The world's ills represent conditions which are not beyond our understanding nor beyond our control, but which yield to human intelligence, the wisdom of the human heart and the aspirations of the human spirit.

As we face uncertain times, let us call upon our capacity for love. Let us call upon our capacity for hope. Let us call upon our capacity to believe in ourselves and in each other. Let us call upon our capacity to make a difference. Let us call upon our capacity to evolve as a nation. Let us call upon our recognition of the power of unity which brings us here, and which enables us to envision the America of our fondest dreams.

NEW HAMPSHIRE'S 2001–2002 VFW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST REACHING OUT TO AMERICA'S FUTURE

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, the speech written by the 2002 Veterans of Foreign Wars Voice of Democracy Scholarship winner, Clarissa Anderson.

REACHING OUT TO AMERICA'S FUTURE

(By Clarissa Anderson)

America, the beautiful country in which we live, has a future brighter than most may see. It is the country where many families raise their children, brave people reside, intelligent people create, scientists explore, and foreigners and citizens vacation. It is a country with immense power and glory behind its name, but the future of such a place is yet to be discovered. The future of the country that we love the most is what we will make it to be. It is up to us now, who are living here today, to make the history of America one that will make those who follow behind us proud of the ones who walked before them.

Many battles have been fought in the past to gain the freedoms we take for granted today, yet there are still battles to be won amongst America's own people. They are not battles over hate or differences, but they are rather battles over the hunger and the need of the people of whom we belong. The future of America lies within each American living here today. There are several civil topics that could be improved upon to make the future of our country one to be proud of.

While there are rich and famous stars making the latest movies, and the most well known scientists discovering, there are still ones on the street who are in need of homes, love, care, clothing, and jobs. The able-minded and able-bodied people of America should stand up and make this country proud by making it a better place for all to live, even the less fortunate. Volunteering an hour here or there to counsel a job searcher, to serve meals to the hungry, or even to show a little love and care to a child, can make a difference slowly, one step at a time, one life at a time, a little love at a time, and a little care at a time, we will slowly create the brightest age in America's history.

When Americans can truly say that the quality of living in America is better than any other country, America will have succeeded as a whole. When all Americans can feel protected not only by the laws and power of the country, but also by the care of its people, we will have succeeded. There are countless ways for a single soul to change or alter the life of another, if only a seed of compassion or care were sown within those who are able to give such things to others in need.

To the future of America I would like to offer a country full of helping hands, ones that will reach out to others in need. I would like to see men and women and children alike, not only caring for their circle of friends and for their families, but also assisting the people that are in need in their towns and communities. Our country has proven to be able to accomplish many great feats and this is one feat that can be achieved within the boundaries of our own country. To conquer such a challenge we need to set ourselves aside and lose all selfishness, putting our focus on others and their needs as well. While making our changes one heart at a time, one step at a time, and one life at a time, we'll be reaching out to the future of America. Our country will be all that we've dreamed it could be. America it's the beautiful country in which we live and as Americans, we should be proud of what we accomplish as a nation, one step at a time.

IN HONOR OF THE UNION & LEAGUE OF ROMANIAN SOCIETIES, INC.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the Union & League of Romanian Societies, Inc., on the occasion of their 96th Anniversary, to be celebrated in July, 2002, in Cleveland, Ohio,

In 1928, two separate Romanian organizations—The Union and The League—unified to become The Union & League of Romanian Societies, Inc. The organization continues to be one of the largest Romanian organizations in the United States, and has maintained its rich history and legacy of service to others.

For almost one hundred years, the members and leaders of the Union & League of Romanian Societies have offered a source of hope, faith, support and resources to American citizens of Romanian heritage, and Romanians abroad. The organization has undoubtedly been a great source of strength for thousands of Romanian immigrants, and fosters the continuity of Romania's significant cultural, religious and historic heritage.

The Union & League of Romanian Societies, Inc. has an impressive record of assisting and supporting Romanians in their homeland. In 1989, a Union & League Relief Fund was established to assist Romania in its economic and social reconstruction. In 1990, a Relief Fund was created with funds specifically earmarked for Romania's most vulnerable citizenry—its children and elderly. The Society continues to demonstrate support of its homeland—connecting the old world with the new—and never forgetting the sacrifices of ancestors who journeyed before them.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honor and recognition of the Union & League of Romanian Societies, Inc., based here in Cleveland. Americans of Romanian descent have bestowed their professional talents, sense of community, and tradition and culture, within every facet of American society. Moreover, thousands of Americans of Romanian descent have made the ultimate sacrifice—giving their lives to protect the freedoms in their new American homeland, beginning with the Civil War. I stand in honor of the significant and noteworthy contributions and sacrifices that members of the Romanian community have made here in Cleveland, and across the nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday and this morning, I was unavoidably detained and I was unable to vote on matters before the House at the time. Had I been present, I would have voted:

Rollcall 324—H. Res. 439, Honoring Corinne ''Lindy'' Claiborne Boggs on the 25th Anniversary of the founding of the Congressional Women's Caucus ''yes''; Rollcall 325—H. Res. 492, Expressing Gratitude for the World Trade Center Clean-up and Recovery Efforts at Fresh Kills Landfill ''yes''.

IN HONOR OF 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GARFIELD HEIGHTS BASEBALL LEAGUE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition and celebration of the Golden Anniversary of the Garfield Heights Baseball League. I also stand in honor of the founding members of the League: Arthur Grugle, Dan Kostell and John Rawlins, and all the individuals over the past fifty years who have volunteered countless hours to ensure that the League remain a viable and significant recreational outlet for the youth of Garfield Heights.

The Garfield Heights Baseball League has the noteworthy distinction of being one of the oldest self-supporting leagues in the nation. Over the years, the League has grown and changed, reflecting our evolving society in many ways. Beginning with less than one hundred players, the League grew to over ninety teams playing on nine fields by the late seventies. Today, over 1,000 youth, both boys and girls are active players in the Garfield Heights Baseball League.

In 1987, the League formed the Garfield Heights Baseball League Hall of Fame. This honor is reserved for those individuals who have gone well beyond the normal call of duy in supporting or enhancing the day-to-day operations of the League, There are currently eighty-nine members in the Hall of Fame. In 1992, the League founded the Steve Huntz Alumni Award, named after the only League alumnus to play in the Major Leagues.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honor, tribute, and celebration of the past and present leaders of the Garfield Heights Baseball League, for their fifty years of commitment to the youth of Garfield Heights. These leaders are the guardians of the most beloved and

historic game in American history, and because of them, the boys and girls in Garfield Heights will come to know the joy of fielding a ground ball, hitting the winning run, teamwork, and winning and losing gracefully. The Garfield Heights Baseball League has given its youthful ballplayers much more than the love of the game—they've given generations of kids an understanding of life's lessons in the form of a baseball game, and they've created cherished childhood memories that last from the early innings of childhood, to the bottom of the ninth, two down, tie score, bases loaded. Batter up.

ARTICLE ON REPRESENTATIVE MATSUI

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call your attention to the attached article on Rep. MATSUI featured in the Monday, July 22, 2002 edition of Roll Call entitled: Bob Matsui: the Democrats' Balancing Act.

Rep. MATSUI has been an outstanding and exemplary Member of the United States House of Representatives for 24 years. On the Ways and Means Committee, which I am privileged to serve as Ranking Democrat, Mr. MATSUI has been a stalwart protector of Social Security and a champion of expanding free and fair trade. It is with pleasure and pride that I ask that this article, which profiles his unwavering commitment and service to the committee, this august body, and the American people be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

BOB MATSUI: THE DEMOCRATS' BALANCING ACT

(By Ben Pershing)

ROLL CALL—JULY 22, 2002 MONDAY

Try to get Rep. Robert Matsui (D–Calif.) to talk politics. You won't get very far.

After 24 years in Congress, he's no stranger to polls and tactics, and he's happy to explain why Democrats are better than Republicans. But he'd really rather talk about policy, which is why the current uproar over accounting practices and corporate governance suits him so well.

On an issue in which the politics are all about policy and reporters are writing breathless front-page stories about off-balance sheet partnerships, wonks can be weapons. And that's where Matsui comes in. As a senior member of the Ways and Means Committee, Matsui, who currently serves as ranking member on the panel's subcommittee on Social Security, has had to spend the past several years playing defense. He's expended most of his energy trying to combat Republican proposals, with little opportunity to advance his own.

But as he sees it, the current climate gives Democrats a chance to attack. And he doesn't think there is much the GOP can do about it.

''To some extent—and this is my belief,'' Matsui said in an interview last week, ''They are somewhat immobilized because they've received so much help from corporate America they really can't take them on in an effective way.''

AN OPPORTUNITY

Democrats have certainly received plenty of corporate contributions themselves and have also played a role in blocking reforms in the past. But Matsui thinks charges that Republicans are in bed with big business fit neatly into a long-established Democratic storyline, meaning GOP efforts to fight back will fall on deaf ears.

''Just like the public knows that the Democrats are better on Social Security and Medicare and the Republicans have historically been better on defense, they know that Republicans are beholden to the business community,'' Matsui said. ''Republicans can't change that, and for them to try to deny that would almost be counterintuitive.''

Matsui is part of a group of more than two dozen senior Democratic lawmakers—dubbed the ''extended leadership''—who meet in Minority Leader Richard Gephardt's (D–Mo.) office every day at 5 p.m. when the House is in session. Lately, ''business-gate'' has been a prime topic of discussion.

Democrats see the business scandals as a way to segue into their other top campaign issues—prescription drugs and, especially, Social Security. The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee sends out daily press releases accusing GOP lawmakers of ''breaking the trust,'' and now Democrats charge that Republican plans for Social Security reform will take money promised to seniors and give it to those same scheming Wall Street brokers.

