

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay my respects and give my deepest condolences to those who have suffered through one of the worst natural disasters in history.

As our nation celebrated the holiday season with our loved ones, a tragedy of epic proportions was occurring half a world away. An earthquake with a magnitude of 9.0 off the coast of Indonesia triggered a massive tsunami that engulfed several countries throughout South and Southeast Asia. The total aftermath is not yet known as the number of lives lost continues to rise to immeasurable levels.

Though this tragic disaster destroyed lives, families, and entire economies, it did not destroy the strength of character and sense of purpose displayed by the victims who continue to fight daily for survival. The victims of this tsunami are not alone in their struggle. Across our great Nation, Americans, together with the world community, have exhibited their generosity of spirit as they pray for the suffering families and continue to give monetary assistance to those in need.

More than 150,000 people have been killed with millions more affected. These numbers are already impossible to comprehend yet countless others are missing.

We are now presented with a defining historical moment as a nation and as an international community. We must share the fiscal and emotional burden that will only get worse for our brothers and sisters in Southeast Asia. We cannot underfund, undercut, or undermine our relief efforts by failing to follow through on our promises as a government or our compassion as Americans.

9/11 will always be remembered in our nation as a time of crisis and devastation, yet also a time of perseverance and unity. We survived this horrific event because of the resolve exhibited by our Nation's people and the support received from the international community. The tragedy that has struck Southeast Asia is no less of a crisis and no less devastating.

It is the responsibility of the United States and the world community to continue the aid and assistance of these countries during their time of need. During times of crises are when the integrity of a nation and its people are judged in history. I am encouraged by the overwhelming response and generosity shown by the people across this world. It is the human way to respond; it is the American way to respond.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RENZI). Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the resolution.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 11) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 11

Resolved, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of the Honorable Robert T. Matsui, a Representative from the State of California.

Resolved, That a committee of such Members of the House as the Speaker may designate, together with such Members of the Senate as may be joined, be appointed to attend the funeral.

Resolved, That the Sergeant-at-Arms of the House be authorized and directed to take such steps as may be necessary for carrying out the provisions of these resolutions and that the necessary expenses in connection therewith be paid out of applicable accounts of the House.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That when the House adjourns today, it adjourn as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California (Mr. STARK) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, as the dean of the California delegation, I offer this privileged resolution expressing the profound sorrow of all of us within the House of Representatives at BOB MATSUI's passing. I am honored to sponsor this resolution in an attempt to memorialize BOB's contributions to Congress and to our Nation.

Like all of us, I was shocked to hear the news that someone as vibrant as BOB MATSUI is no longer with us. He has been a forceful leader in Congress, and he will be missed. I will miss his counsel and his friendship, having been honored to serve with him during his time in Congress as a fellow Californian and on the Committee on Ways and Means.

But first of all, my thoughts and condolences go to his family, BOB's wife Doris, his son Brian, daughter-in-law Amy, and granddaughter Anna.

I just got around I guess to opening his Christmas card a day or so before the sad news came and was reminded of a night early on when Brian, who is now an adult with an adult life, and he could not have been more than 5 or 6 at the time, and he was at a reception with BOB and Doris and myself and choked on a chicken bone, and the consternation we all had, patting Brian on the back and getting him through the chicken bone incident. So as I say to Brian and to Doris, BOB's memory will live with them and give them great support as they move ahead in their lives.

In his time here, BOB demonstrated and embodied the utmost integrity. He knew and understood the purpose, the greater purpose, really, which we in the House are entrusted with. He lived by and set high standards in public service. In a word, he was a statesman. He went through the experience of being interned during World War II, and it never made him bitter. He never lost his spirit. Rather, it gave him resolve for his own convictions and his sense of public service.

He started in Sacramento after a brief career in law, and then he came to Congress in 1979, starting out with the Committee on the Judiciary and then with the Committee on Government Operations, and then later joining the Committee on Ways and Means where he really became our resident expert on Social Security and was active in trade and tax policy issues as well. He tackled those issues, as I am sure any of my colleagues who have discussed Social Security with him know, with sharp intellect, deep convictions, and compassion for what was right. But he was fair. He had a sense of humility and one of respect I think of his colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

I do know one thing, that BOB MATSUI would have wanted to be here to lead the Democrats in the fight to protect Social Security in this coming session of Congress. He was prepared for it. He was geared up for it. He had been spending his time over the last several weeks before his sad passing to lead us in the effort to protect Social Security. His convictions of compassion mark his work on behalf of disadvantaged children and families in our country as well.

BOB championed expanded health care coverage for children and was a tireless advocate for child welfare. Indeed, he joined many of us in opposing our own administration during the welfare reform issues in 1996, and he introduced key legislation to expand job training and education programs to help people in poverty. We lost that battle in 1996, but he remained steadfast in his commitment to ensure that people got lifted out of poverty, not just kicked off the welfare rolls.

So as the new year began, I had looked forward to his counsel and working with him side-by-side as it were on our committee on important issues.

His spirit will continue to inspire us in the days ahead and with gratitude for all he has done, we will carry on his work and do all we can to honor his life and his contributions to the American people. I know that the House tonight will adjourn in his honor, and on New Year's he adjourned sine die. We say so long, old friend.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, let me begin by expressing my appreciation to my California

colleague (Mr. STARK). We have worked jointly on this resolution, and it is with a great deal of sadness obviously that we are here at this moment.

We just completed the debate on the resolution that had to do with the loss of now it appears about 150,000 lives from the tsunami that has taken place in South and Southeast Asia. And then we come to the next resolution, talking about one man, an individual who has made a great contribution. And when you juxtapose the resolution with the loss of 150,000 lives and now we are talking about BOB MATSUI, we cannot help but think about the fragility of life.

BOB MATSUI is an individual who offered so much to this institution, but he offered so much to me personally, just as I know he did to others of my colleagues who are going to be speaking tonight and many of those who are not going to be able to be here this evening.

□ 1900

The gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) in her statement when she was turning the gavel over to the gentleman from Illinois (Speaker HASTERT) this morning I think said it very well when she talked about the combination of intellect and passion that BOB MATSUI demonstrated in his life.

We all know that BOB was a tremendous intellect, very thoughtful, very deliberative on issues that he tackled, but he also at the same time had a deeply felt passion in the pursuit of his agenda, and I will tell my colleagues that I shared that agenda in some areas and I shared his passion. I do not know that I have quite the intellect that BOB had, but I shared his passion.

We worked together through the 1980s and the 1990s in pursuit of the global trade agenda, and I know there is a lot of controversy in this House on that issue, but BOB and I worked arm in arm to try and get Bill Clinton trade promotion authority. I remember the kind of energy and the thought that BOB put into this, and he had boundless energy when it came to this. He was a slight person, but boy, I will tell my colleagues, when he put his mind to an issue, he really was very, very diligent in pursuit of that.

We worked together on a wide range of individual trade agreements, going back to the North American Free Trade Agreement. Every single year, BOB MATSUI and I worked together to try and grant what we used to call most-favored nation trading status for the People's Republic of China, and then ultimately we worked together on the granting of permanent normal trade relations.

I happen to believe that that vision that BOB had was a very positive one and has played a big role in improving the quality of life and the standard of living for people all over the world, and I think that when we look at this institution it is a tragic irony, I mean, that

this has come. We are not only sad but we are very shocked.

The gentleman from California (Mr. STARK) and I, Mr. Speaker, were just talking about the news and what BOB went through at the end because it did come as a great surprise to him and to Doris and to Brian and Amy and little Anna that he was going in for a check-up, and then it ended up, of course, that because of this infection he was going to not survive. So when this news came out it was a shock to all of us.

I heard it just as I was getting on the airplane to fly back here on Sunday, and I was just taken and I could not help but think about immediately all of the great experiences that I had traveling, working on joint California issues, working, as I said, on the trade agenda and realizing how dedicated this guy was and what a horrible loss this will be for this institution and for us as individuals.

So I join, as the gentleman from California (Mr. STARK) has just said, in extending personally my thoughts and prayers to Doris and Brian and his family as well. We all got that picture of their family that was just sent to us, and we could not help but be moved seeing that photograph of them, knowing what a wonderful, wonderful family they are.

I just have to say that I am very, very saddened, and my thought and prayers go to those family members. We have learned how fragile life truly is.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON).

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. STARK) for the time.

Mr. Speaker, I am both saddened and honored to rise today in memory of our friend BOB MATSUI. We can barely glimpse a man's greatness in a single floor statement, but I will try.

American heroes have customarily run toward towering figures of many words, but today, our Chamber and our Nation honors a man whose contribution was not the quantity and volume of words but, rather, the quality and the effectiveness of both his spirit and his skill.

Many will speak from the floor tonight of the landmark, legislative achievements of this extraordinary man. Many more will honor his lifetime of legislative victories and how they directly improved the lives of millions of Americans spanning several generations. Single mothers with infants. Civil rights. Our Nation's most vulnerable seniors. BOB provided more than a voice for those who could not speak for themselves. He provided victory. He provided results. He won monumental battles, not by being the loudest but by being the smartest and the most informed person in the debate.

The Greeks have told us that death is hardest on those it leaves behind. This

House has lost a rare statesman. Doris, Brian, Amy and Anna have lost a devoted and loving husband, father and grandfather. I have lost a mentor and my best friend in this Congress, and our Nation has lost a tireless, compassionate and brilliant leader. To the Members I say, in the year that lies ahead of us, let us make sure that this Chamber is worthy of his grace and his legacy.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. DOOLITTLE), my very good friend from Rocklin.

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much for the time.

Mr. Speaker, while I, like our other colleagues, was really shocked to learn of this sad news, I think it was exactly a month ago today on the final day of the 108th Congress that BOB and I exchanged a warm greeting in the elevator, wished each other happy holidays and fully expected to see him back here with all the rest of us starting out today in the 109th Congress.

I had the privilege of representing the adjoining region to BOB MATSUI, who represented the City of Sacramento and certain surrounding areas. He and I got to know each other pretty well. We had some real contentious issues, one specific contentious issue that the Chamber is aware of dealing with water supply and flood control in our region, and we battled over that for a long time.

BOB was a fearless advocate for his constituency, and it always impressed me as we went through this process of advocating our points of view and coming to the realization that we would be best served by trying to find some common ground and putting that into law. We got to know each other on a personal basis, and it was really a delightful experience. I think our constituents assumed we were bitter enemies, but that was not the case. The disagreements were never personal, and we actually became friends, and I always enjoyed seeing him.

I knew he was a good family man. He cared a great deal about that, and from time to time we would sit back there in the back rows and visit with each other a little bit about that. He was very proud of his son Brian, first love Doris a great deal, and proud of his daughter-in-law and of his new granddaughter, relatively new, 16 months old I believe.

Like the gentleman from California (Mr. STARK), I was opening that Christmas card myself, well, just last week in Rocklin. That was one of the ones I saw, big beautiful card and filled with pictures of his family, and he was a very committed man, a very effective representative.

Sacramento has a lot today because of work that he did, a lot of fine accomplishments from improving the airport to light rail taking off, getting started with him, and developing and extending the lines and so forth, the

massive amount of flood control work on the levees and so forth that is going on, a lot. He has left quite a legacy.

I shall miss him and I am truly sorry that this has happened. It is a shocking event, and my prayers are with Doris and Brian and Amy, his daughter-in-law, and Anna, the granddaughter. I thank my colleagues for this opportunity to offer my thoughts.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN).

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is very difficult to come to terms with BOB's loss. It was a shock and so tragic. He was kind and decent beyond measure. He put a human face on the all too often theoretical debates on health care, Social Security, child welfare and tax policy, and he was always a voice of reason.

BOB cared about the challenges real people faced, children in foster care, workers struggling for a fair shot and seniors whose Social Security checks make the difference between life in or out of poverty.

In 1988, BOB helped the Nation come to terms with the terrible wrong our government committed against Japanese Americans during World War II. BOB and his family were forced into an internment camp when he was 6 months old. His parents were both U.S.-born citizens, but they lost their home and family business during the three-and-a-half years their family was interned.

BOB became the first Japanese American elected to the Sacramento City Council and one of the first Japanese Americans in Congress. He spent his career fighting injustice. Among his many efforts, he established a task force I was privileged to co-chair with him to give Members of Congress with diverse backgrounds a better understanding of the grave threats that Israel and the Israeli people face.

On a personal level, I considered BOB one of my closest friends in this institution. We spent time together, often when I took advantage of the fact that our Bethesda homes were close by each other and hitched a ride with him.

I know BOB's center of gravity was his family, his wife Doris, his son Brian, his daughter-in-law Amy and what he made clear was the most adorable granddaughter in the whole world, Anna. He was so proud of Brian and his accomplishments, his clerking for the Supreme Court of the United States and making more money in his first year in a law firm than even Members of the United States Congress.

