

Major General Castro currently serves as the Deputy Director, Defense Threat Reduction Agency. In this capacity, Major General Castro helps safeguard America and its allies from Weapons of Mass Destruction by providing capabilities to reduce, eliminate, and respond to the threats posed by such weapons. I'm certain that the Members of the House will join me in honoring Major General Randal R. Castro for his outstanding service to our country.

ALEXANDER "SANDY" NININGER

**HON. RON KLEIN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 2008*

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Second Lieutenant Alexander "Sandy" Nininger, a heroic American soldier and the first United States recipient of the Medal of Honor in World War II.

Lieutenant Nininger entered service in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and bravely served his country during the Second World War as a member of the 57th Infantry Regiment of the Philippine Scouts. He gave his life near Abucay, Bataan, Philippine Islands in January of 1942. He fought valiantly into relentless enemy fire even after sustaining three wounds.

In his hometown of Fort Lauderdale stands a Sandy Nininger statue and WWII memorial where annual Memorial Day services are held in recognition of his service and that of his fellow veterans. Their efforts have provided Americans with security and peace of mind, and I join all Americans in gratitude for their sacrifices.

On June 14th, which has been designated as National Flag Day, Americans honor those who fought to protect this country and the ideals for which the American flag stands. Sandy Nininger fought for America, and I think it is only appropriate to pay respects to him on Flag Day.

Madam Speaker, I believe that America owes its military heroes the utmost appreciation and I am honored to represent thousands that served our country honorably in our nation's military, just as Sandy Nininger did. On this Flag Day, I am proud to remember a distinguished local and national hero, Sandy Nininger.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. AL GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 2008*

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I was unavoidably delayed and missed the vote on Final Passage of H.R. 6003, the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act (rollcall 400). H.R. 6003 passed by a vote of 311–104; Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 400.

I would also like to offer my firm support for the Passenger Rail and Improvement Act, H.R. 6003. At a time when gas prices have reached a national average of \$4.05 a gallon,

this bipartisan legislation is both timely and necessary to provide travelers with alternative transportation. This bill would authorize nearly \$15 billion in funding for the national passenger railroad over the next five years. It encourages the development of new and improved intercity passenger rail services by creating a new grant program for intercity passenger rail services. It also paves the way for a high-speed rail system between Washington and New York City.

Today it is increasingly evident that the United States cannot rely solely upon further massive construction of highways and airports to meet its transportation needs. To handle the tremendous tide of travelers, auto, air and bus system must be supplemented by a swift and efficient rail passenger service. It is vital to restore an essential balance to the total transportation complex.

For nearly 40 years, Amtrak has provided intercity passenger railroad service, operating approximately 44 routes and over 22,000 miles of track. A record of 25.8 million passengers took Amtrak in the last fiscal year. With the climbing costs of driving, Amtrak expects ridership to approach 28 million this fiscal year. The passage of this legislation allows Amtrak to meet the increased demand by bringing much needed improvements to its infrastructure. In an effort to address our energy problems, enhanced intercity railway provides a cost-efficient solution. I support this legislation as we seek to offer relief from high fuel costs and alternatives to the American people.

HONORING MR. LI KA-SHING,  
GLOBAL PHILANTHROPIST, EN-  
TREPRENEUR, CORPORATE  
LEADER

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

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 2008*

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Mr. Li Ka-shing of Hong Kong and to celebrate his extraordinary life, service, and achievements on the occasion of his 80th birthday.

The vast accomplishments in business of this global icon place him easily among the most successful and respected entrepreneurs of our day—Gates, Buffett, Branson and others. But his contributions in philanthropy, a new concept Mr. Li is introducing in China, also rank him among those business giants—Carnegie, Rockefeller, and Vanderbilt—who understood the benevolent, ennobling uses of wealth to strengthen and lift others.

No one who examines the life of Mr. Li Ka-shing can help but appreciate the power of purpose not only in shaping one's life but destiny as well. He has shown what a life guided by deep, constant purpose and fueled by optimism, determination, and industry can achieve—despite odds and obstacles that may appear insurmountable. With purpose, he has built companies and changed lives with compassionate giving.

As a child, in 1940, Li Ka-shing fled China with his family to escape the Japanese invasion. The family arrived destitute in Hong Kong, with little prospects for the future. His father was an educator, his mother a loving and noble influence in his life. As a young

boy, Mr. Li showed great academic promise. But circumstances and necessity—his father was stricken with tuberculosis and later died—forced him to abandon his dream of receiving an education. At 12, he had to leave school to work in a factory to support his family. Despite his young age, the power of purpose had taken hold of him as he pushed himself to endure grueling 16-hour workdays. By 22, Mr. Li's hard work and perseverance had earned him the ownership of his own plastics factory, Cheung Kong Industries.

