit to his State and our Nation.

As a Member of Congress, he was a respected leader, an effective lawmaker, and a tireless leader of his party. With a major debate on Social Security looming, we will sorely