He cared deeply about his efforts to make a difference through public service and the principles and values of the Democratic Party, and this took him to the position of sacrifice as chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

Janet and I were so grateful for our friendships over the decade with BOB and Doris. We want to extend our deep condolences to the family, the entire

family during this sorrowful time. This is an enormous loss for his family, for his friends and for this entire country.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the very distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER).

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for the time.

Mr. Speaker, today we mourn a friend and able colleague. It is a tremendous loss to each of us and to our country.

BOB MATSUI was someone that virtually everyone in the Sacramento area knew and respected. Indeed, I was not elected to Congress until 1986, almost 10 years into BOB's service in the House, but my wife Pam and I already knew BOB and his wife Doris. One really could not be from the Sacramento area and not know and have tremendous respect and admiration for the Matsuis and for their work in the community.

As a representative of a congressional district to the north of Sacramento, I worked frequently with BOB on issues of regional importance to northern California. He was a passionate and effective advocate for his constituents on a myriad of issues, particularly on flood control, one of the most critically important issues for those of us who live in flood-prone northern California.

He will certainly be remembered by all of us as a leader on these and many other issues important to the region and as an able and dedicated voice for his constituents.

I also had the pleasure of serving with BOB for many years on the House Committee on Ways and Means. A long-time supporter of free trade, BOB was willing and determined to reach across the aisle and work together on the challenging issue of trade policy.

□ 1915

He worked hard for policies that expanded trade, but that also ensured that it was fair and that the playing field was level for American companies and agricultural producers. Those efforts went a long way to helping expand economic opportunities for our northern California region as well as the Nation.

In all his dealings, both public and private, BOB MATSUI personified integrity. It was an honor to have called him a friend. On behalf of my wife, Pam, and me, I would like to extend our personal, heartfelt condolences to the Matsui family, his wife, Doris; his son and daughter-in-law, Brian and Amy; and his granddaughter, Anna, for their tremendous loss. They can be proud knowing that their husband, father, and grandfather worked incredibly hard to serve the people he represented, always with the noblest of intentions and always with the level of intellectual honesty, ability and skill that commanded enormous respect from everyone who knew and worked

with him. He will be greatly missed by all.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT).

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

I rise to join my colleagues in paying tribute to an extraordinary human being, BOB MATSUI. Like so many others across this country, the celebration of this new year was for me shaken by the incredibly sad news of BOB's demise. I awoke this Sunday expecting to be consumed with the challenges and work of the new year, only to be stunned to learn of the passing of an old friend.

Libby and I had only a couple of days before shared the beauty of BOB's family that he and Doris send out each year at this time, reflecting on the last time we shared a meal with them, only a couple weeks before at a dinner table here in Washington, knowing of the pride that BOB felt in Doris' professional accomplishments and how often he mentioned Doris and Brian and his family in conversations on subjects here in Washington.

There is a Greek proverb: "The measure of man is what he does with power." By this measure, or really by any measure, BOB was indeed a great human being. Although he had significant power here in Washington as a senior Member of this House, he was viewed as a soft-spoken advocate for the things that he believed in and the people he represented. And yet on more than one occasion I have seen his temper flare at injustice.

BOB was a great and principled policymaker. He gave a great deal of thought to the issues and the decisions before he spoke, and often took positions that were not popular but that represented his principles. He also was willing to grow and adjust those principles, certainly being committed to more trade, and yet over time he recognized that trade was more than just counting how many widgets crossed country lines, but how that trade affects people.

He was committed to not only Social Security but to retirement security, and took a very forceful stance in this House about the concern that we do more to help those who have no retirement, not just to add to the retirement of those who already have much.

It was my good fortune to serve with him on the Committee on Ways and Means, to come on that committee as a new member and find BOB as someone that I could turn to when I had a problem for personal advice and always get a thoughtful hearing and sound advice.

While his passing is most premature, we can only seek to renew our strength inspired by his very strong example, to remember the causes that he championed and how he championed them, and to be strengthened in our efforts by his spirit and his fight for fairness, to stand up for what is right for the American people.

It is fitting for us to honor BOB with our words, but certainly we must honor him in this Congress with our actions, to continue to champion the causes that he would champion and had so often, from this very microphone. Certainly that is true with regard to Social Security, as he stood up to those who would destabilize, privatize and pirate it. Without our ally, our work will be harder, our burden will be greater, and our responsibility will also be greater.

As the Los Angeles Times editorialized about BOB recently, "He epitomized an ideal of public service that has largely vanished in a partisan Congress."

Mr. Speaker, we salute BOB by our deeds as well as our words tonight.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEARCE). Without objection, the gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER) will control the time.

There was no objection.

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS), the chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, a committee that BOB MATSUI served on for many years.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, it is true that BOB and I were on the Committee on Ways and Means together; but, frankly, BOB and I go back a long way.

This is especially difficult since just a very short time ago I was going through the Members' Christmas cards. If you have been around a long time one tends to see the march of time in the cards. You get a very formal card from a new Member. Maybe he is not married. Or if married, it is just a very bright, young couple. Over the years, the family grows, not just in stature but in numbers. We just received one from the Matsui's with a grandbaby prominently displayed.

In 1978 in November in Sacramento, Members who had been elected to Congress in that election got together as Members-elect in Sacramento. I had known BOB by virtue of his being on the Sacramento City Council. I was an assemblyman at the time and of course spent some time in Sacramento. There were three other Democrats, colleagues in the assembly, Vic Fazio, Julian Dixon, and Tony Coelho who had been an aide to a Congressman and been elected in that same election. To show Members how much things do not change, one of the freshmen in that class was the gentleman from California (Mr. LUNGREN) who has joined us once again as a Member. Another member from the State Assembly who joined us that year, was the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS).

All of us got together as newly elected Members from California. We stayed together because when you are in the same class, even if you are of a different party, you have common ties, notwithstanding the differences of policy positions that you take or oftentimes the different committee directions that you take. It was my privi-

lege and pleasure to serve not only at the same time as BOB, but for a significant number of years on the same committee.

He was, as we now know even more so than we thought, in many ways a very private person. It was, I think, personality as well as culture. But if one could get inside there, all of the comments that Members have made in a very public way were also true of the private person. You often wonder, as is the case with some Members, how BOB would get elected if he had to go out and be gregarious among people. But when one meets Doris, you figure out how he did it easily: he just kept her in front of him. As some people have said with my wife, Sharon, they understand better once they have met the spouse how you get elected. But the most important thing was the couple and the union they formed.

One of the things that some of the newer Members need to realize is that what occurs in committee and on the floor is business, and people go about their business in different ways. The reason we are going to hear a number of Members talk about BOB is because if you spend a little time getting to know the other businessmen, you cannot help but get to know them as a person. All of us are lamenting the passing of Congressman BOB MATSUI, but those of us who knew the person of BOB MATSUI are perhaps lamenting even more.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I yield for the purpose of making a unanimous consent request to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. HARMAN).

(Ms. HARMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to a gentleman and a gentle man, BOB MATSUI.

I will sorely miss my good friend and colleague BOB MATSUI. California and America have lost a champion for justice, Social Security, fair trade and opportunity for all.

BOB's courage was remarkable. Imprisoned in an internment camp as a young child, he worked to give freedom and dignity to others.

Serving more than 25 years in the U.S. House of Representatives, most recently as a Senior Member of the powerful Ways and Means Committee, and Ranking Member of its Social Security Subcommittee, as well as Chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, BOB was an unfailing gentleman and a loyal friend.

I met him early in his House career. Long before I thought of running for Congress I consulted him, and he offered his support.

Shortly thereafter, my key advisor and law firm colleague Vic Raiser died in a plane crash. BOB knew our relationship and called me. He said, "I cannot take Vic's place, but I'll sure try." He made my race his top priority and personally contacted his donor base on my behalf. His efforts were critical to my victory and I referred to him thereafter as my "mother."

At this time of sadness, my thoughts and prayers are with BOB's extraordinary wife, Doris, son Brian and beautiful granddaughter,

Anna. BOB leaves a huge void in this nation and a big hole in my heart.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL).

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I thank all Members for participating in this tribute to someone whom we all believe was our best friend. This is so very unusual in a Congress that does not allow us to meet often or travel very much together that each one of us treasures so much those special personal relationships that we have.

At a time when hundreds of thousands of lives are being lost in Asia and in the Middle East, God has a way of reducing all of this and making it a lot more personal when it appears in the middle of the night. He just snatches away someone that you may have just taken for granted. Certainly the loss of BOB had everyone startled. How could a person with such fierce commitment to legislation and to the Congress who was so involved, and appeared to be looking so hard toward the next challenge, how could God have just snatched him away without any warning? But I have found over the years that it eases the pain, it does not remove it, but it eases the pain if during times like this you can think of how fortunate you were that in your lifetime you came across a person like BOB MATSUI.

It also helps if you can thank God that you do not have to say I wish I had spent more time with him or I wish I had gotten to know him better or I wish I had told him how fond I was of him, or how much I appreciated his dedication to the committee, to the Congress, to the causes that he so truly believed in. And then it makes you feel a little better that you had a chance to say BOB MATSUI, we love you.

It is hard for me to think of anyone that felt so strongly about his beliefs, and at the same time we hear over and over tonight that he was indeed a gentle man, how we can hear Members from both sides of the aisle saying we are human beings, we are dedicated, we do have different beliefs, but here was a guy who was able to take all of this and still manage to have friends on both sides of the aisle.

□ 1930

Yes, the chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means is so correct, because we always felt that we had two Members as being friends, because Doris was a partner, she was a friend, she was a supporter and, of course, Brian and Amy, they all had an opportunity to share their love and dedication to their father, to her husband, before he left. He did not just walk away from our lives but in his classy way he said good-bye to the family and left us here in the Congress and especially us in the Democratic Caucus with such a sense of pride and feeling how proud we were to be able to have a person of his caliber not only politically being our leader but on the Committee on Ways

and Means where so often we hear that he was an expert in Social Security legislation, but those of us who were privileged to serve on the committee knew that he was an expert in anything that came before the committee. He was an expert in trade, he was an expert in pensions, he was an expert in welfare issues. And not because he was just a good lawyer and a good lawmaker but because he was compassionate and understood where he came from and his commitment was trying to improve the quality of life of Americans and human beings all over. He never forgot the struggles that he and his family had gone through and he always led us to believe that we could achieve even things beyond our expectations in working with him.

And so with all of this loss and in searching for something to thank God for doing, I can say I thank Him for sharing BOB with us and I thank Him for giving me the opportunity of having told BOB MATSUI how much I loved him.

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am happy at this point to yield 3 minutes on behalf of the Congressional Asian and Pacific Islanders Caucus to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WU).

(Mr. WU asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, today we stand together here in the people's House to honor and mourn the loss of one of its true servants, BOB MATSUI. I am filled with sadness as we remember an outstanding Member of Congress, an inspiration to a generation of Asian Americans, a leader and a good friend. It is not only a loss for those of us who had the privilege to serve with him, not just a loss for Asian Americans but a loss for this Congress and all Americans. His wisdom and counsel will certainly be missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family during this time, with Doris, with Brian and Amy.

BOB MATSUI believed in the value of public service. As a Congressman for 26 years and as a city councilman and vice mayor of his beloved Sacramento before that, he understood that government had a positive role to play in people's lives. Inspired by the calling of President Kennedy's speech challenging Americans to ask what they could do for their country, BOB MATSUI dedicated his life to that challenge.

BOB MATSUI was a mentor, a statesman and a role model. As a founding member of the Asian Pacific American Caucus, he was able to provide his insight and experience about the importance of public service and how to get the job done to many of us junior Members. Several members of that caucus join me today in honoring BOB MATSUI's life and selfless service.

As a senior member of the Committee on Ways and Means, BOB MATSUI was intricately involved in that committee's complex portfolio and important public policy issues, including

tax policy, international law and trade, Social Security, health care and welfare reform. Most notably in recent years, BOB fought to preserve Social Security because he believed that the elderly and the disabled are entitled to the stability of a guaranteed income that allows them to live in dignity. Many of us will miss his voice in the coming debates on the future of Social Security.

Those of us who had the privilege to know BOB MATSUI and to serve with him will be forever in his debt. His intellect, his passion for justice, his dedication to the value of public service will continue to be guideposts for us all. BOB, wherever you are, it is a far, far better place now that you are there. Thank you for all the sound advice that I received from you over the years. My only regret is that I did not take a little bit more of it. Today we mourn the loss of a great man and a friend. He will be missed.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to pay tribute to a great leader, to an extraordinary human being, our beloved BOB MATSUI. I rise with a heavy heart tonight as we remember BOB. I remember him as a fighter for justice, for our senior citizens, and for all those who have yet to realize the American dream. BOB's quiet strength always amazed me. He was brilliant, yet he always listened and valued ideas and input from others.

When I first ran for Congress, I remember that BOB came to my district and he helped me with my campaign with a variety of constituencies. Of course, my colleagues know I have a very vibrant port in my district and trade is such a critical issue. BOB taught me a lot about trade and helped me tremendously as we debated our trade policy in this body. Like myself, my constituents were inspired by BOB's life as they got to know him, knowing that he spent his first formative years in an internment camp. But rather than turn bitter, BOB worked to ensure that those interned during those dark moments of American history were granted reparations for such a shameless act. BOB MATSUI used his personal experiences not in a selfish way but to heal the wounds of so many Japanese Americans and our entire country. For that, we owe him a debt of gratitude.

Several years ago, BOB asked me to come to Sacramento to keynote the NAACP. I think it was the Sacramento NAACP's annual Martin Luther King dinner. The respect and the love that BOB's multiracial constituency had for him and for Doris was something to behold. He was the epitome of a public servant and his constituents knew it, year after year after year.

As we move into this very critical debate to save Social Security, let us remember BOB's commitment to save Social Security and to ensure that our seniors in their golden years live the

life that they deserve. We will have to fight, of course, twice as hard now that we do not have BOB with us, but BOB would want us to do just that. May the insights and the inspiration that BOB MATSUI brought to this and so many of our debates guide us to do the right thing and to uphold his extraordinary legacy. To BOB's loving family, to Doris, to Brian, Amy and Anna, my thoughts and my prayers are with you. Thank you for sharing this giant of a human being with all of us. Our country and the world is a better place. May his soul rest in peace.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the chairman of the Democratic Caucus.

Mr. MENENDEZ. I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, as the chairman of the Democratic Caucus, I rise to pay tribute to a great American, a dear colleague, a good friend, one of our own, the late Congressman BOB MATSUI.

I would like to offer my condolences to Doris, to Brian, to Amy, to Anna, and to his staff, both in California and in Washington, for the wonderful job they have done for him and the people of his State over the past 26 years. It is unique when a colleague of ours dies because we are called to look back at their accomplishments over the years and we begin to realize what a great human being they really were. We see our colleagues on the floor every day and we obviously know them, we like them, we have friendships but unfortunately not until they leave us do we have an opportunity to think back on their careers. Looking at BOB's career, it is easy to see that his passing is a great loss for America, a great loss to his constituents, a great loss to the United States Congress. He was and will be remembered for his work in the House of Representatives, for being a leading opponent of Social Security privatization, a supporter of free and then fair international trade, and a fair-minded tax writer who was a strong proponent of fiscal responsibility. These contributions as a public servant over the past decades helped move our Nation towards a better and brighter future and that will be his lasting legacy. BOB MATSUI was held in the highest regard by all who knew him for his unquestionable honor, his keen intelligence and his heartfelt kindness.

All of us in this institution are referred to as the gentlelady or gentleman from the day we are sworn in as a Member of this body. However, BOB MATSUI truly deserved that title since he was truly the gentleman from California.

On a different level, BOB was a loving husband, father and grandfather. To ascribe so many positive qualities to one individual might be seen as the usual gilding of the lily. In case of BOB MATSUI, it was simply the truth. My life, this House, and our country are better

off thanks to his life here on Earth with us. God bless you, BOB.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), who does not realize that among the other things that he has to thank BOB for is the fact that he will learn now he will have to sit next to me on the committee and he has been spared that all these years.

(Mr. LEVIN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to that but I must say I loved sitting next to BOB MATSUI.

When I came here Monday morning, having heard the news a few hours before, here is what I said to myself: This place is truly a different place without BOB MATSUI. There is for us a large hole in our ranks and in our hearts. He added so much to this institution that he loved. He added his exceptional vitality to the notion we often say, this is the people's House. BOB underlined, this was the House of all the people. He identified with the underdog, with those trying to climb up the ladder of life more than those who were already at the top. Opportunity meant everything to BOB. Tax policy, his interest in EITC, to help those working lift themselves up, his interest in child care and health care for those who were leaving welfare for work. He fought also, we know, for the seniors of this Nation. And how hard he was fighting as illness overtook them, trying to make sure that there was opportunity for elder citizens and not deprivation.

In trade policy, as has been mentioned, my brother the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) is here, I think I would describe it this way about BOB. He saw opportunities in expansion of trade, but more and more he came to believe that as globalization expanded it was critical that expanded trade leveled up and not leveled down. Where all of his ardor came from, I am not sure. Some no doubt from his family's life experience and some of my colleagues knew more about that than I did. From him, he did not talk very much about it. I read in some of the reports that BOB was described as low-key and quiet and I see some of my colleagues shaking their heads. Those press reports did not quite capture BOB MATSUI.

□ 1945

He was gentle, that is true. And he was very dignified and in a way quiet. But he was a gentle person, focused, dedicated, tenacious, and tough. He did not claim to know all of the answers; but when witnesses came before the committee, he was insistent that they give straight answers to his questions. And the mightier they were, the witness, the mightier was BOB MATSUI's determination. I will not mention the members of administrations who learned that firsthand.

There has been reference to this Christmas card and I wish everybody

who may be viewing this could see this picture, how it moved us. And let me close by reading just the last paragraph of this card: "As we look at this special season through Anna's eyes," the granddaughter, "we feel a renewal of our family's traditions. Let us cherish these special moments and be thankful for what is most important in our lives, our family, our friends, and the blessings of everyday life. BOB, Doris, Brian, Amy, and Anna Matsui."

Our condolences to the family, to Doris, Brian, Amy, and Anna. BOB MATSUI was always looking to the future. Now it is up to us to look to the future on behalf of BOB MATSUI. BOB, we love you.

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

It has really been a great honor and privilege for me to be able to at least control part of the time on our side on someone who is one of the most respected and most honorable and outstanding individuals that I have known in my lifetime, my friend BOB MATSUI.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from California (Mr. STARK).

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for yielding me this time, and I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR).

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

I remember BOB MATSUI from younger days. We were all Sacramentons. I was newly married. Shary and I went to Sacramento to work in California State politics. And there in Sacramento was this new enthusiastic political community rising because California had just amended its constitution to set the legislature to hire full-time staff, and so it was a can-do city.

And in the midst of this was this young graduate from the University of California who was a big champion of Berkeley and the Cal Bears, and he chose to run for city council. And a wonderful staff member named Steve Thompson introduced BOB to everybody, and Steve was a staff member and active in Democratic clubs and political social life. My wife, Shary, was working for John Moss, who was the predecessor to BOB MATSUI. He was the Congressman at the time; and when John Moss retired, the city Democrats were split over who to support for that seat: the mayor, Phil Isenberg, a great popular person in Sacramento; or the young BOB MATSUI. And it was a raucous grass roots primary battle. BOB won, and as they say, the rest is history.

It is a shock that BOB is gone. He was too young, too talented, too much going for him as a new grandfather to have been taken from us. As Chair of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, he raised a record amount of money for the congressional Democrats. We counted on him to lead us into battle against the President's proposals to privatize Social Security.

When one is speaking about BOB, one has to talk about Doris, who conquered Washington politics in her own right and ended up in the Clinton White House. She and BOB were a classic political couple, really well known in D.C. as well as Sacramento. My heart goes out to Doris and the family, to Brian, Amy, and little Anna.

BOB's congressional district is one of the most significant in the United States because he represents the best staffed, most productive, best known political celebrities in the Nation's biggest State capital, Sacramento. He was the Congressman for the Federal tax issues relating to California's tax needs. I remember that BOB MATSUI had to carry the tax exemption for State legislators' per diem. Can my colleagues imagine the likes of Jess Unruh, Willie Brown, Jerry Brown, and the entire 120 members of the senate and assembly counting on his ability to convince Chairman Rostenkowski that the California State legislators should have something that no Member of Congress had, a tax exempt per diem 7 days a week for the entire legislative session? BOB had every legislator in California breathing down his throat. Their power in Sacramento meant absolutely nothing here in Washington. They needed BOB to do it for them. No one thought he could pull it off, not against Rosty. But he did.

California Democrats had a lot of political sorrow this last year. They lost the governorship in a recall election, lost many seasoned politicians like John Burton and Willie Brown and John Vasconcellos and Bryon Sher, just to name a few notables, to term limits. They lost in the unexpected death of former State senator Henry Mello and even lost their long beloved staffer, Steve Thompson. And now Congressman BOB MATSUI is lost to us all, the biggest loss of all.

BOB was a Member's Member. His death has sent the State capital into a frenzy trying to decide who will run in the special election to replace him. Congress is abuzz with who will take his seat on the Committee on Ways and Means. The political world is wondering who will succeed him as Chair of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

But the fact of the matter is that no one can take his place. The son of Japanese immigrants, whom our own government interred, he rose to be one of our Nation's most respected Congressman. No one will take his place. They can only try to emulate what his service means to the American spirit of public service in a democracy. When the Nation is experiencing what most people will certainly remember as a horrible year in the annals of modern history, a year that encompasses war, pestilence, and disease, thank God we had the goodwill of BOB MATSUI, a real American role model.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, in order to accommodate a number of speakers on both sides of the aisle, I ask unanimous

consent to extend my time for 1 hour and that the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ZOE LOFGREN) control my time.

Pending that, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ESHOO).

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NEUGEBAUER). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished dean of the California Democratic delegation for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight with a broken heart. And the way I would like to formulate my remarks tonight is having a conversation with BOB, because it is the best way I know how. I would say to him almost every time we were on the floor together, BOB, I want to tell you something. So, BOB, tonight I want to tell you some more things.

We are broken hearted that you are gone and we cannot believe it. We have a hole in our hearts, and we have a hole in our caucus; and everywhere we have turned, we have seen you on the floor today. Our joy in being sworn in as new Members of Congress has been diminished because you are not standing here physically next to us. Thank you for being the kind of friend that you were. Just the best. Loyal, fun, serious, aggressive on all the right things. Thank you for never being embittered by the experience that your family, American citizens, third-generation Americans, were subjected to by their own government. And you grew and you rose, and you were an example to our country of what one can become because of the opportunity of America.

You understood, BOB, thank you, that America is the best idea that was ever born. But you went beyond that because you reached deep inside of yourself and brought out the best in everyone, in the ideas that you brought here, in the ideas that you fought for.

Remember how grateful we are to you that you carried us in the last 2 years, that you believed and we were so proud that you were a Democrat, and you were the kind of Democrat that understood that it was only good for the Democratic Party that that was not good enough, that we needed to be great for our country; and you believed that.

Thank you for believing in Social Security. Thank you for the countless times that you said we are going to win that battle. Thank you for what you said to me the last time we were together: you know, Anna, that corporations by the law of the Congress cannot dip into their pension funds and borrow from them. Now why would it stand to reason that the American government, the Congress, the administration continues to dip into Social Security? That is not the right way to go.

So all of your dignity, BOB, that magnificent face of yours that took on age with wisdom, thank you for laughing

when I said to you how proud I am, BOB, that your granddaughter bears the name Anna. He really laughed when I said that, said, I did not realize that you loved me so much.

BOB, we all loved you. You showed us what it is to be a Member of the Congress of the United States. In the House of the people of all of the people, you are always going to be standing next to us. What you did here is not lost.

Thank you, Doris, for being the partner that you are and always will be. Thank you, Brian, for being the son that you have been. Thank you, Amy, and thank you, Anna. We are going to treasure you always. But the most important thing is, BOB, we will never ever lose what you did here. We are going to carry it every day. It is the gold and the myrrh of all of us. Thank you, BOB. We love you.

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT).

(Mr. SPRATT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, I rise with heavy heart to pay tribute to a dear friend, an exemplary Member of this institution, and a great American. BOB MATSUI did more than represent the Fifth District of California. He represented the best in American politics. Indeed, if one asked me to describe an ideal Congressman, BOB MATSUI would be Exhibit A. In an institution that is sometimes short on comity and civility, BOB was mellow and civil by nature. He had a first-class temperament as well as a first-class intelligence.

□ 2000

But make no mistake about it: he was a fighter for what he believed in. He was a politician of principle and passion and prodigious energy as proved by the way he stumped the country for Democratic candidates, even as he suffered from the blood condition that finally claimed his life. Whether the issue was taxes or trade or Social Security, the earned income credit, he always had an arsenal of facts at his disposal. On whatever the issue, your issue, you were always better off if you ran your arguments by BOB and sought his support here in the well of this House. He became a leader in this House and an influence, not so much because of seniority or position, but because everyone liked him, respected him, and knew his intelligence.

When BOB spoke, he knew his stuff. He spoke with authority. He spoke substance and sense. I was last with him on December 15 for the better part of the day. We had a teleconference with 36 reporters calling in. It lasted for more than an hour. We literally had to cut it off. Afterwards when I spoke with BOB, he was on the ceiling, just delighted with the response we had gotten, and ready to suit up, ready to do battle over Social Security. It was this

sort of zest that made BOB MATSUI a delight and a joy to work with.