He was known for his honesty, his loyalty and customer service. There is a well-known story in Hong Kong how on one occasion, a large contract with a U.S. business was cancelled after Mr. Li had completed the manufacturing. The business had decided to change direction in what it wanted. Mr. Li not only did not charge the U.S. businessman who had changed his mind, but proceeded to complete the second order as directed. This single act later opened the door to Mr. Li and his company becoming one of the key producers of toys and home decorations for American companies. In fact, to this day, some still refer to him as G.I. Joe, as it was Mr. Li and his company that manufactured that popular line of toys in the '60s and '70s.

Building on this foundation, Mr. Li expanded into real estate investment, creating a company that was listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange in 1972. Meanwhile, Cheung Kong continued its rapid growth trajectory with acquisitions of Hutchison Whampoa, a British trading company that has been active in Hong Kong since the 1820's, and Hong Kong Electric Holdings Limited in 1979 and 1985, respectively.

Today, Mr. Li leads a vast global business empire as chairman of Cheung Kong Holdings Limited and Hutchison Whampoa Limited. Cheung Kong Holdings Limited is the flagship of the Cheung Kong Group, which has business operations in 57 countries around the world and employs about 260,000 staff. In Hong Kong alone, the Group includes eight listed companies with a combined market capitalization of approximately US\$122 billion.

The Cheung Kong Group's businesses encompass such diverse areas as property development and investment, real estate agency and estate management, hotels, telecommunications and e-commerce, finance and investments, retail, ports and related services, energy, infrastructure projects and materials, media, and biotechnology. Hutchison Whampoa Limited is a Fortune Global 500 company.

Mr. Li's personal holdings confer the distinction of being Asia's richest man. But his deep humility and gratitude—coupled with an intrinsic understanding of the true value of money and the good it can do—have never allowed him to flaunt his wealth or his position. True to the lessons of his humble beginnings and hardships and his Horatio Alger story, he has found that wealth, when used to serve others and not self, can be employed with great purpose and power.

Mr. Li believes that an equitable society can only be achieved if individuals are ready to do their part. In 1980, he established a charitable foundation—the Li Ka Shing Foundation. Its mission is to enhance the impact of its philanthropy through two strategic objectives: to nurture a culture of giving and to foster creativity, constructive engagement, and sustainability

through supporting capacity empowerment focused projects. To date, the Li Ka Shing Foundation and other private charitable foundations established by Mr. Li have supported numerous charitable activities with grants, sponsorships and commitments in the billions of dollars.

The Hong Kong entrepreneur's giving heart is novel and legendary in a part of the world that has no tradition of philanthropy. Mr. Li has not only given away far in excess of US\$1 billion to support a host of worthwhile causes and programs, but his giving continues with hundreds of millions of dollars each year. And his giving transcends country boundaries and nationalities. He has sponsored children's centers, church buildings, cancer research centers, scholarships in the United Kingdom, the School of Medicine at Stanford University, as well as medical research projects at the University of California at Berkeley, among other initiatives. He has created a hospice program throughout China that brings pain relief for patients terminally ill with cancer. He has built hospitals and eye clinics where rural Chinese can receive cataract surgery free of charge. When the tragic tsunami hit Indonesia, Mr. Li was the world's first businessman to provide immediate and personal relief, just as he did more recently with the deadly earthquakes in China.

He has provided millions of dollars in aid to wage a global battle against hepatitis, avian flu, and degenerative diseases. Despite his own thwarted hope of an education, Mr. Li has placed this dream within the reach of thousands of young and aspiring Chinese. In 1981, he endowed and established Shantou University in Guangdong Province. The university has nine colleges, including a medical college with five affiliated hospitals. Enrollment is open to students across China. Today, the university has 6,500 undergraduate and 1,500 graduate students. It is the centerpiece of his philanthropy, the very heart of his giving. Last year, Chairman JOHN CONYERS of the House Committee on the Judiciary, Congresswoman DIANE WATSON, and I spoke at Shantou University, and I cannot adequately explain the spirit that exists on that campus, where students who would otherwise receive no education are given an opportunity that opens to them the doors of world.

Shantou has internships and educational relationships throughout the world—in Europe and Canada, here in the United States with such prestigious institutions as my alma mater, Berkeley, as well as Stanford, the University of Utah, and others. Its curriculum is cutting edge, bringing a whole new and exciting learning paradigm to traditional Chinese education. In addition to Shantou University, Mr. Li supports other major educational projects such as Hong Kong Polytechnic University, the Open University of Hong Kong, Singapore Management University, Foundation Primary Schools, University of Calgary, and the University of Hong Kong, to name a few.

Mr. Li's generosity is not limited to health care and education. He is also a committed patron of culture—art, dance, music, literature, sports, and the preservation of artifacts—as well as community welfare. In fact, Madam Speaker, he is a patron of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. His support even has gone so far as the Dance Theatre of Harlem.

No less of a business authority than Forbes magazine has taken note of Mr. Li's magnanimity and dedication to improving the lives of people around the world. For his past and present philanthropy, it conferred upon him the first-ever Lifetime Achievement Award at a gathering of many of Asia's top business leaders in Singapore.

