

and reconstruction plan with substantial funding. Too often when a disaster leaves the headlines and the top of the news broadcasts, we forget that the work has only just begun and the victims and their families need to know that we are with them for the long haul.

Indeed, this is an important opportunity to show the world the best of America and the American people.

Americans have already donated more than \$100 million through non-governmental organizations to support relief efforts and thousands more stand ready to volunteer their time, energy, and skills.

And I am confident that President George H.W. Bush and President Bill Clinton will do an excellent job in leading a nationwide charitable fundraising effort to sustain awareness about the disaster and raise additional assistance.

We are a generous, giving, and caring people and through our actions we will earn the world's respect and admiration. We will show the victims and their families that America is always ready to help a neighbor and a friend in need.

I am pleased the resolution was passed by Unanimous Consent.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. DURBIN. On Tuesday of this week, the majority leader came to the Senate floor and talked about judicial nominations. He said he was planning to have a vote next month on one of President Bush's judicial nominees. He didn't say which nominee he had in mind, but he gave a clear signal that it would be someone controversial. He warned that if Senate Democrats prevent the nominee from receiving an "up or down" vote, then he would try and change the rules and traditions of the U.S. Senate.

I am sorry to see that the majority leader chose to sound such a partisan note on a famously bipartisan day—the first day of the new Congress. On such a day, we swear in our new colleagues and strive for a fresh start.

I do not believe this is the time or the place to engage on this issue. There are too many other, more urgent problems facing this world and this Nation.

But it is important to address a few statements made by the majority leader that I believe are in error.

First, he stated that "the Senate failed to perform in an essential constitutional duty" last Congress when we blocked ten judicial nominees. He said that the Senate "failed to offer advice and consent to the President" and indicated this was an unconstitutional action on the part of Senate Democrats.

I do not believe that the Senate acted unconstitutionally. The Constitution requires advice and consent—it does not require us to be a rubberstamp. I could just as easily assert that President Bush acted unconstitutionally by

not soliciting the advice of Senate Democrats before nominating most of his nominees. After all, Article II, Section 2 of the Constitution requires the advice and consent of the Senate.

There is no constitutional right for any President to have 100 percent of his judicial nominees confirmed. During President Bush's first term, the Senate confirmed 204 judicial nominees. President Bush had more judicial nominees confirmed in his first term than the previous three presidents had in theirs.

A second error made by the majority leader was his statement that "these filibusters were unprecedented." Filibusters of judicial nominees are hardly unprecedented. The majority leader voted to filibuster some of President Clinton's nominees in the 1990s.

But the facts show that President Bush's judicial nominees have received far better treatment than President Clinton's. At least 61 of President Clinton's judicial nominees—representing 20 percent of his selections—were denied an "up or down" vote on the Senate floor. In fact, they were denied an "up or down" vote in the Judiciary Committee. The majority leader did not mention this critical statistic when he spoke on Tuesday.

I also take issue with his statement that "I seek cooperation not confrontation." If he truly meant that, he would not threaten to change the Senate rules and traditions next month. If he truly meant it, he would have urged the White House not to re-nominate those nominees who were rejected by the Senate last Congress. If he truly meant it, he would have done what Senator HARRY REID did last month and send a letter to the White House urging the President to engage in bipartisan collaboration in the selection of Federal judges.

Finally, I wish to note the majority leader's surprising rejection of the longstanding tradition of the Senate as a continuous body. In his statement, he said that "I do not acquiesce to carrying over all the rules from the last Congress" and he specifically named Rule 22 as the rule he objected to. This is the rule that permits 41 Members of the Senate to prevent a vote on any measure, motion, or other matter pending before the Senate.

All of us who have served in the House and the Senate know that one of the most basic differences between our chamber and the House is that the Senate is a continuing body and the House is not. In other words, the Senate does not have to reorganize itself each new Congress by adopting new rules and electing new leaders. The House, on the other hand, must do so.

