

COMMENDING MR. IWAO MATSUDA

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Madam Speaker, I rise to commend Mr. Iwao Matsuda for his diligence and many years of hard work in bringing about closer United States-Japanese-Korean relations. We can all thank him for the development of very close ties between the legislatures of Japan and the United States.

The legislative exchange program he created evolved into semiannual meetings between Members of the Diet and the U.S. Congress. The personal and professional relationships that have developed are key to the long and solid alliance between our two democratic nations.

He also played a key role in expanding these exchanges to include South Korea once it became a strong and vibrant democracy.

I note Mr. Matsuda was selected by Prime Minister Koizumi to serve in the very prestigious position as Minister of State for Science and Technology Policy, Food Safety and Information Technology.

Madam Speaker, it is therefore appropriate for us to commend and thank Mr. Matsuda for helping to foster peace and democracy in Asia and I wish him well in his future endeavors.

HONORING MR. IWAO MATSUDA

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of my good friend from Japan, Mr. Iwao Matsuda. He is a patriot who has dedicated his life to his country and to the people of Japan. I have worked with Mr. Matsuda for many years and am saddened by his retirement from the United States-Japan Legislative Exchange Program (LEP).

Mr. Iwao Matsuda served Japan for many years in a variety of roles. One such role was as a civil servant in the Ministry of International Trade and Industry. Having served in the Ministry for more than twenty years, he learned the importance of the United States-Japan friendship. Later in his career, as Member of the Japanese Diet, Mr. Matsuda constantly forged new pathways to improve United States-Japan relations and he recognized that at the core of improved relations was a deeper cultural understanding of our two countries. As a Member of the Diet, he was in a unique position to forge a pathway to closer ties. Thus, Mr. Matsuda helped launch the LEP which is now one of the most successful exchange programs in Congress.

As a founding father of the LEP, Mr. Matsuda has been a leader in building a long-lasting friendship between the United States and Japan. His in-depth knowledge of the United States has been a key to building the LEP into the successful program that it is today. Members of Congress, including myself, welcomed the knowledge and wisdom that Matsuda shared at LEP meetings. Under his leadership, Members of Congress and the Diet have been able to break down barriers

and build lasting friendships that we all cherish.

My wife Cheryl and I wish our good friend Mr. Iwao Matsuda all the best. As he makes a change to the private sector, we both know that Matsuda will continue make Japan proud. I look forward to finding new ways to work with my friend and I wish him well with future endeavors.

HONORING MR. IWAO MATSUDA

HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Iwao Matsuda and his many contributions toward strengthening the relationship between the U.S., Japan, and South Korea. His efforts in establishing the bilateral Legislative Exchange Program between the United States and Japan and his efforts to expand the program to include South Korea have cultivated the strong bond between our countries and served to reinforce and uphold our common democratic values.

Mr. Matsuda has worked tirelessly toward improving relations between Japan and the United States. In 1989, after becoming a member of the Japanese Diet he helped launch the first Legislative Exchange Program. Troubled by bitter trade disputes between the United States and Japan, his idea was to bring together Members of Congress and members of the Japanese Diet in an informal setting to have a candid exchange of ideas to address these key issues in United States-Japanese relations.

This bi-lateral exchange has continued successfully for the last twenty years and was expanded in 2003 to include South Korea. The semi-annual meeting between Members of Congress, the Japanese Diet, and the South Korean National Assembly continues to foster candid discussions and is an important component in the close alliance between our three countries.

Madam Speaker, after twenty years of working to cultivate the relationship between the United States, Japan, and South Korea, Mr. Iwao Matsuda is retiring from public office. It is only appropriate that we take a moment to honor his service and applaud his commitment to the promotion of open dialogue and democratic ideals.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF PATTI MACLEISH GORDON

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Mr. GRAYSON. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of National Teacher Day. Today, I would like to recognize an extraordinary teacher from Central Florida who is making a significant impact in the field of education in my district and in the State of Florida, Patti MacLeish Gordon. Mrs. Gordon was one of five finalists for the Orange County Public Schools 2011 Teacher of the Year and was

selected earlier this year by Lifestyle Magazine as one of Central Florida's "Top Teachers."

