

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. KENNETH COOPER

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 12, 2015

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a remarkable individual from Dallas, Texas for his induction into the National Football Federation's Leadership Hall of Fame last night January 8, 2015. I would like to thank Chairman Archie Manning, Troy Aikman, Tom and Laura Leppert, and Roger Staubach for recognizing Dr. Kenneth Cooper for his dedication to health and fitness and his continued leadership in the North Texas community as a whole.

Throughout Dr. Cooper's career he has continued to revolutionize health and fitness and has proven to be a leading pioneer in preventative medicine. Known as the "Father of Aerobics" he has motivated thousands of people in Texas and across the United States to exercise in pursuit of good health and overall well-being. I want to express my heartiest congratulations to Dr. Cooper on this outstanding accomplishment and sincerely thank him for his immense contribution to the Dallas community.

RECOGNIZING PINE CASTLE,
FLORIDA

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 12, 2015

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the incorporation of the Town of Pine Castle, Florida.

Pine Castle's rich history begins in the years immediately following the Civil War. Originally, Pine Castle was a private residence erected by Will Harney, a poet and settler from Kentucky. He built his home from the abundant pines of Central Florida and dubbed it his "pine castle." Soon, the areas of modern-day Edgewood, Belle Isle and the Conway chain of lakes came to be known as "Pine Castle." In 1915, the Town of Pine Castle was formally incorporated.

I join the residents of Pine Castle in celebrating this historical milestone. It is truly an honor to serve the residents of Pine Castle in the U.S. House of Representatives.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN ENI FALEOMAVAEGA OF AMERICAN SAMOA FOR HIS NEARLY FOUR DECADES OF SERVICE TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 12, 2015

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the nearly four decades of service of my former colleague Congressman Eni Faleomavaega of American Samoa. After nearly four decades on Capitol Hill, American Samoa's longest serving Member of Congress and the first Asian Pacific American in U.S. history to become chairman and ranking member of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, bid farewell to colleagues and friends at a reception on Capitol Hill held in his honor on Wednesday, November 19th. The farewell reception for Faleomavaega included Members of Congress from the House and Senate, both Republicans and Democrats, ambassadors, foreign delegations, and their family members. They paid tribute to the man they call "Our Eni," and did so by sharing memories from their years together. Congressman Eni F.H. Faleomavaega, beloved by so many on the Hill, first came to Capitol Hill in the 1970s and served as Chief of Staff to the late Paramount Chief A.U. Fuimaono, American Samoa's first Representative in Congress, and as staff counsel to the late Congressman Phil Burton of San Francisco before he became American Samoa's Representative in 1989.

As a reflection of Faleomavaega's genuine kindness that touched so many and his bipartisan approach that reached across party lines, the reception was attended by many, including House Democratic Leader NANCY PELOSI and her husband Paul. Leader PELOSI shared memories of Faleomavaega in their early years with Congressman Phil Burton long before she and Faleomavaega were both elected to Congress. "Eni, you are family from the Burtons on," Leader PELOSI stated. The Pelosis visited privately with Faleomavaega and his family, including his wife, Mrs. Hinanui Hunkin, and his daughter and son-in-law, Leonne and Fui Vakapuna.

Current and former members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee also attended. Republican Senator JEFF FLAKE of Arizona, who first came to the Hill as a Representative from Arizona's 1st District in 2001, expressed his gratitude to Faleomavaega as a leader, mentor, and friend, including an unforgettable moment with Faleomavaega when the two were on their way to a hearing. Congressman Faleomavaega was in an elevator with a good number of Samoan visitors whom the Senator described as all resembling NFL linebackers. Faleomavaega immediately held the elevator door open when he saw his friend coming down the hallway. Mr. FLAKE squeezed in to

the elevator but once the door closed, rather than ascend to the next floor, the elevator dropped a few feet and the entire group was trapped for about twenty minutes before they were rescued. Senator FLAKE joked that the irony of it all was that the hearing was on submerged lands. In his message to Faleomavaega, Senator FLAKE stated, "Eni, I have such good memories of our time together. Thanks for being such a good friend and mentor to me, and such a good example of a disciple of Christ. I look forward to working with you on a range of issues in the future. With admiration, JEFF FLAKE, U.S. Senate."

Hawai'i Senator MAZIE HIRONO, reminisced with Faleomavaega about their early years in the House together and conveyed how much she will miss him being an honorary member of the Hawai'i State delegation. Over the years, because of his close ties to Hawai'i and friendship with the delegation, Faleomavaega was always invited to speak at the annual King Kamehameha Lei Draping Ceremony. The Senator also shared how, whenever Faleomavaega had the opportunity, he always reminded President Obama that Kahuku (Faleomavaega's alma mater) is better than Punahou (the President's alma mater). "To my brother," Senator HIRONO stated, "Thank you for all the kokua. Kahuku High, here I come! Take care, aloha."

In a surprise tribute to the Congressman, former Hawai'i Senator Daniel Akaka, whom Faleomavaega affectionately calls by his Hawaiian name, "Kaniela", also joined in on the reception from his home in Hawai'i via telephone. The pair, who for many years were the only Members of Congress with Polynesian ancestry and who were also founding members of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, laughed about their imaginary "Polynesian Caucus" in which Senator Akaka was the chair and Faleomavaega was the secretary. Senator Akaka thanked his "brother" Faleomavaega and his wife, Hina, for their years of friendship to him and his wife "Aunty Millie" all the way back to when Faleomavaega was first elected.

Congressman CHARLES RANGEL of New York and Congresswoman GRACE NAPOLITANO of California shared their admiration for Faleomavaega's decades of service, noting how much personal dedication and family sacrifice is required to be a Member of Congress. Congressman RANGEL stated, "Eni, the Congress will miss you so much and I even more" and added that when Congress loses one of its devoted servants, a family gains a husband, father, and grandfather. Congresswoman NAPOLITANO said, "Eni, my friend, I will miss your smiling face" and shared how being so far from home in Washington, D.C. makes her miss her grandchildren, to which Faleomavaega replied, "I don't even know how to be a grandpa!" The Congressman's youngest daughter, Leonne, who was only two years old when Faleomavaega was first elected to Congress and who is now a wife and mother, smiled and gave her dad a big hug.

Republican Congresswoman, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, former chair of the House Foreign

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