

(1) to convene a public meeting of the managers on the part of the House and the managers on the part of the Senate; and

(2) to ensure that a conference report is filed on the bill prior to October 4, 2002.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, last Thursday I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote No. 423. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE PATSY T. MINK, MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF HAWAII

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 566) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 566

Resolved, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of the Honorable PATSY T. MINK, a Representative from the State of Hawaii.

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 (Mr. GOODLATTE). The gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that at the end of the allotted time, the House rise for a moment of silence out of respect for the Honorable PATSY T. MINK.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I take this action. The hearts of all of us here go out in sympathy to PATSY's husband, John, and her daughter, Gwen; to her brother, Eugene; to her staff in Washington and in Hawaii; and to her large family of friends and admirers.

Mr. Speaker, I am devastated by her loss. PATSY MINK was more than my friend and my colleague; she was a true daughter of Hawaii. She was a person of enormous spirit and tenacity and inner strength. I will miss her terribly. I will especially miss her wisdom, her

energy, her readiness to fight for principle. She fought all her life for social and economic justice.

Throughout nearly 50 years of public service, she championed America's most deeply held values: equality, fairness, above all honesty. Her courage, her willingness to speak out and champion causes that others might shun resulted in tremendous contributions in the fields of civil rights and education. She has earned in my estimation an honored place in the history of the United States House of Representatives as the co-author of title IX, which guarantees equality for women in education programs.

Every single woman in this Nation who today has the advantage of the capacity to command equal opportunity in education, and by extension in virtually every other field of endeavor, owes the impetus to that in modern times to PATSY MINK. She was one of the pioneers who transformed Hawaii and transformed this Nation. Her legacy will live on in every campus in America and in the heart of every American woman who aspires to greatness. Most profoundly, it lives on in my estimation in hope, hope for the millions of lives that she touched.

Mr. Speaker, it is difficult for me to realize that I am standing here this evening paying my respects to the memory of PATSY MINK because my first memories of her go back to when I was a student at the University of Hawaii involved in one of her first campaigns, not for elective office because she did that when Hawaii was still a territory.

She came back to Hawaii from her early plantation days, running around as a little kid in the plantation ditches over in Maui, encouraged by her family, most particularly her father, to reach for her star in the Hawaii firmament.

She was turned down for medical school, discriminated against because she was female, because she was Japanese, because she came from an unknown territory out in the Pacific. That is why she went to law school, fought her way into law school so that she could achieve a degree that would enable her to fight against the discrimination she had suffered.

She was a champion then. We all recognized it. She was smart and she was tough and she was articulate and she would not quit. She was an inspiration then and now.

Whenever any of us felt some sense of discouragement, whenever any of us felt some sense of despair or feeling that we could not succeed, it was only required for PATSY to come in the room to change the atmosphere.

□ 1945

PATSY MINK had the capacity to make dead air move. PATSY MINK, this little lady from Hawaii, was a giant in her heart and in her commitment. With every breath that she took, she championed those who had no one to stand

up and speak out for them. A little lady with a big heart, a lioness. We will not see her like again. Someone will take her place here in the House, that is the way of it in our democracy, but no one will replace her in the hearts of the people of Hawaii. No one will replace her in the role that she played in this House of Representatives. No one was more beloved than PATSY MINK in this House.

Mr. Speaker, as an expression of the gravity of the feelings of the Members of this House, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), whom I think has an opportunity for Members of the House to be able to express in a more concrete fashion the feelings that we all have for PATSY.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the distinguished gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE), now the senior Member representing that great State here for our Republic in the House, and rise in support of his Resolution with all of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle to honor our friend and colleague Congresswoman PATSY MINK, as this beautiful, beautiful poster indicates, a woman of hope.

PATSY's service, now 24 years, places her among the longest-serving women in the House, certainly currently. She was honest and intelligent, gifted and dedicated, and leaves behind a stellar record of accomplishments. For almost half a century, she was a devoted advocate for her constituents and her native State of Hawaii. She served America with distinction. She will be deeply missed.

She was a trailblazer. Her career embodied a series of firsts. She was the first Asian American woman to practice law in Hawaii, and the first Asian American woman to be elected to the Hawaii Territorial Legislature. And then in 1964 she became the first, in her own words, woman of color ever elected to the United States Congress, an Asian American woman of Japanese American heritage from the then new State of Hawaii.

She transcended race and gender throughout her life. She was a leader on women's rights, social and economic justice, health care and child care, and no one here knew more about education. She came to this House at the beginning of the 88th Congress in 1965, served until 1977, and then again from 1990 until her untimely passing this past Sunday.

When PATSY first began her career in this Congress, she was one of only 11 women serving in the House. She watched as Members came in the 1980s and began to double the number of women to 24, up to the current ? level of 62 with 13 women now in the Senate.

I agree with my colleagues that PATSY viewed as her most important achievement passage of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. She, as the gentleman from Hawaii indicated, had experienced race and gender discrimination. She often said her life experiences challenged her to lead the