Mrs. Gordon was born in Orlando, Florida where she attended Lake Silver Elementary, Lee Middle School, and graduated from Lake Highland Preparatory School. Being born into a family of teachers (her aunt, mother, and older sister are also teachers), it is no surprise that Patti graduated from Clemson University with honors where she majored in Elementary Education and Graphic Design. Mrs. Gordon received her Master's degree in elementary school counseling from the University of Central Florida. She is a National Board-Certified teacher, who has taught pre-school, 1st grade, 3rd grade, 5th grade, and was the elementary school guidance counselor at Lake Highland Preparatory School for 3 years. For the past seven years, Mrs. Gordon has worked at Princeton Elementary school as a gifted education teacher.

Patti has gone above and beyond a traditional role of a teacher. She believes in teaching through hands-on activities, service learning projects, and uses modern technology whenever she can in her instruction. She not only founded a Science Club in her school, she also coordinates and teaches in the program. Through her leadership and enthusiasm, over 125 students volunteer to participate in the Science Club after school. The environment is a passion for Patti and can be seen through her "Green Team" initiative, which has led to a complete ecological change for her school.

Madam Speaker, Mrs. Gordon is a remarkable example to educators all over our country. It is an honor to pay tribute to her accomplishments. I know the crucial impact teachers can and do have on their students. Mrs. Gordon's passion and dedication for teaching is not only seen through her many awards, but through the success of her students. Central Florida is lucky, and grateful, to have an educator like Patti MacLeish Gordon.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE TOWN OF HILLSBOROUGH, CALIFORNIA

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the 100th Anniversary of the Town of Hillsborough in my district. In fact, I am a proud resident of this town. My children were raised here and they have benefited from an excellent public education system, particularly in the middle grades where, aside from mastering the basics, they confronted the challenges of malnutrition in Africa, homelessness in our own country and the importance of protecting the environment. The spirit of altruism that was instilled in them is one that permeates the entire community.

We often talk about good citizenship, a sense of neighborhood and civic responsibility as if they were things in our past. I can attest that those values are alive and well in Hillsborough under the able leadership of Mayor Christine Krolik who states that 7,000 of the 11,000 total residents are registered to vote. And that 11,000 number includes children as well as adults, so a truly extraordinary number of voting-age adults are actively participating in our democracy.

The people of Hillsborough have a real connection to their town. The public schools are a source of shining pride to the entire community, and indeed diplomas my children earned at Hillsborough public schools have a place of distinction in our home. The dedicated public servants of the Police, Fire, Public Works and Administration Departments are among the very best in our great state of California. The town cares deeply about their natural resources, and Hillsborough has set a very high standard for preservation of public space and preservation of natural beauty. Indeed, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary, the town will dedicate a new Centennial Park, which will be donated by the Hillsborough Beautification Foundation, which privately raised all of the funds for this wonderful community treasure.

The town of Hillsborough has a rich tapestry of history. Hillsborough has hosted Theodore Roosevelt for a Presidential visit, as well as Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton and George W. Bush. Residents of Hillsborough have included such notable citizens as Bing Crosby, William Randolph Hearst, William Crocker and Rickey Henderson.

There will be a Memorial Day Parade of the Century planned for May 31. There is much to celebrate in the past 100 years in Hillsborough, and I join my many friends and neighbors there in recognizing the 100th Anniversary of Hillsborough.

Madam Speaker, please join me in celebrating this great occasion for this great town.

HONORING STATE SENATOR
ROGER STEWART'S SERVICE

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise to thank Iowa State Senator Roger Stewart for his service to Iowa and our country. Senator Stewart is retiring from the Iowa State Senate at the end of the 2010 state legislative session.

Senator Stewart has represented Dubuque, Jackson, and Clinton County in the Iowa legislature for the past eight years. He has been a principled, pragmatic leader. Communities throughout Iowa have benefited from his commitment to responsible economic development and common sense business practices. Senator Stewart is chair of the Economic Growth Committee and a member of the Ways and Means Committee. He serves on the Rebuild Iowa Committee which is creating conditions for sustainable development in communities damaged during the 2008 Midwest floods and tornados.

Senator Stewart has also been an effective advocate for Iowa farmers and agribusinesses. He has received several awards for his work on agriculture issues including the Chamber Friends of Agriculture Award and the National Banking Award for work during the 1980's farm crisis.