It is my hope that the 109th Congress can operate with more bipartisanship and less acrimony than the previous Congress on the issue of judicial nominations. But if my colleagues across the aisle try and change generations of Senate rules and traditions, it will not be good for this body, and it will not be good for the American people.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN BOB T. MATSUI

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I offer a few words about the passing of Bob Matsui, one of California's great political leaders.

Bob was one of those people who you always thought would be there. His death has come as a great shock and surprise to many.

I extend my deep sorrow to Doris, Brian, and the rest of the Matsui family. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Throughout his career his wonderful wife Doris has been by his side. One of the things I remember most about the two of them is the wonderful smile she always had whenever they walked into a room together. They truly were a fine couple.

I would also like to offer my sympathy to everyone in the Sacramento area—you were so well served by this wonderful man. He has done a fantastic job representing you in Washington for the last 26 years and before that on the Sacramento City Council.

I have known Bob Matsui for a long time. I will remember him as a great human being, as a trusted colleague, as a fine public servant, and someone in whom I was very proud to place friendship, respect, and collegiality.

Bob was a superb public servant. He was a thoughtful, constructive leader who brought people together to find solutions for public policy issues. He was a reasoned voice; he was a dependable voice.

When we faced a problem related to the Folsom Dam, Bob was one of the most constructive figures in getting that very divided issue settled.

Bob was also a good thinker and a strong thinker. People knew that when Bob Matsui said something that it was steeped in practicality. He was well respected and influential among his colleagues.

If Bob told me something was true, I knew it was true and not some variation of the facts. This is an important quality in someone who represents others because it gives them credibility among their colleagues. Bob Matsui had that credibility.

We have all heard the story of Bob's family and their internment at the Tule Lake Camp in 1942. I think this probably had a very sobering impact on his life.

I think he knew what could happen in situations of stress and military conflict. I think it presented a challenge to him as a young man growing up. He clearly overcame that challenge and I think it probably had an impact in his knowing what he wanted to do with his life, and that was public service.

One of Bob's most significant legacies will be the work he did to help the government make amends with the Japanese Americans who were interned during World War II.

As a member of Congress, Bob was successful in passing legislation that

offered a formal apology from the government for the internment program and provided compensation to victims. This is a great legacy and it will be well remembered.

Another of the areas in which Bob excelled is his knowledge and expertise of Social Security as well as tax and trade policy. He had an influential place on the House Ways and Means Committee. His leadership there will be missed.

Bob did what he did extraordinarily well. Throughout his career he showed that he was a skilled politician as well as a great policymaker.

In addition to his duties as a House Member, he took on heading the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee this past election cycle—a particularly demanding and grueling position. Despite the enormous challenges he faced, he did a superb job in guiding the committee through the elections.

Throughout his long and distinguished career Bob Matsui proved to be a dedicated public servant and his constituents considered themselves lucky to have his representation. I consider myself lucky to have known him.

We will truly miss him.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise today to join my colleagues in expressing sympathies to the family of Representative Bob Matsui, who passed away over the weekend. I was shocked and saddened to hear the news about our old friend.

While few Montanans may know Bob Matsui, he did embody one trait Montanans are familiar with. He was always willing to reach out to those across the aisle to get the job done. He and I shared this work philosophy on free trade especially. He was a tireless advocate in the Congress for America's trade agenda and was essential to the enactment of many historic international agreements.

We will surely miss his leadership on critical issues this next Congress, such as Social Security, one issue where the American people expect and deserve a healthy, vigorous, and open debate. And for that type of debate, you could certainly count on Bob Matsui to deliver.

Despite starting his life as a child unjustly interned by his own Government during World War II, Bob later rose to serve in that very Government at its highest echelons, as a Member of Congress. How proud his family must have been to see this dynamic man elected to public office, where he championed legislation to apologize for the internment of Japanese American families such as his. Overcoming obstacles and injustices to rise to a level of public admiration, respect, and trust may sound like a Hollywood story; to Bob, though, it was his life story.

