

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF
YOSHITO TAKAHASHI

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2008

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of a special man, Yoshito Takahashi of Fresno, California. Yoshito recently passed away at the age of 88 years old. He leaves behind his loving wife of 61 years Yoshiye, three children and three grandchildren.

Mr. Takahashi was born on June 16, 1920 at his family farm in Clovis, California where he lived all his life. He was the eldest son of eight children of Yoshibe and Shizuyo Takahashi, Issei immigrants from Japan. He attended Clovis Grammar School and graduated from Clovis High School.

During the outbreak of World War II, Yoshito and his family were sent to a U.S. Internment camp in Poston, Arizona, where they remained until 1945. Upon returning home to Clovis, Yoshito and his brother Ted went into farming together. Takahashi Farms was born, becoming a recognized brand in the Fresno-Clovis metropolitan area. In addition to raising stone fruit, melons, vegetables, and berries, the brothers were also engaged in a custom grape harvesting business. Yoshito continued to farm with his brother until 1992 when he retired. Yoshito was a member of the Fresno County Farm Bureau, the Central California Freestone Peach Association and Treasurer of the Nisei Farmers' League. He was also a supporter of the Central California Nisei Service Center for seniors.

Yoshito was an active member of his church, the community, and many professional and civic organizations. He served as president of the Fresno Buddhist Church, Secretary-Treasurer of the Clovis District Coordinating Council, the Clovis High School Agriculture Advisory Committee, Director of the Clovis Chamber of Commerce, and he served on the Board of Directors with the Fresno County Cancer Society, Fresno Community Hospital, Community Medical Foundation and the Clovis Rotary Club. He was the Founding Director of the Community Hospitals of Central California and Co-Chairperson of the Clovis Unified School District Foundation.

Yoshito's community involvement was felt throughout the valley and was recognized by many. In 1977, he was named Clovis "Citizen of the Year" and, in 1979 he was inducted in the Clovis Hall of Fame for his longstanding support and service to the community at large. Yoshihto's strong community ties and service-centered activities led him to receive regular recognitions by numerous local leaders as well as state and federal representatives.

It goes without saying that Mr. Yoshito Takahashi was a humble man and as well as a forever farmer at heart. His love for the outdoors led him to places such as the nearby Sierras and many destinations abroad. I am honored and humbled to join his family in celebrating the life of this amazing man. His presence will be missed in our community and by many others whose lives he so graciously touched.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF KATHLEEN CEPEDA
SARMIENTO

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Kathleen Cepeda Sarmiento for her lifelong service to Guam's community. Kathleen, daughter of Jose Babauta Sarmiento and Maria Cepeda Sarmiento, was an educator who influenced many young people in Guam since 1981. We honor her for her dedication to her religious community and service to our community.

In 1976, Kathleen graduated from the Academy of Our Lady of Guam, and subsequently attended the College of San Mateo in California. She returned to Guam to begin her career as an educator. At this time, she also made the decision to become a member of the Catholic religious order of the Sisters of Mercy as Sister Mary Kathleen Cepeda Sarmiento.

Kathleen pursued a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education from the University of Guam, and graduated Magna Cum Laude in 1986. In 1995, she graduated from the University of San Francisco with a Master of Arts degree in School Administration.

Kathleen served in several positions within Guam's private Catholic school system, all culminating into her role as a leader to both teachers and students. She taught Theology and Art at the Academy of our Lady of Guam, Bishop Baumgartner Junior High School, and finally at Saint Anthony School. During the latter part of her life, Kathleen served as Vice Principal and Principal of St. Augustine School in Laredo, Texas.

Kathleen was an innovator. At Saint Anthony School on Guam, she initiated the After School Extended Care Program allowing students greater opportunities for enhancing their educational interests. She implemented the Rainbows Program to help students with social and emotional difficulties. She also promoted the Student Cultural Exchange Program with students of Ako City, Japan and the Chamorro language and culture program.

Kathleen helped to develop the academic strengths of students by encouraging their participation in extracurricular activities. Under her guidance, her students excelled in the Academic Challenge Bowl, Spelling Bee, Geography Bee, Math Olympiads, Best of Carols Program, and several competitions in art, essay, and speech. Her leadership and emphasis on academic performance contributed to the accreditation of Saint Anthony School by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. At St. Augustine High School, Kathleen was credited for enhancing the fine arts program. She helped to advance information technology at the school by implementing a laptop "lease-to-own" program for high school students and by encouraging teachers to integrate more technology into their lessons.

Kathleen was blessed with many talents. Her artistic and musical abilities were appreciated throughout the community. As a visual artist, her work was featured in numerous displays such as the American Cancer Society Art Auction, Guam Micronesia Island Fair, and displays by the Guam Council on the Arts and

Humanities. She was also talented in playing the guitar. Her music was an important part of her ministry and a means for reaching out to young people and senior citizens.

Kathleen has been recognized for her many achievements. She has been honored through the Marquis Who's Who Publications Board; Who's Who in American Education; 1991 Outstanding Young Women of America; 1990 Governor's Art Awards Program; Service Award from the Department of Parks and Recreation; and the Special Olympics.

Kathleen Cepeda Sarmiento will be remembered for her dedication and commitment to young people and her service to our community. The people of Guam join her religious community, her family and friends in honoring her and remembering her contributions as an educator and community leader.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION
HONORING THE OREGON NATIONAL
GUARD YOUTH CHALLENGE PROGRAM

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2008

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, I am introducing this resolution to honor an organization committed to the Oregon ideals of leadership, self-reliance, and fortitude. For nearly 15 years the Oregon National Guard Youth Leadership Challenge Program has served the State by promoting self-confidence and fellowship among at-risk youth. More than 3,500 Oregonians likely to drop out of high school or engage in destructive behavior have entered this free and voluntary program. I'm pleased to say that the majority of these cadets have gone on to graduate the program and earn a high school degree or its equivalent.

This program has made a positive difference in countless lives and communities. This tremendous success has garnered the Oregon Program high praise, including the United Service Organizations' (USO) award for "Best Overall Program" in 2007, 2003, and 2001.

Oregonians have a great deal to be proud of. We are proud of these cadets, who are determined to succeed despite adversity, and of our National Guard, which draws strength from our communities and gives back so much. It is my hope that our Nation will learn from the example provided by the Youth Challenge Program and will be inspired by Oregon's success.

HONORING COLONEL PAUL J.
KENNEDY

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2008

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, today I would like to honor Colonel Paul J. Kennedy. Colonel Kennedy is taking command of the Second Marine Regiment, Second Marine Division, Camp Lejeune North Carolina on July 17, 2008 after serving two years as the Director of the Marine Corps House Liaison Office.