Madam Speaker, the Hawkeye State is fortunate to have great leaders like Roger Stewart. Please join me in thanking the Senator, his wife Jennie, and the entire Stewart family.

HONORING RONALD L. LYNN,
PRESIDENT OF THE INTER-
NATIONAL CODE COUNCIL BOARD
OF DIRECTORS

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance of building safety, and to recognize the leadership of the International Code Council (ICC). The ICC develops and publishes the building safety, energy efficiency and fire safety model codes used in most cities and States of the United States, as well as in many other nations.

We don't have to look far to see how important the issue of building safety is to people in America and around the world. This year, we had sobering reminders of the importance of properly enforced building codes in the aftermath of devastating earthquakes in Haiti and Chile. The loss of life and catastrophic property damage of those disasters might have largely been avoided had modern building codes been in place and enforced, as they are throughout the U.S.

With those tragedies in mind, I want to congratulate the leaders of the ICC who sponsor Building Safety Month, celebrated in May. The leaders of the ICC, including my constituent and the Director of Development Services for Clark County, the President of the Board of Directors, Ronald L. Lynn, of Las Vegas, Nevada; Vice President, James Brothers, from Decatur, Alabama; Secretary/Treasurer, William Dupler, from Chesterfield, Virginia; Immediate Past President, Adolf Zubia, from Las Cruces, New Mexico; and Director Guy Tomberlin, from Fairfax County, Virginia, have joined ICC's Chief Executive Officer Rick Weiland in Washington this week to discuss the critical need to support the adoption and administration of the latest building codes, to make sure Americans are safe at home, at work, at school and at play.

In particular, I am pleased to take this opportunity to celebrate the many accomplishments and contributions of Ron Lynn. During a career that has spanned almost 30 years, Ron has been an incredible asset to the Las Vegas community and has played a central role in helping our city grow. We have all benefitted from his involvement in groups such as the McCarran Airport Hazards Area Board of Adjustment, Nevada Earthquake Safety Council, Nevada Organization of Building Officials, the Western States Seismic Policy Council's Architecture, Engineering and Construction Committee, the Nevada State Hazard Mitigation Planning Steering Committee, and the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology Advisory Committee.

Ron is among the very best of the thousands of men and women who work every day to make sure our buildings comply with building and fire codes. Their work, largely unseen and often unnoticed, is critical to keeping Americans safe.

Congratulations, Ron, on a distinguished career spent ensuring the safety of your fellow citizens, and congratulations to the hard working members and leadership of the ICC.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, April 29, 2010, I was not present for rollcall vote 241.

Had I been present for rollcall vote 241, a motion to recommit H.R. 2499, the Puerto Rico Democracy Act, I would have voted "aye."

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA WATER AGENCIES

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Association of California Water Agencies on the occasion of their 100th anniversary, aptly recognized as "A Century of Leadership, Vision for the Future."

The Association of California Water Agencies, ACWA, was established in 1910 after five irrigation districts united as one voice to lay the groundwork for developing California's water supply and delivery system. The Association represents the interests of its members at the State and Federal levels, and assists them in promoting the development, management, and use of quality water in an environmentally balanced and cost-effective manner. Since its inception, the work of the ACWA has been reflected in scores of local, regional and statewide water projects.

As the largest coalition of public water agencies in the Nation, the ACWA has become a leader on California water issues and a respected voice in both the legislative and regulatory arenas in Sacramento and Washington, DC. In 1991, the ACWA expanded its offices to the District of Columbia to advocate for California water communities on Federal issues. Since that time, the ACWA has participated in efforts that led to enactment of the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996; efforts to keep MTBE out of drinking water; efforts leading to the issuance of the CALFED Record of Decision; efforts to derail a Federal chlorate cleanup exemption and produced "No Time to Waste: A Blueprint for California's Water Future" for the California congressional delegation, among other achievements.

The Association of California Water Agencies has been a guiding force in California's water policy for the past century, and they continue to help shape the laws, policies and regulations that affect the State's urban and agricultural water users. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Association of California Water Agencies for their advocacy and leadership on California water issues, and commending them for the role they have played in developing the State's water policies and regulations. Again, congratulations to the Association of California Water Agencies on their centennial.