Wanda and I send our prayers and sympathies to his family; his wife Doris, son Brian, daughter-in-law Amy, and granddaughter Anna. He will be greatly missed by us all.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, it is with great sorrow that I mark the pass-

ing of Representative Robert Matsui. In his quarter-century of service representing California's Fifth District in the House of Representatives, Robert Matsui won the deep respect and affection of everyone who ever worked with him. When he first ran for Congress, in 1978, he pledged to bring to the office "a new form of statesmanship." For more than 25 years, on a daily basis, he fulfilled that promise, and his constituents honored him for it. This past November they returned him to the Congress for his fourteenth term, with 71 percent of the vote.

Bob Matsui was a third-generation Japanese American. Like so many of us, he was part of a family that had come to the United States for the great opportunities this country offers, to build a better life for their children. Because Bob Matsui's family was Japanese-American, however, he and his parents were taken from their home in Sacramento in 1942, following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. They were interned for more than three years at Tule Lake, in one of the "relocation centers" specifically created for Japanese Americans. Bob Matsui himself was very young at the time—barely 6 months old at the time of internment, not yet 4 years old when the war ended but he felt deeply the confusion and anguish of the adults around him. Yet he never lost faith in his country and in himself. Inspired by the Kennedy administration to enter public service, he dedicated his professional life to serving and protecting the rights of all Americans, first as a lawyer and then as a public official. He served 8 years on the Sacramento City Council before entering the Congress. But the experience of his early childhood never left him, and in 1988 he was instrumental in ensuring enactment of the Japanese American Redress Act, which offered recognition of the terrible, unconstitutional wrongs done to Japanese Americans.

As a senior member of the House Ways and Means Committee, Bob Matsui worked unstintingly to assure the safety net for those most in need: children, seniors, the disabled, the poor and others who needed an advocate. As the ranking minority member of the Social Security Subcommittee, he was one of the Social Security system's best-informed and most eloquent advocates in the Congress. No one understood better than he the indispensable role that Social Security plays in assuring basic standards of security and dignity to Americans when their working years are over, and no one was more dedicated to keeping the system intact. Robert Matsui believed in the social insurance system that Rockefeller created to care for retirees, but we as a society expanded to care for younger citizens in need, the disabled, widowed and survivors. He made politics personal, and because he cared so deeply for others, he was able to be a real leader in this realm. His voice will be sorely missed.

Congressman MATSUI leaves a legacy of extraordinary integrity, commitment and strength. It is fitting that in his memory Bob Matsui's family and friends have established The Matsui Foundation for Public Service, which will carry forward the principles to which he dedicated his life. I express my deepest sympathies to his wife, Doris Okada, his son Brian, daughter-in-law Amy, and granddaughter Anna, and thank them for sharing him with us these many years.

U.S. FOREST SERVICE PLANNING REGULATIONS

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, on December 22, 2004, The U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service published a final rule that will streamline the process used by the Forest Service in revising forest management plans.

I am pleased that the Department completed work on this important regulation. Ultimately, this rule will help local forest managers provide future generations with healthier forests, cleaner air, cleaner water and more abundant wildlife through more efficient management of our forests and grasslands. I am also pleased that this regulation builds upon one of the important lessons we learned during consideration of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act in the 108th Congress: emphasis on actual forest management rather than administrative paperwork. This will result in our forest managers being able to undertake important forest health projects rather than be overburdened with administrative processes.

Although the final planning rule is very comprehensive, I would like to point out several key components: It will for the first time incorporate implementation and outcome assessment into the forest planning process, which will ensure that the forest planning process is a dynamic one that can quickly adjust to changing conditions. As we learned with the Healthy Forest Restoration Act, a dynamic management system allows the Forest Service to address the most time-sensitive forest health issues such as wildfire, invasive species, or disease. It incorporates meaningful public participation throughout the planning process, and ensures that the best available scientific information will be used in decision making. It contains a process that will fairly and objectively allow us to see whether the Forest Service is getting the job done. This reporting process will rely on independent reviews of Forest Service land management, will measure actual results against intended outcomes, and will incorporate an audit process to produce publicly available results. Finally, and most importantly, this rule will streamline the planning process, which in turn will save the Forest Service both time and money. The current forest plan takes between 5 and 7 years; under the new regulation the anticipated timeframe is between 2 and 3 years. These