On our side we have a deep bench and we will fill his committee position with a competent successor, but no one can surpass BOB's mastery of the subjects which were his domain on either side of the aisle. The Congress has lost a great leader and the country a true patriot, a citizen, a third generation American who was interned as a child with his family who suffered an awful, terrible, unforgivable injustice. But he loved his country nevertheless and committed his life to making it better.

We do not ask today for whom the bells toll. They toll for all of us, but especially for those of us who served with BOB MATSUI, loved him as a friend, and wonder if we will ever see his like again. To Doris and to Brian and Amy and little Anna, our hearts go out. But just as BOB lives on in all of you, he lives on in all of us who worked with him for years and years. His legacy is one that will last in this institution. Indeed, this great old institution of the Republic is a better place because he served here sacrificially for 26 years.

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS).

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise and speak in honor of a wonderful colleague and a beloved friend, BOB MATSUI. No one, but no one, was more able and more respected in this body than BOB MATSUI. I came here a little over 18 years ago, and I met this man who was so thoughtful, kind, and gentle. Sometimes in this body we call each other "the honorable, the gentleman, the gentlewoman." BOB MATSUI was honorable, and he was a gentleman. He was honorable in the truest sense of that word.

I remember when I first came here in the fall of 1986. During freshman orientation, we had a dinner at Statuary Hall. My 10-year-old son, John Miles, came with me; and BOB MATSUI took the time to engage my son in conversation. My young son, only 10 years old, really appreciated that. BOB MATSUI took the time to talk to him and almost treated him like another member of the freshman class. He grew to admire and like BOB MATSUI. When I informed him that BOB MATSUI had passed, he said, "Daddy, I really liked him. I am sorry. I am so sorry."

We lost a colleague, and some of us have lost a friend. The American people have lost a champion and a warrior who fought to protect Social Security and looked out for the young and all of those who have been left out and left behind in America.

There are people in this business that we meet from time to time who love the world, but they do not necessarily like people. BOB MATSUI not only liked people, but he loved. He loved all of us, and we loved him.

A few short years ago, I had the opportunity to spend a weekend in BOB's district. He took me to a university where we had a community meeting

with students and faculty. We listened, we spoke, and we listened. As a matter of fact, on the campus when we arrived, there were chickens running all around. I said, BOB, I feel really at home with all of these chickens. So when I got up to speak, I said to the president of the university, I said, Mr. President, I know there is some controversy about chickens on the campus, but do not move the chickens; let the chickens stay here. And BOB laughed and laughed, and we got an agreement out of the president that the chickens would remain on the campus.

We visited schools, we visited a synagogue, a church, and a service in memory of Dr. King. During that trip, I witnessed the love that BOB MATSUI had for his people and the love that they demonstrated for him.

I tell my colleagues, it seems so unreal, so unbelievable; it is almost impossible to comprehend the loss of a friend, the loss of a brother, a colleague, a husband, a father, a grandfather. What more can be said about this man? His life was not in vain. He gave of himself. He was just a warm, decent, good human being who treated each and every one of us with respect.

When I was walking across the grounds of the Capitol today a few hours ago, a police officer came up to me and said, "Congressman, when you speak to Mrs. Matsui, please tell her on behalf of all of the Capitol Police officers that her husband was a good man and he treated us well."

As a Nation and as a people, this is a great loss. BOB MATSUI represents something very special. I, for one, I do not believe that we will ever be so lucky or so blessed to witness his likeness again. May God bless his soul.

At this very difficult time, our prayers and our thoughts are with his beloved wife, Doris; his son, Brian; his daughter-in-law, Amy; his granddaughter, Anna; his staff; and the people of the Fifth Congressional District of California. May they find comfort and peace in the love and memory of this great and beloved man.

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to our fellow Californian and BOB's colleague on the Committee on Ways and Means (Mr. BECERRA).

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague and friend for yielding me this time.

To Doris Matsui, Brian, Amy and Anna, we grieve with you; but more, we celebrate the life of a wonderful human being, as I know you will have an opportunity to do over the coming months and years as we all remember BOB MATSUI.

I would like to talk to you, Anna, because right now it is perhaps difficult for you to grasp all that is being said about your grandfather, given that you are just a little over a year old. But in time, with the wonders of technology and the beauty of a democracy in the people's House where every word that

we speak in the well of this body is recorded for time immortal, perhaps you will have an opportunity to take a glimpse at what so many people thought of your grandfather.

I will tell you he was a wonderful human being, a superb legislator and public servant and, perhaps most of all, a great American. I will tell you also that he graduated from a great high school 17 years before I did, at C.K. McClatchy High School in Sacramento, California.

He cared a great deal about the people he represented. He was a fighter and a champion. He knew when to fight, he knew how to fight, and he knew for whom he was fighting all the time.

If you ever had an opportunity to converse with BOB MATSUI, you knew that his deepest conversations were spoken with his eyes. He had these eyes that somehow could convey what oftentimes words cannot, and you knew that when he spoke with his eyes he was speaking to you from conviction, with determination, focus, and experience. And if it were not his words, for sure his eyes would convince you of a direction to take, of what he was trying to say, of where to go, of how to do it right. A handshake from BOB MATSUI was as sure a bet as the sun rising in the morning.

If you knew BOB MATSUI, you knew that he cared deeply about family, about this country, and about what would happen to the next generation. We are going to miss him in this fight to create a better America, to preserve Social Security for our seniors and for the next generations to come. We are going to miss him when we talk about our relations with all of our friends around the world in trade. But we will carry on that fight, because he is a champion to us now as he was before he passed on.

Anna, I say to you as you grow and have an opportunity to speak to your grandmother and your parents more about your grandfather, and as you read more about his many accomplishments, I hope that you will look back at some of the words that were spoken by people who respected him so dearly and considered him friend, mentor, confidant, that this is a man who left so much for you to glean, to learn from, and this is a man from whom you will have an opportunity to say we can admire an American and certainly America can say that we can appreciate this American.

So, Doris, with all due respect to you and to Brian and to Amy, I think it is most appropriate for me to address myself to Anna because I believe the greatest gift that BOB MATSUI left us was the fact that he thought about the future; and, Anna, I suspect that he was thinking about you as much as anyone else. So with you Anna, God-speed as you learn from a great man, BOB MATSUI.

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MOORE).

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I am here tonight to pay tribute and honor to our good friend and fallen comrade, BOB MATSUI. My wife, Stephanie, and I just came from visiting with Doris at their home, and we put our arms around Doris and told her how much we loved her and loved BOB MATSUI.

I cannot think of a more fitting tribute to pay to BOB MATSUI than to say this: I have never heard BOB MATSUI say anything unkind about any other human being, and I have never heard any person in this Chamber say anything unkind about BOB MATSUI. And that is somewhat unique, I suppose, because there are some unkind things said about other people in this Chamber, but never about BOB or from BOB.

I feel that we are going to miss BOB. I know we will miss BOB, and we will miss his intellect, his passion, his compassion, and the history that he brought to this body. I know Congress will miss BOB. I know that I am a better person for having known BOB. And when God looks down on some cold, wintry night on this beautiful Earth and there are 1 million stars shining in the sky, I know one of those stars will shine brighter, and that will be BOB. We will miss you, BOB, and we love you.

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE).

(Mr. PRICE of North Carolina asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, this is a House of diverse and talented Members, but among these Members, BOB MATSUI stood out in many, many ways. He stood out as an effective legislator; a senior member of the Committee on Ways and Means, the third ranking Democrat. BOB was a leader on trade issues. He was a prominent spokesman among Democrats for those of us who favor an expansive trade policy for our country, with safeguards, to level the playing field in terms of environmental and labor standards. He was the foremost Democratic expert on Social Security, determined to fortify that program for future generations.

BOB MATSUI stood out as a committed leader of the Democratic Caucus. He did an extraordinary job in what is our party's toughest assignment, that is, the chairmanship of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, recruiting our candidates, raising untold amounts of money, keeping us motivated and focused.

□ 2015

He had the toughest assignment in our caucus, and he did it with grace and with great effectiveness.

BOB MATSUI stood out for his extraordinary and distinctive personal story. As a child he was one of 120,000 Japanese Americans interned in camps during World War II. I learned about BOB's

story early in my service in Congress as he helped many of us understand the need for the Japanese American Redress Act, belatedly passed by this Chamber in 1988.

BOB MATSUI stood out as a warm friend and supportive colleague. He was a man who took time to get to know his colleagues. He was a wonderful listener, a great encourager, always willing to share credit and to seek a common basis for action.

BOB was one of our most reasonable Members. Surely he was one of our most reasonable colleagues. He was persuasive precisely because we knew he was a man of his word, and we knew he was a man of utter integrity.

Like many here, I considered BOB a close friend, generous with his counsel, with ready encouragement and will miss him greatly.

My wife and I have also treasured our friendship with BOB and Doris Matsui as a couple. Doris has made major contributions of her own to our country, particularly as a Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of Public Liaison in the White House for the Clinton administration, and she has been a strong and loyal partner to BOB in his endeavors.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Doris and her family, hoping that she may draw comfort and strength from the outpouring of affection and respect from BOB's and her many friends and admirers this evening and in the days to come.

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I say to Doris, she married a nice man.

The Congressman that we mourn tonight can be described in many, many ways. It is not often that we use the word "nice" and people understand the fullness of what it means. BOB MATSUI was a nice person and a nice man. He was a committed man and a dedicated public servant.

I enjoyed talking to him because we had a commonality. He started on the Sacramento City Council, and he made me feel that, coming from the city council in my town.

He loved Sacramento. He rose to be the vice mayor of that town, but it made him sensitive to the local needs of people. So, even though I would view him to be the crafter, the definer of the modern day Social Security in these days, I know that he also understood when a pothole got your last tire, that made him a man who cared about the little things but understood the big things.

I note his love and affection for the Committee on Ways and Means. Yes, if one can love a committee, BOB loved his committee. He loved his fellow committee persons. He loved his rank-

ing member, who he called chairman. They had a special bond and a special unity, cared about each other, and of course BOB was not a narrow thinker. One may have come from Texas, may have come from New York, Missouri or somewhere else, but he embraced you.

I will never forget his steady hand in this last very challenging election cycle. If you did not toe the line, BOB had a way of giving you a call and making sure that what you needed to do to get good folk elected were elected. He stayed steadfast in the last days of the Louisiana election, but most of all his special story is worth noting, and to his wife Doris, his son Brian, daughter-in-law Amy and granddaughter Anna, he will go down as an icon of American history.

I cannot imagine an internment. I have a history that relates to that, but I never was a slave, but yes, this humble Congressperson started his early life interned in the United States of America. His story is unfortunately part of America's story, but even with that experience this giant of a man rose to be a leader in this Congress and to be able to turn us away from those ways that were wrong.

Thank you, BOB, Congressman MATSUI, for living amongst us. Thank you for being a man of honor. Thank you, Doris, Brian, Amy and Anna, for giving him to us. God bless you and may your soul rest in peace.

I rise today to honor a fallen colleague, one who embodied everything a true public official is supposed to be. But ROBERT T. MATSUI was more than a Member of Congress, he was a husband, a father and a grandfather, but more than that he was a man of great character. His presence in this hallowed chamber for the last 26 years will not soon be forgotten, but his presence in our hearts will live on even longer.

ROBERT MATSUI was a dedicated public servant who had a long and illustrious career in California and here in Washington. He rose to great national prominence, but ROBERT MATSUI always had his heart and his values in his district in Sacramento. His dedication to local issues was shown by his years of service in the Sacramento City Council where he rose to the position of Vice Mayor of Sacramento. Throughout his tenure in Congress, ROBERT MATSUI never forgot the constituents who voted fourteen times to send him back to Washington. He championed the fight for adequate flood control in the region and was integral in Sacramento's transformation. He had big ideas for our Nation, but he never forgot the value of individuals and the importance of taking care of your district. All those who had the honor of knowing him could see he was a genuine person with real values.

The thing I will always remember ROBERT MATSUI for was that his voice was gentle, but you knew that his spirit was strong. In Congress he was a tireless advocate and national spokesman for the preservation of Social Security. When he first campaigned in 1978 for the congressional seat serving Sacramento, California, he persuaded voters to elect him by promising that he would bring to the office "a new form of statesmanship," anyone who knew him knew that he brought statesmanship to a new level. His excellence and grace was

known on both sides of the aisle. His presence will sorely be missed, but his heart and determination will stay with us all.