From his businesses to his service, to his generosity, to his countless acts of compassion toward others—all these flow from a heart stayed upon a single purpose, a guiding ideal for life: to love others by serving and lifting them. For those who have had the privilege of meeting Mr. Li, they feel the bright, generous, benevolent, yet humble spirit of this man through his broad and warm smile. He radiates good will, genuine concern, and humanity for all—regardless of station of life. And he delights in being a servant of no man in particular but of all men in general. This has been his life's purpose.

Mr. Li's example can teach us much about the things of the heart, those invisible powers and energies of the spirit that can be summoned for good. His is and has been a remarkable life and legacy that remind all of us that we can aim a little higher and do a little more to lift lives and strengthen others through service—whatever our own gifts may be, no matter how meager we think them. And the best time to begin is now.

Madam Speaker, in recognition of his achievements as a global philanthropist, entrepreneur, and corporate leader, I am deeply honored to insert into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a letter signed by 20 Members of the U.S. House of Representatives commemorating Mr. Li's 80th birthday. By making this letter a part of American history, we salute this great man and honor the occasion of his birth on June 13, 1928.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
Washington, DC, June 13, 2008.

MR. LI KA-SHING,  
Chairman, Cheung Kong Holdings, Ltd.,  
Queen's Road Central, Hong Kong.

DEAR MR. LI: On the occasion of your 80th birthday, we are writing to honor and recognize your extraordinary life, distinguished career, humanitarian service, achievements, and legacy as a global philanthropist and entrepreneur who leads a vast business empire as chairman of Cheung Kong Holdings Limited and Hutchison Whampoa Limited (a Fortune Global 500 company) with operations in 57 countries, a workforce of 260,000, and a combined market capitalization of nearly US\$122 billion.

We especially commend you for using your wealth to serve others. Believing that an equitable society can only be achieved if individuals are ready to do their part, you established a charitable foundation—the Li Ka Shing Foundation. Backed by your personal initiative and example, and sustained by the Foundation's mission, you introduced a broad-based philanthropy to a part of the world that has no tradition of it. Promoting what you affectionately call your “third son”—the notion of giving beyond the confines of family to others in need—you have established and nurtured a culture of giving in China and throughout Asia to underwrite worthwhile efforts supporting charitable aims.

While donating more than US\$1 billion to support a host of worthwhile causes and programs worldwide, including sponsorship of children's centers, church buildings, cancer research centers, scholarships in the United Kingdom, the School of Medicine at Stanford

University, as well as medical research projects at the University of California at Berkeley, you have also provided millions of dollars in aid to wage a global battle against hepatitis, avian flu, and degenerative diseases, and, more recently, nearly US\$20 million in disaster relief to the victims of the Sichuan earthquake. We are touched by your work to alleviate pain for those suffering from cancer through your remarkable hospice program, as well as your efforts to build hospitals and provide eye surgeries for those unable to pay.

Despite your own thwarted hope of pursuing an education, you are also fulfilling the dreams of thousands of young and aspiring Chinese through numerous universities, including Shantou University, which you endowed and established in 1981, with nine colleges, including a medical college, serving 6,500 undergraduate and 1,500 graduate students.

As a patron of culture, your generosity extends to art, dance, music, literature, sports, and the preservation of artifacts. We thank you, specifically, for being a significant patron of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC, and for also embracing the Dance Theatre of Harlem.

We join with Forbes magazine, which conferred upon you the first-ever Lifetime Achievement Award at a gathering in Singapore of Asia's top business leaders, in recognizing your past and present philanthropy. Truly, your countless acts of compassion toward others flow from a heart stayed upon a single purpose, a guiding ideal for life—to love others by serving and lifting them.

Yours has been a remarkable life and legacy that reminds all of us that we can aim higher and do more to lift lives and strengthen others through service, and that the best time to begin is now.

We wish you a happy birthday and many more.

Sincerely,

Eni F.H. Faleomavaega, Chairman, Foreign Affairs' Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific & the Global Environment; Diane E. Watson; Howard P. “Buck” McKeon, Ranking Member, Committee on Education & Labor; Eddie Bernice Johnson, Chairwoman, Transportation Subcommittee on Water Resources & Environment; Jim Moran; William J. Jefferson; Donna M. Christensen, Chairwoman, Natural Resources' Subcommittee on Insular Affairs; Grace F. Napolitano, Chairwoman, Natural Resources' Subcommittee on Water & Power; Albio Sires; Ed Pastor; Mike Honda, Chairman, Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC); Dan Burton, Ranking Member, Foreign Affairs' Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere; John Conyers, Jr., Chairman, House Committee on the Judiciary; Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Chairwoman, Natural Resources' Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife & Oceans; Keith Ellison; Bennie G. Thompson, Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security; Joe Baca, Chairman, Agriculture Subcommittee on Departmental Operations, Oversight, Nutrition & Forestry; Raul M. Grijalva, Chairman, Natural Resources' Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests & Public Lands; Silvestre Reyes, Chairman, House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence; and Luis V. Gutierrez, Chairman, Financial Services' Subcommittee on Domestic and International Monetary Policy, Trade & Technology.