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grueling moments of departure, "Promise you'll keep in touch." PAT, it's not just that the nation wants to hear from you—it needs to hear from you.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO NAME THE UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE IN SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, IN HONOR OF CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT PFC. WILLIAM K. NAKAMURA

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2000

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce legislation to name the United States Courthouse in Seattle, Washington, as the "William Kenzo Nakamura United States Courthouse" in honor of Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Pfc. William K. Nakamura.

William K. Nakamura was born and raised in an area of Seattle that used to be known as "Japantown." In 1942, while attending the University of Washington, William K. Nakamura, his family, and 110,000 other Japanese Americans were forcibly relocated to federal internment camps. While living at the Minidoka Relocation Center in Idaho, Nakamura and his brothers chose to prove their patriotism by enlisting in the United States Army. William K. Nakamura was assigned to the serve with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. The courageous service of this unit during World War II made it one of the most decorated in the history of our nation's military.

William K. Nakamura distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism in action on July 4, 1944, near Castellina, Italy. As Pfc. Nakamura's platoon approached Castellina, it came under heavy enemy fire. Acting on his own initiative, Pfc. Nakamura crawled within 15 yards of the enemy's machine gun nest and used four hand grenades to neutralize the enemy fire which allowed his platoon to continue its advance. Pfc. Nakamura's company was later ordered to withdraw from the crest of a hill. Rather than retreat with his platoon, Pfc. Nakamura took a position to cover the platoon's withdrawal. As his platoon moved toward safety they suddenly became pinned down by machine gun fire. Pfc. Nakamura crawled toward the enemy's position and accurately fired upon the machine gunners, allowing his platoon time to withdraw to safety. It was during this heroic stand that Pfc. Nakamura lost his life to enemy sniper fire.

Pfc. Nakamura's commanding officer nominated him for the Medal of Honor but the racial climate of the time prevented him, as well as other soldiers of color, from receiving the nation's highest honor. In the spring of this year, 56 years after he made the ultimate sacrifice for his country, William Kenzo Nakamura was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Designating the United States Courthouse in Seattle in Pfc. Nakamura's name is a fitting way to acknowledge the memory of a true American hero, who for so many years was denied the honor he so justly deserved. Mr.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Speaker, the legislation I introduce today is broadly supported by veterans' service organizations and elected officials in the Pacific Northwest. I urge speedy passage of this bill.

RECOGNIZING THE FIRST VETERANS DAY OF THE 21ST CENTURY

HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2000

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, today I express the sense that special recognition should be given to the observance of Veterans Day on November 11, 2000, the first Veterans Day of the 21st Century. As we enter this new millennium, it is important to preserve the memory of our Nation's veterans and to teach the next generations of their sacrifices. Our veterans are responsible for securing and preserving the freedom that all Americans now enjoy.

This first Veterans Day of the 21st Century offers all Americans a special chance to recognize the contributions of our veterans in defending freedom and democracy. It is also an appropriate occasion to make a much greater effort to educate our country's children on the contributions of veterans in defending the freedoms the Nation enjoys so that the memory of those contributions will be preserved throughout the 21st Century. I believe children throughout the Nation would benefit from education that places greater emphasis on the Armed Services' role in shaping the history of the United States.

It is extremely important for us to remember the more than 700,000 brave Americans who sacrificed their lives while serving this nation so that America's children may continue to live in a country founded on the principles of freedom, justice, and democracy. Veterans Day also affords us the opportunity to thank the more than 25,000,000 veterans currently living in the United States. It is important for them to know that our country is grateful for their service.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the first Veterans Day of the 21st Century. Also, join me in thanking the veterans who sacrificed so much to protect our way of life.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MRS. CLARE M. ALBOM

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2000

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate Mrs. Clare M. Albom upon her retirement as Director of the Senior Center in Vernon, Connecticut. Serving more than 18 years as Director, Mrs. Albom has proven to be a tremendous asset for seniors in Vernon.

Mrs. Albom is a highly regarded member of the community. Since accepting the position as consultant for the Vernon Senior Center 18

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years ago, Mrs. Albom has helped build it into one of the top centers for senior citizens in the State of Connecticut. During her tenure, Mrs. Albom supervised a comprehensive physical renovation project to further improve the Center. Mrs. Albom is also responsible for creating a unique and effective organizational structure for the Center with help from part-time staff, volunteers and senior citizens. Mrs. Albom worked to establish important programs to help senior citizens in Vernon with a wide range of issues, including assistance with the ConnPace prescription drug program, Medicare, income taxes, rental assistance and recreation arrangements.

In her time away from the center, Mrs. Albom contributes a weekly column for senior citizens in the Saturday edition of the Journal Inquirer. Mrs. Albom is also a former teacher in the Vernon school system and a devoted wife and mother. Mrs. Albom's biggest influence on the Vernon community has been her solid commitment to the Town as a whole and, more specifically, to the Senior Center to which she has dedicated the past 18 years of her life and, even today, finds difficult to leave.

Mr. Speaker, I join residents from Vernon in commending Mrs. Clare M. Albom on her superb tenure at the Vernon Senior Center. She is a kind, selfless, special person and an example for all.

VIEWPOINTS OF WALKER F. RUCKER

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2000

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, Walker F. Rucker of Greensboro, North Carolina, is a veteran of the Second World War, a lay historian, and a man unafraid to speak his mind. Along with 38 other veterans from the Greensboro area, Mr. Rucker wishes to have his thoughts on the conduct of the President recorded for posterity.

Mr. Rucker has written and spoken eloquently of the sacrifices which his generation has made on behalf of our Republic. In light of their contributions, and those of preceding generations, these men are disturbed by the President's conduct during his two terms in office, which they believe manifests a basic disrespect for the values which they hold in such high regard. They are especially appalled by the events in the White House and elsewhere that led to the President's impeachment; and further object to his fund-raising tactics, his motivations for shaping certain foreign policy scenarios, his posture toward and treatment of our military, and a seeming disinterest in the imperative to adhere to the rule of law.

Mr. Speaker, I have paraphrased Mr. Rucker's views at this point. Anyone who knows him can fully appreciate his passion for a cause, his command of the King's English, and his sense of history. Accordingly, I thought it also appropriate to quote from a petition which he has circulated on this subject. Mr. Rucker notes that historical precedents teach us that external forces do not fell great Republics such as ours; they implode from within. To invoke Mr. Rucker verbatim: