In keeping with this momentum, Under-Secretary for Economic Affairs Stuart Eizenstadt visited the region and articulated a vision of enhanced foreign investment, liberalized trade arrangements, and regional economic cooperation between the U.S. and the three convivial neighbors—Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia.

It is too soon to gauge the full measure of the legacy that Hassan II bequeathed to his son and the Moroccan people. However, beyond the fact that the baton of national leadership has been passed to the new king, Mohammed VI, and with it the task of governing one of the developing world’s most fascinating and important countries, there is much else of interest and value for Americans and others to ponder.

Consider for a moment the following. Morocco is a country that is at once African, Arab, Maghrebian, Mediterranean, Middle Eastern, and Islamic. Its international strategic importance is underscored by its coastal frontage and twenty ports on two of the world’s largest and most fabled seas. Morocco’s geography and natural resource base—with its mountains, valleys, rivers, trees, and verdant fields—are as variegated as any in the developing world. Its people boast of an extraordinary cultural and heritage that, long before we became an independent nation, had links to our own.

With Morocco’s archives, and continuing to this day in the country’s international relations, is abundant and ongoing evidence of a record of friendship with the United States and the American people that, among the world’s politics, is second to none.

The implications of the change in Morocco’s leadership for American national interests are vast. The U.S. needs to sharpen its policies toward this oldest among contemporary Arab kingdoms.

They are to underscore the value of Morocco’s having stood by the U.S.—and the U.S. having stood by Morocco—throughout the Cold War and after, and our joint commitment to remain each other’s ally in the future.

They are to take heart in the realization that, if anything, the new King, who is no stranger to the United States and American values, is even harder at strengthening the U.S. Morocco relationship.

The implications of the smooth and effective passing of the mantle of leadership from father to son, as had been envisioned all along, were encapsulated in the act of Presidents Clinton and Bush walking with other heads of state behind the King’s coffin on the day of his funeral.

They lie in the predictability of continued American national benefit from the leadership of a ruling family that, from the time of Eisenhower’s visit to Morocco in the midst of World War Two, straight through until the present, has never buckled when the going got rough.

They lie in the agreement of American and Moroccan foreign affairs practitioners on the ongoing relevance of a leader with the courage to keep his convictions. Under Hassan II, the world was blessed with a visionary and dedicated leader who never shied from tackling the controversial issue of Middle East peace.

Longer than any other living Muslim leader, the late king, always far from the lime-light, generated an immense amount of trust and confidence among Arab and Jew alike.

In the end, Hassan II will be remembered for many things. Among them, not least will be the fact that, for more than a quarter of a century, he worked tirelessly at nudging, but never shoving, the protagonists much nearer to an enduring peaceful settlement than would have been likely had he, and now his son, upon whom the burden fails to continue the effort, not passed our way.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. MARILYN JONES MORRIN OF HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA
HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR. OF ALABAMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, August 3, 1999

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Mrs. Marilyn Morning of Huntsville, Alabama, for her many years of outstanding service to our community.

In the Huntsville community, Mrs. Morning is an emblem of education. She has lovingly devoted 25 years of her life to the service of imparting wisdom and a love of learning to the children of our community. In her many years of teaching both in public and private schools, Mrs. Morning taught every subject from sixth to twelfth grade, produced musicals for the school and initiated an organized a bus tour to Washington, D.C.

In her modest and selfless manner, Mrs. Morning has touched the lives of so many families in my district. To me, she symbolizes the model educator, dedicated, intelligent, caring and leading by example. Her reflections on her long career in education exemplify the simple joy she finds in children, teaching and life: “... by teaching others I learned about my own self, my community, and about other people. I made life-long friends and have watched with pleasure the lives and achievements of the young people I taught.”

This is a fitting honor for one who has instilled in several generations of Huntsville citizens a respect and understanding for history and government. In 1982, her school honored her by establishing the Marilyn J. Morning History and Alabama Government Award.

Mrs. Morning’s volunteer work has been essential in building the quality of life the people of Huntsville enjoy today. Described as the “glue” that holds it all together, Mrs. Morning has given of herself in countless capacities including the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra, the Huntsville Museum of Art, the Huntsville Public Library, Burritt Museum, the Leukemia Society and the Arts Council. In 1996, she won the prestigious Virginia Hammil Sims award. Her nominators said it best, “For over 46 years she has been a part of the beginning, growth and development of the cultural ‘best in this city, working tirelessly behind the scenes to make her home town a better place in which to live.’

I want to offer my best wishes to Mrs. Morning and her family. She has indeed inspired me and countless other students old and new to seek knowledge and to use that knowledge to serve others.

OMNIBUS LONG-TERM HEALTH CARE ACT OF 1999
HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, August 3, 1999

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today, Representative Ed Markey, I and others are introducing a bill that will affect the quality of life for all Americans with long-term health care needs. Each day, millions of families struggle as they care for their loved ones who suffer from chronic and debilitating diseases. Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson’s disease, multiple sclerosis, and the ravages of old age make many people dependent on others for their basic care. We legislators have a fundamental obligation to act decisively to ensure the quality of life for all citizens, especially those who can no longer care for themselves.

The simple fact is that we need to act now to avoid the “baby boomer” crisis in long-term health care. As Professor Ken Thorpe testified before the Senate Finance Committee on May 26, 1999, “The number of persons requiring assistance due to physical, cognitive or other disabilities expected to rise from 7 million today to over 15 million by the year 2030. Our current patchwork of programs funded through Medicare and Medicaid will not be positioned to meet the demographic challenges that await us.

There are no “good-old” days we can turn to and proclaim as the golden age of care for...