

removed to an internment camp for Japanese-Americans.

The incident had a lasting effect on me and throughout my growing up I continued to believe that our country had carried out a grave injustice to Japanese-Americans.

NORM MINETA, much like Sidney, had become a victim of President Franklin Roosevelt's Executive Order No. 9066 which gave the U.S. military authority to take action against aliens. It is important to note that while the Executive order did not mention Japanese-Americans by name, General L. DeWitt, the west coast commander recommended Japanese removal. U.S. Attorney General Biddle had already declared German and Italian citizens living here not to be considered enemy aliens.

With few days to dispose of their possessions, the Mineta family was initially removed to Santa Anita, CA, and later transferred to Heart Mountain, WY.

Those were sad and painful years for our Japanese-American citizens. Our Government was wrong to act in this way against citizens which had manifested no disloyalty, but in fact had contributed so much to the building and the defense of our Nation.

In 1945, the internment camps closed and the Japanese-Americans began the long, sad trek back to the businesses, farms, jobs, and homes they had now lost. There was never an apology, a sign of regret or an attempt of compensation for their losses.

Years after, as a Representative in Congress, I was proud to stand with my colleague, NORM MINETA, and cast a vote on H.R. 442, the bill providing redress and compensation to the many Japanese-Americans who had suffered innumerable losses during their internment. In voting along with NORM MINETA and BOB MATSUI, I felt that I was vindicating Sidney.

NORM MINETA rose to the occasion and courageously guided the critical legislation through troubled waters never relenting against the arguments that it was a money grab that would establish a terrible precedent for the United States. NORM stood in the well of the House and declared:

I realize that there are some who say that these payments are inappropriate. Liberty is priceless, they say, and you cannot put a price on freedom. That's an easy statement when you have your freedom. But to say that because constitutional rights are priceless and they really have no value at all is to turn the argument on its head. Would I sell my civil and constitutional rights for \$20,000? No. But having had those rights ripped away from me, do I think I am entitled to compensation? Absolutely. We are not talking here about the wartime sacrifices that we all made to support and defend our nation. At issue here is the wholesale violation, based on race, of those very legal principles we were fighting to defend.

In the end, the legislation prevailed in large part to NORM's shaking discourse which struck the conscience of the assembled House. Days later, President Reagan sent a letter to the Speaker announcing his change of position on redress. He later signed the act and it became the law of the land. Such has been the leadership role that I remember NORM MINETA best. He stands tall in the defense of civil rights; to this he's never been a stranger. His position on the Civil Rights Act and the Wards Cove amendment reflect his passion for equality.

As the founding chair of the Congress of Asian Pacific Americans, he has become a mentor to the young men and women who follow in his political leadership footsteps.

I am proud to have served with him, to have known his family, to have shared his dreams for America.

HONORING PHILIP COHEN, CIVIC ACTIVIST

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 10, 1995

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, October 15, 1995, the Northeast Dade Coalition, American Red Magen David of Israel and Admiral's Port Condominium along with the entire community of northeast Dade County, FL, will honor Mr. Philip Cohen for his many years of civic service and outstanding achievements.

Mr. Cohen is a world traveler and has been a successful CPA and businessman all his life, carrying three very diverse portfolios which employed several hundred employees. In addition, Mr. Cohen has earned a place in a Marquis publication, "Who's Who in the USA," as well as in the International "Who's Who of Cambridge, England."

He has taken his business expertise to the local community of northeast Dade County where he resides and is highly regarded. He remains quite active fulfilling his duties as president of the Magen David Adom Blood Bank, he raises funds for the Northeast Dade Coalition of over 80 condominiums, and he writes a monthly column called "Let's Talk Taxes" in various publications. It's hard to believe that this man is considered to be retired.

As a Member of Congress I represent hundreds of condominiums spanning some 97 miles of my district in southeast Florida. Although Miami may be viewed as the retirement capital of the world, I am proud to say that it is involved, dedicated activists like Mr. Philip Cohen who comprise the most active and respected representatives of our senior population in the United States of America. Congratulations to Mr. Cohen and to all of northeast Dade.

PROMOTING WORLD PEACE

HON. BILL RICHARDSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 10, 1995

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to the efforts of my constituent the Reverend Eric Schneider of Santa Fe. Eric is a dedicated promoter of fundamental steps designed to foster world peace. I commend and support his efforts to further such a noble cause. More importantly, I call on all Members to read Reverend Schneider's eloquent proposal to ask the United Nations to declare 1999 "The International Year of Forgiveness."

I concur with Reverend Schneider's premise that regardless of one's religious or philosophical view, all people want world peace. As we near the end of one of history's bloodiest centuries, we should actively devote ourselves to

a recognition of the positive role played by human forgiveness. I submit Rev. Eric Schneider's piece titled "Forgiveness: The Last Alternative" for all Members of Congress to consider.

FORGIVENESS: THE LAST ALTERNATIVE

(By Rev. Eric Schneider)

All people want permanent world peace, no matter what they think must be done as the means to that peace. But none of the military, economic, social, philosophical, humanitarian, political or even religious solutions to violence and war have succeeded, as newspapers and news broadcasts show us every day.

These proposed solutions have never gotten to the root of violence and war. It is this: Human beings hold deep, emotionally-charged grievances against members of other races, religions, genders and professions, as well as residents of other nations, and even neighborhoods. And much of our science fiction literature has prepared us to hold grievances against, and be enemies of, any residents of other planets we may contact.

Grievances are judgments that another has done us a wrong, or that others—or even the grandparents of others—have done us wrong. Our response to this judgment is a constant, low-grade feeling of anger that those people are thwarting our intentions to have a good life, or threatening to, by their very existence.

Almost any seeming provocation then becomes a justification for "preemptive" or retaliatory violence against them. This condition exists on every level of human relationship, from family, to community, to planet.

The one practice that cuts through and eliminates grievance of any kind, with anybody, is Forgiveness. But Forgiveness is not some far-off Christian ideal, to be held as a fond wish but highly impractical. Rather, it is a very practical method of resolving grievances and eliminating violence.

Forgiveness is—in this context—the recognition that it is an illusion to think that someone's actions in their own seeming interest are a threat to the quality of your life. (Of course, we're not talking about initiatory military, or other violent, action some group may take, since we are working prior to that stage, to prevent it.)

How we recognize this, it turns out in every case, is to:

(1) Be willing to give up being "right" in our judgments about people. Not to do them a favor, but to promote our own inner and outer peace and happiness.

(2) If this is difficult, then we ask ourselves, "What do I do that's like what I think they did, or are doing?" We will always find an answer. Then we ask, "Am I willing to forgive myself—or ask my God to forgive me—for being human enough to have done that?" When the answer is truly, "Yes," Forgiveness is present and the grievance shortly disappears. Anyone who doubts this simple practice will find it works every time you truly do it.

Let us North Americans—the most powerful military and economic people in history—take the lead in finally bringing peace to our world, by asking the United Nations to declare 1999 "The International Year of Forgiveness." We would invite members of every religious, racial, language, philosophical, political, geographical, trade and age group to forgive members of any other group—or any other individuals—against whom they'd been holding grievances.

To whatever extent we could—over the next 4½ years—educate and convince the people of the world to do this, we could start the next century—the next Millennium—with a globally clean slate for our children