When House and Senate Democrats held a press conference July 12 to hit the GOP on corporate issues, Matsui's contention that ''Republicans have a secret plan to privatize Social Security'' was CNN's sound bite of the night.

Aside from pointing out that much of the corporate malfeasance now being spotlighted happened during the Clinton administration, Republicans also hope that the Democrats may go too far and paint themselves as the anti-business party.

Matsui is not particularly worried about a backlash because he is 100 percent convinced of the efficacy of Democratic policies.

''I think the business community knows that the Democratic Party has been essentially responsible for the growth in the economy in the last 50 years,'' Matsui said, echoing the common Democratic refrain that the current economic downturn coincided with the Republicans moving back into the White House.

MAN IN THE MIDDLE

Democrats believe it makes sense to deploy Matsui on the corporate scandals because he is seen as a relative voice of reason on the Ways and Means minority roster.

''He doesn't have a long list of sort of knee-jerk, anti-business stuff,'' said a senior Gephardt aide, arguing that Matsui's relatively moderate record on economic issues lends him added credibility.

Matsui is by no means the only—or even the most prominent—member of Ways and Means to focus on this topic. With Gephardt and ranking member Charlie Rangel (D–N.Y.) coordinating, committee Democrats such as Reps. Richard Neal (Mass.), Sander Levin (Mich.), Jim McDermott (Wash.) and Lloyd Doggett (Texas) have all carved out their niches.

Matsui's specialties are Social Security and trade, though he is comfortable with just about everything in Ways and Means' broad portfolio.

''He knows the subject well, but he also knows how to place it in a larger context,'' said Levin. ''He knows the forest and the trees.''

In terms of style, Matsui sits on the Ways and Means median. He gets less attention than Rangel, the party's political standard-bearer on the panel, and he is not as liberal as Rep. Pete Stark (D–Callf.), who is just ahead of Matsui and behind Rangel on the seniority list. But Matsui is also less inclined to cut deals with the GOP than someone like Rep. Benjamin Cardin (D–Md.).

''You look at those three, he always seems to play the middle,'' an aide to a GOP Ways and Means member said of Matsui vis-a-vis Rangel and Stark. ''You always have Matsui trying to sound like the voice of reason among those three.''

But the aide cautioned that, while Matsui is pragmatic and relatively easy for Republicans to deal with, ''don't let that fool you, He's very partisan.''

''There's something in between being low-key and being a table thumper,'' suggested Levin. ''He's in the middle.''

Matsui's most prominent policy role in the past several years has been on trade promotion authority, also known as fast-track. An avowed free-trader, Matsui whipped his fellow Democrats to support fast-track in 1993 and 1997, and he backed permanent normal trade relations with China in 2000.

But Matsui doesn't support the current version of trade promotion authority, arguing that it may give the World Trade Organization the power to undermine American domestic laws. The bill passed the House last December by just one vote, with only 21 Democrats voting in favor.

Rep. Jim Kolbe (R–Ariz.) worked very closely with Matsui on trade issues in the past when the two lawmakers were on the same side of the fight. But Matsui's more recent stances on trade bills have meant that, on a professional level, ''that relationship has become somewhat strained,'' said Kolbe, hastening to add that he still likes and respects Matsui personally.

''We miss him a lot on the trade issues. I wish we could get him back.''

AMBITION

With 12 terms in the House under his belt and a decent record of achievement, the 60-year-old Matsui could look to expand his horizons.

But, having been in the minority now for eight years, Matsui doesn't aspire to elected leadership and says his biggest goal is simply to become chairman of the Ways and Means subcommittee on Social Security.

Matsui is loyal to Rangel and won't even entertain a question about whether he would like to become Ways and Means' leading Democrat if the New Yorker leaves the House before he does (and there's no indication that Rangel is going anywhere in the near future).

Yet it's hard to imagine that Matsui wouldn't want the job given his love for the committee's work. And with Stark's well-documented history of outlandish remarks and unpredictable behavior, it appears unlikely that Democrats would ever hand him the top job on a major committee.

''I don't think there's any question that if Rangel leaves Matsui is the natural next candidate'' to run Ways and Means, said a senior Democratic leadership aide.

On the political front, Matsui has toyed with running for governor or the Senate in the past, but he points out now that the best way to run statewide in California is to shoot first for a position such as lieutenant governor, a job that he sees as far less attractive than his current post in the House.

Matsui also did stints as treasurer and deputy chairman of the Democratic National Committee in the '90s, and his wife, Doris, worked in the Clinton White House. But he'd still rather focus on substance.

''I enjoy the mechanics. When we had the trade issues and I was whipping it on behalf of the Clinton administration, I enjoyed that,'' he recalled. ''On the other hand, I really enjoy policy. It is my strength.''