At this time of grief it is hard to understand why a good man passed away in the prime of his life. But I hope his wife Doris, son Brian, daughter-in-law Amy, and granddaughter Anna will take solace in the fact that ROBERT MATSUI lived a full life of honor. There may be those who will live longer, but there will be few who lay claim to that same statement. We are all at a loss for a great leader in this body, but we suffer a greater loss of a good human being.

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY).

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great sorrow to join my colleagues in remembering and honoring our colleague, our dear friend, BOB MATSUI.

BOB MATSUI was a fine man. He loved his family, he loved his country and he loved this House, the institution he served for 26 years, and in return, we loved him.

He loved his family. He loved his country. We loved his gentle manner and incisive mind. We loved his tenacity and fair-mindedness, his policy expertise and political skill. He was a true leader of this caucus and the California delegation, a real hero to Japanese Americans and a true fighter for economic opportunity, fiscal accountability and social justice. Like so many, I cannot imagine debating the future of Social Security and many other issues without BOB.

While the Nation will suffer from his loss, the family's loss is deeper and greater than we could possibly imagine. My heart goes out to Doris, Brian, Amy and little Anna. He was so proud of Anna and was so happy to share pictures of her with all of us, and Doris, you were truly his partner, and he spoke so often of Brian and Amy and their joy at Anna's birth. I know he loved them and he was so proud of them.

I also want to extend my condolences to his wonderful, hardworking staff, both here on the Hill and at the DCCC, his close circle of former staff, as well as to the people of the Fifth District of California. BOB was a kind, principled man, a valued colleague and a very dear friend. I will miss him greatly.

We love you, BOB. You will always remain in our hearts and your outstanding work will always be an example to this House of Representatives.

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER), our colleague.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, in my 30 years in the Congress you have the honor and the privilege of meeting so many people from so many different walks of life, not just my colleagues that I have served with in the House of Representatives but obviously the people that I represent and the people who come to the Nation's

capital to seek our help in so many endeavors that they are engaged in their families and their livelihoods, but there are a few who are very special. They stand out in our professional life. They stand out as our peers and our colleagues.

BOB MATSUI was a very special person, for all of the reasons that my colleagues have said here tonight. We all know that at his core was the gold standard in conviction, in morality and integrity and in giving us the unvarnished truth from time to time when we did not agree with him.

I think that is one of the reasons we were so fond of him. When you had a disagreement with him, he sought you out and he wanted to discuss it with you, face-to-face, person-to-person, colleague-to-colleague, trying to work out the difficulties to make this a better country, but when you discussed it with him, you understood that he was clinging to principle, and he was clinging to integrity because it was the core of his existence.

Many have referred to the fact of this family's experience in the internment camp, and I do not think there is any question but that gave him a compass to set a course on the issues of social justice and opportunity in this society and civil rights. It is unparalleled, I think.

We all work in these fields, and we have some outstanding individuals in this Congress that I have served with over 30 years who have fought these fights. BOB was one of those.

I had the opportunity to work with him on the reparations bill and in the Manzanar Historic Monument bill of one of the internment camps so that this country could remember what happened in the Tule Lake and the other internment centers.

I do not know what else to say except that this is the loss of a really, really special person who was a wonderful friend, who was a great, great credit to this institution and who leaves behind a magnificent legacy along with a magnificent family, a family that no spouse or father could have been more proud of than he was of Doris and Brian and daughter-in-law Amy and this new granddaughter Anna.

To see him and Doris at public events, engaged in their community and the partnership that they had and their conferring back and forth on the issues and the battles that he was engaged in, was a wonderful experience. I am going to miss him greatly. I think this country is going to miss him even more.

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS), our wonderful colleague.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman very much for the time.

I very much apologize being as late as I am. I meant to be here earlier, but I am glad I walked in as my colleague the gentleman from California (Mr.

GEORGE MILLER) was making his remarks, for the emotion that we could feel in his very presence and voice is a reflection of how all of us feel, and I join in this celebration of our friend BOB MATSUI.

All of us who care about public affairs and the Congress absolutely know that fundamental to our success in solving people's problems involves our understanding of just how important people are to our entire process.

The gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) and I got to know each other first in Sacramento, and at that very time, overlapping our service, our friend BOB MATSUI was serving on the city council. I learned to get to know BOB in a different venue, however, for he and I were elected in 1978 and came here as freshman, not so long ago.

BOB MATSUI, as you have heard from many a person, is a fabulous, fabulous reflection of the best of public affairs.

I would like my colleagues to know that while we all believe public policy is what we should really be about, looking for the solutions to problems that the people care about, looking for alternative avenues for making a difference, when it comes to it in the final analysis we are all in this together.

□ 2030

The American public has grown tired of that rhetoric that we hear all too often that reflects the fringe of our dialogue; and far from that fringe but rather right in the heart of the best of us was a personality we have been discussing today, ROBERT MATSUI of Sacramento, of the Committee on Ways and Means, a wonderful, wonderful human being, who was willing to look you in the eye, tell you what he thought when he disagreed with you. All too often, and much more, he was putting his arm around you and telling you what you did well and what he thought of you on the positive side.

If we could take the extreme from our rhetoric and the dialogue around here and remember BOB MATSUI suddenly because of that, this House, great as it is, would indeed be an even better place.

I am pleased to take just a moment to express to Doris, their family, all their friends in Sacramento, how much we will miss them and how much we pain for especially his personal family. Our own friends in Sacramento who remain have talked often about the greatness of this man. We only had a chance by getting to know that by having the privilege of serving with him here.

With that, let me bid BOB adieu and join with all of his dear friends here in expressing our love and prayers for not just his family, but the future, the future of those he served, and know that we will all miss his service.

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 5 minutes.

We have heard tonight so many of our colleagues speak of BOB and de-

scribe BOB in so many different ways. He was a great American. We are in mourning in this House. His constituents are in mourning. California is in mourning, and the Nation has lost a giant.

BOB was a giant through and through. He grew up in Sacramento out in the valley, went to Cal Berkeley, went to law school at Hastings College of Law. He was the first Asian American to hold a leadership position in the House of Representatives. When I became the chairperson of the California Democratic Delegation in the 108th Congress, and he had always been a mentor to me, he upped his mentorship of me at that time. It is something I have always been immensely grateful for.

We have talked about his leadership on a variety of issues: Social Security, the reparations bills, and health care for children. The list goes on and on. But we are mourning him today as someone we knew also as a friend.

Some in the papers have said he was mild-mannered, and my thought was that the BOB I knew was tough as nails and focused. Yes, he was mild-mannered. He was polite is what he was, but he never lost focus on what he was for. He loved his parents because they gave him a framework to understand the world. And it is important to understand that a great injustice was done to his family and to him, but he was never bitter about that because it allowed him to appreciate also the gift he was given, as so many of us were, of opportunity here in America.

I believe that is really what fueled his passion here for the issues he fought for, the opportunity that others should have that was given to him. It was not just limited to his constituents, whom he loved dearly, but was for all Americans.

I can recall several years ago a situation in Silicon Valley. He was very interested in technology. Entrepreneurs had been hit with a weird tax and had lost everything in the AMT-ISO disaster. These were Silicon Valley people, but BOB came from Sacramento and sat all day in San Jose to listen to their stories because he cared about them, whether they were his constituents or not.

BOB was one of our most compassionate Members, one of our most focused Members, but I also want to talk about BOB the family person. I do not think there was ever a son as brilliant as Brian, if you listened to BOB. Nor was there a daughter-in-law as wonderful as Amy; and never a grandchild as creative and adorable as Anna; not to mention his wonderful spouse, Doris. Many of us have spouses. We love our spouses, but Doris had almost a unique relationship among spouses in the House because not only was she BOB's life partner, she was BOB's partner in political life and in policy life. She stood up for the people of the Fifth District of California every bit as much as BOB MATSUI stood up for those people.

We thank Doris for her many, many years of service with BOB for those constituents and for Americans.

Just a final word. BOB had said he was having a few health problems. I had no idea how serious they were; but certainly BOB MATSUI knew how serious they were. Even though BOB knew he was ill, he kept working for us. He was chair of the DCCC, not because he was on an ego trip. In fact, he did not want the job; we made him do it. He fought those fights because he believed that the ideals of the Democratic Party for Social Security, for a safety net, for education, for opportunity for hard-working people who play by the rules to get ahead, those were values that were core to him. And even though he put his own health at risk, he fought on for us.

I want to thank Doris for allowing him to do that. It is a sacrifice that is immense. We all feel the loss today. I thank Doris; his wonderful son, Brian; Amy; his granddaughter, Anna. I think back on the many times we spent in California enjoying ourselves. He was a Cal graduate, but it did not stop him from being a Stanford fan as well, which I always appreciated.

I loved BOB MATSUI, as did the entire delegation. We miss him a great deal. Other people will follow his steps, but no one will be able to fill them completely in our hearts.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI).

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chair of our California Democratic Delegation for her wonderful words about BOB MATSUI.

Anyone who did not know BOB MATSUI and just turned on the television tonight would have to be impressed by the array of comments from so many different Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle about this exceptional person. There is no way to exaggerate how wonderful he was. He was a person of great intellect and great passion. He was a person of great gentility and of great strength when it came to debating his points.

Ever since Members and colleagues and staff on the Hill and reporters and the media learned of his death, they have come and said, BOB MATSUI would go out of his way to come by and say hello. He always smiled, he always asked about people's well-being and how they were doing and could he be helpful. He was a gentle man. But again, he had a strength about him that if he thought on a matter of public policy someone was abandoning the children of America or the seniors of America or America's working families, he made it quite clear to them that in his eyes he was losing respect for them because he thought that is what we came here to do.

So many Members have talked about his talent, his personality, his love of family which was preeminent because at the end of the day that is, of course, what matters most. I visited Doris

Matsui on Sunday evening to extend the condolences of BOB's colleagues to her, and to say how magnificently received BOB was after the election; that even though we did not win, every time his name was mentioned or he was introduced, he would receive a standing ovation from the members of the Democratic Caucus because he dealt with them honestly. He worked so hard and so smartly for our success, it just was not to be; but they appreciated the leadership he provided.

Just to talk about a few things, we had the occasion the last night that we were here, December 8, to have a dinner in appreciation of those who helped us in our efforts. We surprised BOB because it was turned on him, and we expressed our appreciation to him. The gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL), the ranking member, was so eloquent and spoke from the heart about BOB MATSUI. It really was stunning to BOB. It was a gift that God gave us that we would have that opportunity to express appreciation to him. This is a very, very modest man and all of that attention was stunning to him.

So when I said to Doris, remember the dinner and it was so wonderful, she said he talked about it so much and he talked about the toast of the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) and how the Members expressed their appreciation and how surprised he was and how much it meant to him.

So to my Democratic colleagues, thank you for the generosity that you extended to BOB MATSUI. I hope it is a comfort to those of us who loved him and all of us in our caucus that we did have an opportunity to say thank you to him in a very special way. It was quite remarkable. I think all of my colleagues will agree that my colleagues were clamoring for BOB to be reappointed to the DCCC. Indeed, he had that opportunity, and he was willing to serve, except God had other plans.

It is important to note that in the summer of this year one of BOB's very closest friends, Steve Thompson, exactly BOB's age, was diagnosed just a few weeks before he died, and it was a complete and total surprise. He, like BOB, was a very respected member in the Sacramento, California, community. They were very dear friends since seventh grade. When BOB came to his new school, not a very athletic appearance anyway, Steve was a big man on campus and he said he just wrapped his arm around BOB MATSUI and that made it okay for everybody, and they were friends for life.

Nobody would have ever expected 6 months ago that death would mean this summer for Steve and now for BOB. In any case, Steve's death took a lot out of BOB. He seemed so saddened by it, as we are saddened by his passing. In any event, Doris told us that BOB left us peacefully, just the way he lived, surrounded by people who loved him. Again, Anna saying Da-da. He took her to his office on December 23, had their pictures taken in front of the

Capitol. Well, when you have been here 26 years, a picture in front of the Capitol is a picture at your desk because he had a special office. It was his plan, and he was bragging about it that he was going to take Anna to be here today with him because she was born since the last swearing-in. Again that was not to be.

In any event, when Anna is old enough to read about her grandfather, she will know he was one of the most dedicated public servants in our country. He was a true patriot, he was a decent man, he loved his family, and he was a best friend to almost everybody in the Congress of the United States.

There is so much to say, but everybody knows that our thoughts and prayers are with Doris, Brian, Amy and Anna who shared BOBBY with us and inspired his commitment for a brighter future for America.

Imagine that his family and he as a small child were in a Japanese internment camp. Again, as the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ZOE LOFGREN) said, it only heightened his love for America because he knew that we could do better and he would be a part of that. I will close by saying that one of the pleasures we had at this dinner on December 8, as the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) reminds me, I always said during the campaign that BOB MATSUI was a maestro, that he was orchestrating all of this activity all over the country. This man who unbeknownst to us had this diagnosis, and it was not supposed to be fatal, but the pneumonia was.

□ 2045

In any event, he would be working so hard for senior citizens all day on a Social Security issue and orchestrating hundreds, thousands of young people throughout the country to be involved in campaigns to make the future better. He had a way of channeling the enthusiasm that he had for issues into the activism that was necessary to make a difference.

At this party we gave him a baton recognizing the maestro that he was and is. We will just miss him terribly.

The poet Longfellow wrote:

"Were a star quenched on high,
For ages would its light,
Still traveling downward from the sky,
Shine on our mortal sight.
So when a great man dies,
For years beyond our ken,
The life he leaves behind him lies
Upon the paths of men."

BOB MATSUI's light will always shine, one that will guide us to a better America, and that was his dream.

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I would like to conclude by thanking all of those who have participated this evening as well as some of our colleagues who were unable to actually physically be here but who have prepared their statements for our colleague, a giant of the legislature, a man who warmed our hearts, who

broke our hearts when he died, someone who was never petty, always modest but always a leader, always someone who could make America proud.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to add my remarks to the glowing ones we have heard regarding the untimely passing of our dear colleague, BOB MATSUI. To have known BOB MATSUI is to be heartbroken by his death. I believe that our Republican colleagues would agree. Especially for Democrats, however, the loss is profoundly felt three times over. First, there was the man whose human dimensions of kindness, consideration, and friendly persuasion made him instantly likeable and one of the most admired and respected members across the political spectrum. Second, there was the successful party leader, who had just completed his term as a hugely successful chair of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. And third, there was the Democratic seer of social security whom we were depending upon to lead us through the coming crucial social security debate, one of the several subjects whose byzantine complexities BOB had mastered as third ranking on the Ways and Means Committee. Congress and the country could not afford to lose even one of these three BOB MATSUIS. Now, sadly we have lost all three. As we mourn the loss of one of the country's most effective public servants, we celebrate our good fortune that BOB MATSUI gave his life to public service.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my condolences to the family of BOB MATSUI. BOB was my friend for 13 years. Even though we sat on opposite sides of the aisle we shared a bond as fellow Californians, and he always had my utmost respect.

In this House BOB always strove to do the best for his district, his State, and his country. He entered Congress with a distinguished class in 1978 and made a lasting impression. His 26 years here were an example of how a man can be an effective promoter of his party and the consummate gentleman at the same time. Even in the most partisan of positions, chairman of his party's Congressional Campaign Committee, BOB took the high road and set an example for us to follow. He was a man of unparalleled integrity, compassion, intelligence and dedication.

I will miss BOB MATSUI. I know that the people of California, the United States, and the Members of this body share my sentiments.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in profound sadness to express my deepest sympathy to the family and friends of the Honorable ROBERT MATSUI. I was shocked to learn of the untimely death of our colleague and friend BOB, with whom I was so fortunate to serve for 24 years.

BOB was truly a great man who triumphed over adversity to help lead our Nation. During World War II the United States wrongfully interned 120,000 American citizens and permanent resident aliens of Japanese ancestry. From his earliest days, BOB faced this brutal devastation as he and his family were rounded up, torn from their home and sent to the desolation of a detention camp in Tule Lake, CA.

Tempered by tragedy, BOB walked from the darkness of that detention to lead the fight for passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. That historic legislation acknowledged the fundamental injustice of the internment, apologized on behalf of the people of the United States and made restitution to those interned.

He called upon us to serve a high purpose and reminded us that while we addressed the injustice done, we were also protecting fundamental American values enshrined in our Constitution.

This remarkable accomplishment gave added weight to United States human rights policy and credibility to our statements about other countries' human rights violations. While no amount of apology or restitution fully rectifies the denial of human rights, BOB understood that the acknowledgment of this past injustice was an important step forward. BOB and I shared that commitment to improve civil rights and human rights all over the world.

BOB MATSUI's long involvement in public service resulted in an impressive record of success in Sacramento and Washington. Among other achievements he was a legislative leader on Social Security as a member of the House Ways and Means Committee. He rallied House Democrats with integrity and spirit as Chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

We mourn the loss of a good and decent man, a leader with such virtue, a fellow Californian, and a friend. We will carry a heavier burden without his strength to depend upon. My wife Annette and I extend our wishes of solace and peace for his wife Doris, his son Brian, his daughter-in-law Amy and his granddaughter Anna during this most difficult time.

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember a dedicated public servant and great friend, ROBERT T. MATSUI.

It was a privilege and honor serving with BOB. Although we only served together for one term, I learned a great deal from BOB—starting when I worked at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue—about protecting Social Security, expanding free trade, welfare reform, and giving American families more opportunities to prosper.

His selfless determination, borne from his early childhood experiences—resulted in a lifelong commitment to heal our Nation's wounds and make amends for past wrongs.

Answering President John F. Kennedy's call, BOB inspired generations of Americans who dedicated themselves to public service, including minorities and the Asian-American community in particular.

His leadership in this Chamber resulted in a formal apology for the treatment of Japanese-Americans interned and discriminated against during World War II.

BOB never shied away from difficult debates. While seeking innovative ways to help America's employees stay competitive in the global economy, he championed President Clinton's North American Free Trade Agreement and secured a strong, bipartisan vote in the House for permanent free trade relations with China.

His efforts helped fuel the largest economic expansion in our Nation's history, and opened new lines of communication and cultural understanding around the world.

We will miss BOB's strong and uncompromising leadership on Social Security, a void in this Chamber that will be very difficult to fill.

Mr. Speaker, ROBERT MATSUI was a man I was proud to call my friend. May God bless his wife Doris and the Matsui family in this difficult hour as we honor the memory of a man truly loved and respected by his peers and his country, and whose contributions will always be remembered in this Chamber.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in expressing profound

sorrow on the loss of one of this House's most highly respected and widely regarded members, the Honorable BOB MATSUI of Sacramento.

With his passing, we have lost a national conscience in Congress. Although I had the privilege to serve with him for only 2 of his 26 years of distinguished service in the House, it did not take long for me to realize after arriving here as a freshman, that he was truly a man of distinction. His leadership in many ways was subtle, but firm and strong.

I had the honor of serving with him on the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, and recognize today, along with many Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, his long-standing commitment and contributions to the progress of our communities. It was through his diligence, as many have recounted and memorialized this evening, that healing and justice was brought through the enactment of Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which authorized reparations and a formal apology to surviving Japanese Americans who had been detained in U.S. concentration camps during World War II. This is just but one of the lasting landmark accomplishments of his leadership.

On so many other accounts and in so many other ways, he was there for those in need of a voice in Congress. A reliable and true public servant, for the disadvantaged, for our seniors, and for our young Americans, who he inspired with his example and character.

BOB MATSUI was gifted leader who epitomized the noblest qualities of public service. On behalf of the people of Guam, I extend our deepest sympathies to his wife, Doris and their family and to the people of the fifth District of California.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, when I opened my holiday cards this season, one in particular stood out. It was bigger than the others. It was more colorful. It had several pictures instead of just one. It was from the Matsui family, and just about every picture included young Anna Matsui, BOB's only grandchild.

The love that this man had for his family, and this little girl in particular, practically jumped off the page. It saddens me deeply that Anna won't grow up knowing more of her grandpa, but I am certain that her parents and her grandmother will not let her forget him. She will grow up strengthened by his leadership, his integrity, and his kindness.

I couldn't look at Anna's pictures without thinking that, when BOB was her age, he was living in an internment camp with other Japanese-Americans who had been rounded up and incarcerated after the attack on Pearl Harbor. It was, of course, one of the great stains on our Nation's history, and BOB spent his public life trying to somehow correct that ugly injustice. I imagine that BOB's connection to Anna was stronger because his own early years were so unsettled, because he wanted his granddaughter to have a childhood full of innocence and happy memories.

BOB MATSUI stood out in this Chamber—for his policy intellect; for his sense of compassion and justice; for the esteem he earned on both sides of the aisle; but most of all for his fundamental decency. That decency was apparent in his work, whether he was securing flood protection for Sacramento or fighting for Social Security. And there's no question that we'll miss BOB MATSUI's expertise as we debate the future of Social Security this year.

There was no separation between BOB MATSUI's private virtues and public virtues. They were one and the same. He treated everyone with respect; he didn't raise his voice a lot; he was a lot more steak than sizzle. To be honest, these are qualities that are not in abundance around here these days. I hope that our memories of BOB MATSUI will lead us to conduct ourselves with greater civility in this new Congress.

Very few of us knew that BOB was sick, which is why the news of his death came as such a shock. But that modesty was consistent with the way BOB lived. Rather than go public with his illness, he preferred simply to be surrounded by the love of his family.

Of course, even the most unassuming among us have another side to them. As I was reading the obituary in the *Sacramento Bee*, I was taken aback by one friend's remembrance—of a shirtless BOB MATSUI in the stands at a Cal football game rabidly rooting for his team and challenging the other team's fans.

Now, if you asked the Members of this body to rank their colleagues in order of most likely to remove their shirt off at a football game . . . BOB would've finished close to 435th of 435. And remember that includes more than 70 women.

Our thoughts and prayers are with BOB's wife, Doris Matsui, whom all of us know as an impressive advocate and public servant in her own right. And with Brian, Amy and Anna Matsui and everyone who loved this dear man. BOB MATSUI—rest in peace.

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of a man who represented the best in American politics and government.

Congressman MATSUI was what many of us aspire to be as lawmakers. He was a passionate advocate for his constituents, upheld the highest ethical standards, and conducted himself with the utmost civility.

He never failed to be there for others who were less experienced. When I first ran for Congress, he served as my mentor. BOB visited my district several times, and we became good friends. I appreciated his advice and benefited greatly from his expertise on issues such as Social Security.

But I was most impressed with how BOB went about his daily business calmly and with a composure that helped him gain the respect that he deserved.

His devotion to others was remarkable and unrelenting, and he could always be relied upon to do the right thing. His contributions to our country, particularly on behalf of Japanese Americans, will never be forgotten.

We are all better for his efforts. While I am greatly saddened that he is no longer with us, it is my honor to be able to recognize and pay tribute to such a fine American.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support this resolution to express profound sorrow upon the death of Congressman MATSUI. I join my colleagues to honor and remember my good friend Congressman BOB MATSUI, a true leader in the House of Representatives whose passing leaves us all with a sense of great loss.

I would like to thank my colleagues, Congressman STARK and Congresswoman LOFGREN, and the rest of the California Democratic Delegation for their swift leadership to pay tribute to our friend, BOB.

I would like to say "thank you" to Doris, his wife and life-long partner, to his son Brian, his

daughter-in-law Amy, and to his granddaughter for sharing him with us in Congress. In addition to the adoration of his wonderful family, BOB had the love and respect of both his constituents and his colleagues. He was a courageous and passionate leader who served California's Fifth Congressional District for 26 years.

As a Member of Congress and as chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, CAPAC, I had the honor of working with Congressman MATSUI. BOB was instrumental in making CAPAC a reality, and served as a CAPAC executive board member since its inception in 1994.

Throughout his career, Congressman MATSUI championed causes affecting civil liberties and immigrants' rights. As a dedicated member of the Asian Pacific Islander American, APIA, community, BOB fought for a formal apology from our government for its wrongful internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. Congressman MATSUI and Secretary Norman Mineta led the way in passing the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. As an American of Japanese ancestry, Congressman MATSUI helped obtain the land necessary for the National Japanese American Memorial, which recognizes Japanese American patriotism and honors members for never losing faith in the basic principles embodied in our Nation's Constitution.

Along with Congressman MATSUI and Secretary Mineta, I experienced internment as a young Japanese American during World War II. BOB was only 6-months old when he and his family were interned at the Tule Lake camp just months after the attack on Pearl Harbor. BOB understood the injustice of internment and sympathized with the other loyal Americans who suffered at the hands of the government in which they never lost faith.

BOB MATSUI listened to people, and set about helping them with compassion and dignity. Whether he was fighting for flood control on behalf of his constituents in Sacramento or defending those without a voice, BOB dedicated his entire career to public service. From the time he worked as a member of the Sacramento City Council, to serving as the vice mayor of Sacramento, and finally as a U.S. Representative starting in 1978, BOB MATSUI served as a constant reminder of what integrity and dedication can accomplish in public office.

Congressman MATSUI truly believed in the U.S. Constitution and its promise of "a more Perfect Union." He relied on those values embedded in the Constitution in fights to ensure adequate healthcare for children and provide a safety net for needy families and the elderly. BOB's leadership as the third ranking Democrat on the House Ways and Means Committee and the ranking member on the Social Security Subcommittee earned him the reputation as an expert on tax and trade policy, Social Security and welfare programs. In the 109th Congress, BOB's presence, heart, and soul will be missed during the great debate over Social Security.

Mr. Speaker, BOB MATSUI should ultimately be remembered for his civility, his dignity, and his service to others. He was a selfless role model whose footprint will forever be imprinted on our Nation's history.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of the Honorable ROBERT MATSUI who served Sac-

ramento, CA, for 27 years. Just last month, Representative MATSUI was reelected to another term by a winning percentage of 71.4 percent. Sadly, he passed from this life on New Year's Day, January 1, 2005.

For the past 2 years, I have been honored to serve with Representative MATSUI on the Ways and Means Committee and its Social Security Subcommittee. During that time, I observed that BOB had a deep understanding of Social Security and tax policy, which was reflected in his masterful handling of committee work and interactions with colleagues.

He was a Congressperson's Congressperson. He was a great leader. He was generous with his time and his talent. He was willing to share the limelight. On several occasions he invited me to serve as ranking member on the Social Security Subcommittee, what a privilege. His generosity will be sorely missed.

As the 109th Congress convenes today, it is fitting that we honor BOB MATSUI's legacy. During the 109th Congress we will undertake discussions on gutting the Social Security program, a program that BOB understood as an important safety net for not only senior citizens but also disabled persons and minor children of deceased parents. BOB was a strong proponent of the idea that privatizing Social Security would lead to its demise by making it financially unviable. He worked tirelessly to reform the program and make it operate more efficiently, without compromising its purpose.

A biblical proverb states that "Good men must die, but death cannot kill their names." Representative ROBERT MATSUI's legacy will live on in the Congress as we continue his longstanding work to preserve Social Security and our country's ideals of helping those who need and deserve it. We will miss him, but his name will not be forgotten.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, the death of Congressman ROBERT MATSUI is a tremendous loss for his family, the families he represented in California and everyone who knew him. BOB was a wonderful man, a kind and gentle spirit who loved his job and the people he worked for, and I feel privileged to have served as his colleague in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Throughout his distinguished career in public service, Congressman MATSUI, a third generation American, vigorously defended justice and fairness—values forged very early in his life when his family was imprisoned in the Tule Lake internment camp in California during World War II. Despite being interned as a young boy, BOB remained optimistic and determined that everyone should be treated equally and with respect. He believed in the promise of America and took from his experience, a strong belief in civil rights as well as a passion for public service.

In Congress, Mr. MATSUI was steadfast in acting on these values, championing basic rights for all Americans and leading the effort in which the U.S. Government formally apologized to Japanese Americans for the World War II internment program. In the 26 years that he served in the U.S. House of Representatives, BOB rose to national prominence as a senior member of the powerful Ways and Means Committee, a national spokesman for Social Security, and as the first Asian American in the leadership of Congress.

As a crusader for America's seniors, Mr. MATSUI led the fight to preserve Social Security. He reached out to Members, new and old,

helping them understand the complexities of Social Security as well as its impact on the daily lives of our seniors.

BOB truly exemplified a gentleman. He served with distinction and integrity, winning the respect and admiration of all who worked with him.

I extend my deepest condolences to the Matsui family—his wife Doris, son Brian, daughter-in-law Amy and granddaughter Anna—as well as to his staff and the people of California. BOB's integrity, devotion and compassion will be greatly missed.

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a sad heart to honor a great man, a dedicated public servant and a good friend. In our own ways, each of us will miss something special about BOB MATSUI. Let me share with my colleagues my own experience with him.

BOB MATSUI gave me my first job on Capitol Hill. In July, 1979, I went to work for him as a part-time assistant, entering constituent information into a computer, and then helping to write legislative correspondence. BOB was a freshman Member then, but even at that time I realized he was to have a long and brilliant career in the Congress. Twenty-two years later we reunited on the floor. Just recently I showed him a photograph we took together on the steps of the Capitol. The color was faded and the paper brittle. But I kept it throughout the years to remind me of the first Member of Congress who gave me an opportunity in public service.

BOB MATSUI embodied the best values of public service. He believed so strongly in opportunity here at home and through sensible trade policies abroad. It was an honor to have had the opportunity to learn from a man who put the good of his constituents and of Americans generally over partisanship and political one-upsmanship. It is a lesson I have strived to apply during my own tenure in this body.

BOB MATSUI set an example for all of us with his integrity and dedication. He will be greatly missed.

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise to express my deepest regrets over the loss of my friend and colleague, BOB MATSUI.

My thoughts and prayers are with the Matsui family—especially Doris, Brian, Amy, and Anna.

Our country has lost a great leader. BOB MATSUI personified integrity and passion. He served California and America with great conviction and dedication to his beliefs.

BOB MATSUI was an inspiration to all Americans. Although he was taken to a Japanese American internment camp at only 6 months old, he never gave up his dedication to bettering our great country. He later became a leader of the movement for redress of Japanese-Americans interned during World War II. Even though much time had passed, he still sought justice for all Americans.

BOB MATSUI also fought tirelessly for America's senior citizens. As ranking member of the Social Security Subcommittee, he worked diligently to protect seniors' retirement funds. He strongly opposed risky schemes to privatize Social Security and worked to make seniors aware of the faults of these plans.

As chair of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, BOB MATSUI passionately believed in the message of the Democratic Party, and dedicated himself tirelessly to spreading that message.

BOB MATSUI is an inspiration to all Americans. His strong desire to serve his community and his country led him to become one of the most beloved leaders of this Congress.

BOB MATSUI will be missed by his country, his community, his family and his friends. He will long be remembered as a great American statesman.

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to our departed colleague, BOB MATSUI. BOB was an extraordinarily talented patriot and Member of this House.

BOB's generation of House Members struck out to change the world—or at least change their government in the aftermath of Watergate and the abuses of power in the Nixon administration. He did change the world, representing a district in California and representing the House on the world stage.

He was a unique political mind and political talent. While he was passionate for caring for the less fortunate in our society, he was also pragmatic about how democratic ideals and reforms come about on the world stage.

We shared the philosophy that world trade engenders better relationships between nations and offers a greater opportunity to spread democracy to developing nations or nations that were not traditionally democratic.

BOB's greatest legislative talent—and there were many—was his down-to-earth ability to comprehend and explain in laymen's terms all matters related to Social Security. In this political season when the President has made clear his intention to raid Social Security, we will most certainly miss BOB's leadership in this important and fundamental debate in Congress.

Today the Nation says goodbye to a decent and big minded colleague. BOB was not afraid to learn. And he was not afraid to forgive. Even after his family was interned as a child—with Japanese Americans at the outbreak of WWII—BOB forgave the people who imprisoned his family. He forgave his country, then he went on to serve this Nation with enormous talent.

BOB wanted to make the world better. He did make the world a better place and he made the House of Representatives a better place given his presence in it. He deeply believed in what he said, but he was open enough to listen to—and hear—the ideas of others, as well.

I will miss him . . . we will all miss him. And we offer our deepest condolences to his dear wife, Doris, and his son, Brian.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to honor one of our country's great leaders, and a dear friend Congressman ROBERT MATSUI.

BOB MATSUI was a valued colleague to every member of the House. He was a leading expert on countless issues that have a profound effect on the lives of millions of Americans, not the least of which is Social Security. From his seat on the Ways and Means Committee, BOB fought on behalf of seniors and children, and sought to build thoughtful bipartisan consensus on one tough issue after another.

BOB approached this job with grace, fairness, and dignity. Even though he was chairman of our Party's political committee, he never put partisanship above principle. His intelligence was only exceeded by his compassion. We always refer to one another as "gentleman" and "gentle lady" on this floor, but there is no Member of Congress for whom the

term "gentleman" is more appropriate. It is indeed fitting to hold this tribute on the day we swear in the new Congress, because the way BOB conducted himself should be a model for all of us—freshmen and senior Members alike.

BOB was a cherished friend and valued mentor to both my late husband Walter and me. When Walter was first elected to Congress, BOB was one of the first people he sought out to ask for advice on his new job. As usual, BOB was generous with his time and his wisdom. We both learned much from him and I have relied on his policy insights and his political instincts more times than I can remember. I know that I will still instinctively look for him on the floor during a tough vote.

Mr. Speaker, BOB and Doris Matsui were there for my family and for me when Walter passed away. Today I extend to Doris, Brian, Amy, Anna, and BOB's staff my most heartfelt condolences. I understand how difficult this time is for them. But I am buoyed by knowing that strength in families is never more evident, and important, than during times of adversity and grief. The Matsuis are a strong and wonderful family, and that, perhaps, is BOB's finest legacy of all.

We will miss BOB MATSUI very much. But we will never, ever forget him.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, this past Saturday, our country lost two beloved public servants. Representative ROBERT T. MATSUI and former Representative Shirley Chisholm leave us behind, but our national consciousness will never forget their considerable contributions to pursuing equality and social justice for all Americans. Representatives MATSUI and Chisholm dedicated so much of themselves to others, and the outpouring of support demonstrates the deep impact each had on the lives of others.

Both leaders rose from humble beginnings to the heights of Congress. Representative MATSUI, one of the thousands of Japanese Americans taken to an internment camp during World War II, became an influential member on the powerful House Ways and Means Committee. His passion for social justice shaped the core of his being, reverberating through his promotion of adequate job training, equal access to health care coverage for children, and the preservation of Social Security for our nation's seniors and disabled citizens. In 1988, he helped win restitution from the U.S. Government for the internment program that negatively affected many surviving Japanese Americans.

Representative Chisholm too overcame great obstacles. As the product of the working neighborhoods of Brooklyn, Shirley Chisholm became the first African American woman elected to Congress in 1968. Her advocacy on civil rights issues, particularly women's rights, was unparalleled as she reached out beyond her local constituency to all Americans. Never willing to allow America to mire in the status quo, Representative Chisholm again broke new ground by offering herself as the first woman to be considered for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1972.

Though I never had the honor of serving with Representative Chisholm, her legacy echoes throughout the halls of Congress. I witness her strength in my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus, which she helped establish in 1969. I hear her voice in our continued pleas for justice in underserved communities. And I see her focus and passion

in the eyes of American children who won't accept discrimination or barriers to opportunity.

Connected by the common bond of their love for humanity, Representatives MATSUI and Chisholm treaded down unmarked paths with determination, fortitude, and notable grace. As a generation of civil rights activists move into the twilight of their advocacy, we must honor their work by passing along their vision for what we our country can still become, a land of equality and opportunity for all Americans. Though we have lost these dear friends too soon, we continue to be led by their unmistakable footprints.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join in paying tribute to one of our colleagues whom we lost so unexpectedly on New Year's Day.

BOB MATSUI was one of the most respected Members of this House. During his 26 years of service in Congress, he was an advocate for our Nation's seniors, our children, and for social and economic justice.

From his family's experience in the Japanese internment camps during World War II, BOB learned the importance of protecting the liberties and civil rights that are the foundation of this great country. As an Asian-American he understood the obstacles that minorities face in building opportunities for themselves and their families.

BOB MATSUI rose quickly to become a leader in this House because of his political savvy and his detailed knowledge of the issues.

He was dedicated to this House and its institutions. He was also dedicated to the ideals of the Democratic party. We all know how tirelessly he worked as the chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

Many will remember BOB for his leadership in our party and on the critical national issues of trade and Social Security.

It is true that he understood the values of free trade and the economic prosperity it can provide to communities. He was not afraid to stand up against even his own party on issues in which he passionately believed. As the ranking member of the Social Security Subcommittee, BOB was also a national expert on the subject of retirement and pension.

His knowledge of the intricacies of the social security system and his wisdom will be sorely missed during this year's upcoming debate on Social Security reform.

I, however, will remember BOB for something else. I will remember him as a friend and champion of migrant children and their families. BOB helped us in the fight for funding for Migrant Education Programs. For years he also hosted a college assistance migrant intern in his office.

Many of his former interns are now leaders in their professions and communities because of the start BOB gave them.

I want to express my deepest condolences to his family: his wife Doris, his son Brian, his daughter-in-law Amy and his granddaughter Anna. I know how proud BOB was of all of them. The people of California and of this Nation have truly lost a great advocate.

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, my family and I would like to convey our heartfelt sympathy to the Matsui family upon the death of Congressman ROBERT MATSUI on Saturday, January 1.

BOB's passing is a tragic loss to all who knew him. It is also a loss to all Americans

who didn't know him personally but whose lives were enhanced by the legislation and the leadership he provided. BOB was one of the smartest and most principled people in Congress, a dedicated public servant, and a friend. He will be greatly missed in Congress, especially by me.

First elected 26 years ago, Congressman MATSUI and I entered the U.S. House of Representatives in the same incoming class. We were colleagues and friends throughout these years; our families each moved to the Washington area and our wives Sylvia and Doris also became good friends. One of my fond memories together was attending Brian and Amy's wedding in California a few years ago. Brian also gave me my first official tour of the U.S. Supreme Court facilities where he clerked recently. His parents were so proud.

Sylvia and I are shocked and deeply saddened by BOB's passing, and we offer Doris and the Matsui family our most sincere condolences.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my late colleague ROBERT T. MATSUI. While his life was cut tragically short, his many achievements and contributions to our Nation will serve as a constant reminder of his hard work, integrity, and determination to advocate for those who were not able to fight for themselves.

Elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1978, BOB served the people of Sacramento for 14 terms focusing on the city's public safety by bringing adequate flood protection to his hometown. He also served as a senior member of the Committee on Ways and Means, covering an array of policy issues such as preserving Social Security for future generations, as well as having adequate basic healthcare rights for children. Most recently he served as chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee leading the Democratic Party's congressional effort for the 2004 cycle.

When he was 6 months old, BOB, a third-generation Japanese American, and his family were taken from their home in Sacramento and interned at the Tule Lake Camp after Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor in 1942. He carried this experience with him throughout his life. In 1988, he helped steer the Japanese-American Redress Act through Congress, in which the government formally apologized for the World War II internment program and offered compensation to victims. This experience helped shape his strong belief that every American is entitled to basic civil rights despite their ethnicity.

BOB was also a member of the Executive Committee of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus. Because of his many achievements and contributions, he was and always will be a role model to the more than eleven million Americans of Asian and Pacific Islander descent in our country.

His presence and driving force will certainly be missed. However, his legacy will live on through the people of Sacramento, the Asian Pacific Islander American community and our Nation as a whole. I offer my deepest condolences to his wife, Doris, son, Brian, daughter-in-law, Amy and granddaughter, Anna. We will miss you, BOB. All Hawaii sends with you on your final journey our deepest and most loving Aloha.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to my colleague and friend, BOB MATSUI.

As Members of Congress, many factors determine who we form close relationships with. One of those factors is committee assignment. I had the tremendous fortune of serving on the Ways and Means Committee with BOB MATSUI for 15 years. As we worked on tax reform, trade, health, and many other issues, I learned many valuable lessons from him. His dedication to the people of his district and to all the people of this Nation shone through at every hearing and markup.

He had a lifelong commitment to public service and the public good. Even though his early years were spent in a Japanese-American internment camp in California, that injustice did not dim his love and devotion to our country. He remained in California, served on the Sacramento City Council, and as vice mayor of Sacramento, and eventually came to this House, which he also loved so very much.

For his entire career, he was devoted to the welfare of children, the promotion of free trade, and the preservation of Social Security for future generations. I know that the committee will miss his expertise and good counsel for many Congresses to come. I want to personally extend my heartfelt condolences to his wonderful wife Doris, his son Brian, daughter-in-law Amy, and his granddaughter Anna. We will miss BOB and forever treasure his camaraderie.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, this week our Nation has lost a great leader and statesman from my home State of California, BOB MATSUI. And it is with a great deal of sadness that I join my colleagues to pay tribute to BOB's life and his distinguished record of service and accomplishments during his 26 years as a Member of the House of Representatives. A model of integrity and commitment to his district, his State and our Nation, BOB exemplified the best of this great institution.

By having the privilege of representing an area of Los Angeles with a rich and diverse Asian-American population that includes Little Tokyo, Koreatown, Filipinotown, and Chinatown, I am very aware of the positive impact BOB had on the Asian-Pacific Islander community and the Japanese-American community in particular. Like so many Japanese-Americans, BOB's early years were spent with his family in an internment camp during World War II. Anyone viewing the large photo of a youthful BOB MATSUI with his little league baseball teammates which adorns his office wall was reminded of the difficult challenge an Asian-American faced growing up in 1950's California. As a young man in that volatile ethnic environment, BOB MATSUI was a stand-out student who gained admittance to the University of California at Berkeley and distinguished himself academically both there and at the Hastings College of Law.

His early experience became the foundation of his academic success as a young man, and ultimately led him to a career of distinguished public service, first for his local Sacramento City Council, then to this great House. His respect for this institution and his personal and professional integrity were well-known and helped BOB become a persuasive advocate on the issues he cared deeply about.

As a member of the Energy and Water Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee, I was honored to work with him on one of the most important issues to California—water. BOB's knowledge of water issues affecting our State, including southern California, and his

long record of support for adequate flood control protection for the Sacramento area were brought to bear each year during our committee deliberations as we set priorities for funding the water projects so crucial to Sacramento and to California.

BOB was also a strong advocate of trade and of protecting the rights of our senior citizens. In fact, as the ranking Democrat on the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Social Security, BOB was our Democratic expert and a leading advocate for the protection of this critical program. BOB was to be our Democratic point person for the upcoming and pivotal debate on Social Security. Understanding the importance of Social Security to our Nation's seniors and the need for the Democratic Party to effectively and successfully confront attacks on the system, his wife Doris told me that BOB continued to plan a Democratic strategy to the very end at Bethesda Naval Hospital.

It was this kind of commitment coupled with his integrity and sincerity that helped to make BOB one of the most respected Members of Congress. This respect also made him one of the most successful chairmen of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. We all know that the DCCC set many records during the 2003–2004 election cycle. I believe this success stemmed from the leadership model that BOB conveyed at the DCCC's helm, and it was also a result of the great esteem in which BOB was held by all segments of our party. I was proud to serve with him as vice-chair of the DCCC, and BOB made sure it was indeed a working position. Few Members could have motivated me in quite the same way as BOB MATSUI.

In short, I will miss BOB as a friend and colleague. This House, the Democratic Party, and our Nation have lost a great statesman and a quiet and effective leader. His legacy of accomplishments as a trail-blazing Asian-American Californian is unlikely to be surpassed. His dedication, dignity, and bipartisan approach to addressing the Nation's problems will be the hallmark of his legacy for both Republicans and Democrats.

In this time of extreme partisanship and frequent legislative gridlock, it is my hope that we can all learn from the example of our friend and colleague, BOB MATSUI.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in paying tribute to Congressman BOB MATSUI of California. The American people will miss this outstanding public servant, and we in the House of Representatives will miss a skilled legislator who approached every issue with a fair mind.

I've lost a friend. BOB and his wife Doris were friends of my wife Pat and me. Our son Chadd and their son, Brian, grew up together as congressional kids.

For the past 2 years, BOB and I were hallmates. In fact, I moved into his old office on the third floor of the Rayburn building. He always had a smile and hello for anyone he passed in the hall, whether it was a fellow Member, a staffer, or a visitor.

BOB MATSUI was a courageous legislator. He showed great resolve in helping to win approval for the North American Free Trade Agreement. There isn't a tax or trade bill in the last 20 years that doesn't have his stamp on it. He was positively heroic when he had Congress squarely face the issue of the treatment of Japanese-Americans during World War II. BOB MATSUI showed us the meaning of dignity

and humility as he helped us to acknowledge a wrong. He and his parents were among those held in internment camps, but what was more important to him than his personal history was righting history for thousands of innocent Americans.

Our thoughts and prayers are with BOB's family. As we start a new session of Congress, we should all look to the distinguished career of BOB MATSUI as an example of how we can remain true to our ideals and beliefs while ultimately working together for the good of all Americans.

Ms. BONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a respected colleague in the U.S. Congress whose recent passing will be mourned by all who knew him. With Congressman ROBERT MATSUI's untimely death, America has lost a tireless leader.

As a fellow Californian, I had the pleasure of working with Congressman MATSUI on several issues of importance to our State. I admired his leadership and dedication to his constituency as well as the high level of integrity with which he served.

Congressman MATSUI's 26 years of service are filled with a remarkable number of legislative achievements such as his commitment to free trade that have bettered the lives of many Americans. He was a powerful and respected voice whose memory will continue to be an inspiration for many years to come.

Congressman ROBERT MATSUI was a true leader and served his constituents and country with honor and distinction. The people of Sacramento, California were fortunate to have such a talented person for their Representative in Congress.

I will always remember Congressman MATSUI's thoughtfulness; he was always quick with a smile and a kind word. He was a bridge for communication between both sides of the aisle. His legacy of effective leadership will be a model for those that follow him.

My thoughts and prayers are with Doris and the entire Matsui family during this difficult time. Congressman MATSUI's positive impact on his country will be remembered forever.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to honor a valued colleague and true gentleman, the late Congressman BOB MATSUI. I met him when I served as a state legislator within his congressional district in Sacramento. Since that time, I have been taken by his approachability and his ability to make those around him feel that he is truly listening to their concerns.

During his 26 years in Congress, he has been a champion on issues that affect the lives of all Californians and Americans, from protecting Social Security to working for civil rights. Congressman MATSUI's fight against privatizing Social Security showed his deep commitment to fighting for the poor or less fortunate in our country. He led the efforts to ensure its fundamental purpose was never compromised.

Congressman MATSUI's strong belief in social justice is apparent by looking at the legislation he championed. He drafted bills that became the backbone for child welfare reform, proposing to expand the social services available to at-risk children and families in the child welfare, mental health and juvenile justice systems. He also fought welfare changes, arguing that adequate job training and education programs were essential to helping parents become self-sufficient. And his bipartisan work to

provide health care coverage to uninsured children became the basis of the State Children's Health Insurance Program.

His personal journey, however, could be his most lasting legacy. After spending his infancy in an internment camp during World War II, Congressman MATSUI led the legislative effort to compensate victims of the camps and officially apologize to those held there. A grateful Japanese-American community is indebted to his work, as are the rest of us.

I want to send my prayers and condolences to his family: his wife Doris, son Brian, daughter-in-law Amy and granddaughter Anna. For those of us who remain in Congress, we would like you to know that we will continue to fight for the causes and ideals that BOB fought for his entire life.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I am saddened by the sudden loss of ROBERT MATSUI, and I would like to join my colleagues in honoring him today. BOB was one of the finest members to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives. His strength of character, wisdom, civility, and attention to detail were inspiring to many of us serving with him. His thoughtful and helpful nature has been remembered by many today, but I will always be grateful for his desire to seek out and befriend younger and less senior Members of Congress like me. I join my colleagues in mourning the loss of a friend, a mentor, and a great leader in Congress.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness that I recognize the death of a former colleague and a great Californian, Representative ROBERT MATSUI, who passed away earlier this week.

A third-generation Japanese-American, BOB was born in Sacramento and was just a 6-month-old baby when he and his family were imprisoned at the Tule Lake internment camp following the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941. Forty years later, he was instrumental in passing the Japanese-American Redress Act, which produced an official apology from the Federal Government for the World War II internment program and offered compensation to victims.

BOB was a quiet and admired Member of Congress. His passion for issues he believed deeply in was respected by his colleagues on both sides of the aisle. He brought dignity and honor to the House of Representatives. BOB was a tax and trade maven on the House Ways and Means Committee, and his knowledge and expertise in these areas will be sorely missed. He was one of a small number of Democrats who pushed for passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

First elected in 1978 following his service to the City of Sacramento, BOB and I were in the same freshman class of Congress as I too was elected that year. I got to know, and become very good friends with BOB during the 26 years we served in the House together.

The people in the Sacramento-based 5th district lost a good legislator when BOB passed away on January 1, and he will be missed by his friends and family.

It is with a heavy heart that I say good-bye to BOB. My wife Cheryl and I would like to express our condolences to his wife, Doris, and the entire family, in this time of sorrow and sadness. They will be in our prayers.

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a sad heart that I rise today to honor my colleague, the Honorable ROBERT T. MATSUI. Far before

these past 4 years where I had the opportunity to work with him in Washington, BOB's work effort, faith and determination were a constant source of inspiration for me.

BOB fought in Congress for 28 years on principles that were unshakeable for the betterment of all. He took a genuine interest in Members' concerns, visited Members' districts—including mine in the San Gabriel Valley—and fought hard to ensure equality for the underserved and to bring justice to those wronged. BOB was a champion for Social Security, fought for all of our children and was determined to achieve economic justice.

I am proud to say that BOB MATSUI is among those I consider a close personal friend. I send my condolences to his family and I am consoled only by knowing that BOB's legacy will live on, and the world will be better for it.

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BURGESS). Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the resolution.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that the whole number of the House is 428.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

REMARKS ON THE DEATH OF THE LATE HONORABLE ROBERT T. MATSUI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. PELOSI) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ZOE LOFGREN) for taking out this special order on our dear friend BOB MATSUI and to all of our colleagues who participated in it.

I hope it is a comfort to the Matsui family, to Doris, Brian, Amy and Anna, that so many people in this Chamber and I know throughout the country share their grief and are praying for them at this sad time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. LEE addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. BACA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BACA addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FILNER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FARR addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MOORE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MOORE of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. POMEROY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POMEROY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WATERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WATERS addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. ESHOO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. ESHOO addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HINOJOSA addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. EMANUEL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. TOWNS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.