

Major General Castro currently serves as the Deputy Director, Defense Threat Reduction Agency. In this capacity, Major General Castro helps safeguard America and its allies from Weapons of Mass Destruction by providing capabilities to reduce, eliminate, and respond to the threats posed by such weapons. I'm certain that the Members of the House will join me in honoring Major General Randal R. Castro for his outstanding service to our country.

ALEXANDER "SANDY" NININGER

HON. RON KLEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2008

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Second Lieutenant Alexander "Sandy" Nininger, a heroic American soldier and the first United States recipient of the Medal of Honor in World War II.

Lieutenant Nininger entered service in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and bravely served his country during the Second World War as a member of the 57th Infantry Regiment of the Philippine Scouts. He gave his life near Abucay, Bataan, Philippine Islands in January of 1942. He fought valiantly into relentless enemy fire even after sustaining three wounds.

In his hometown of Fort Lauderdale stands a Sandy Nininger statue and WWII memorial where annual Memorial Day services are held in recognition of his service and that of his fellow veterans. Their efforts have provided Americans with security and peace of mind, and I join all Americans in gratitude for their sacrifices.

On June 14th, which has been designated as National Flag Day, Americans honor those who fought to protect this country and the ideals for which the American flag stands. Sandy Nininger fought for America, and I think it is only appropriate to pay respects to him on Flag Day.

Madam Speaker, I believe that America owes its military heroes the utmost appreciation and I am honored to represent thousands that served our country honorably in our nation's military, just as Sandy Nininger did. On this Flag Day, I am proud to remember a distinguished local and national hero, Sandy Nininger.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2008

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I was unavoidably delayed and missed the vote on Final Passage of H.R. 6003, the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act (rollcall 400). H.R. 6003 passed by a vote of 311-104; Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 400.

I would also like to offer my firm support for the Passenger Rail and Improvement Act, H.R. 6003. At a time when gas prices have reached a national average of \$4.05 a gallon,

this bipartisan legislation is both timely and necessary to provide travelers with alternative transportation. This bill would authorize nearly \$15 billion in funding for the national passenger railroad over the next five years. It encourages the development of new and improved intercity passenger rail services by creating a new grant program for intercity passenger rail services. It also paves the way for a high-speed rail system between Washington and New York City.

Today it is increasingly evident that the United States cannot rely solely upon further massive construction of highways and airports to meet its transportation needs. To handle the tremendous tide of travelers, auto, air and bus system must be supplemented by a swift and efficient rail passenger service. It is vital to restore an essential balance to the total transportation complex.

For nearly 40 years, Amtrak has provided intercity passenger railroad service, operating approximately 44 routes and over 22,000 miles of track. A record of 25.8 million passengers took Amtrak in the last fiscal year. With the climbing costs of driving, Amtrak expects ridership to approach 28 million this fiscal year. The passage of this legislation allows Amtrak to meet the increased demand by bringing much needed improvements to its infrastructure. In an effort to address our energy problems, enhanced intercity railway provides a cost-efficient solution. I support this legislation as we seek to offer relief from high fuel costs and alternatives to the American people.

HONORING MR. LI KA-SHING,
GLOBAL PHILANTHROPIST, EN-
TREPRENEUR, CORPORATE
LEADER

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2008

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Mr. Li Ka-shing of Hong Kong and to celebrate his extraordinary life, service, and achievements on the occasion of his 80th birthday.

The vast accomplishments in business of this global icon place him easily among the most successful and respected entrepreneurs of our day—Gates, Buffett, Branson and others. But his contributions in philanthropy, a new concept Mr. Li is introducing in China, also rank him among those business giants—Carnegie, Rockefeller, and Vanderbilt—who understood the benevolent, ennobling uses of wealth to strengthen and lift others.

No one who examines the life of Mr. Li Ka-shing can help but appreciate the power of purpose not only in shaping one's life but destiny as well. He has shown what a life guided by deep, constant purpose and fueled by optimism, determination, and industry can achieve—despite odds and obstacles that may appear insurmountable. With purpose, he has built companies and changed lives with compassionate giving.

As a child, in 1940, Li Ka-shing fled China with his family to escape the Japanese invasion. The family arrived destitute in Hong Kong, with little prospects for the future. His father was an educator, his mother a loving and noble influence in his life. As a young

boy, Mr. Li showed great academic promise. But circumstances and necessity—his father was stricken with tuberculosis and later died—forced him to abandon his dream of receiving an education. At 12, he had to leave school to work in a factory to support his family. Despite his young age, the power of purpose had taken hold of him as he pushed himself to endure grueling 16-hour workdays. By 22, Mr. Li's hard work and perseverance had earned him the ownership of his own plastics factory, Cheung Kong Industries.

He was known for his honesty, his loyalty and customer service. There is a well-known story in Hong Kong how on one occasion, a large contract with a U.S. business was cancelled after Mr. Li had completed the manufacturing. The business had decided to change direction in what it wanted. Mr. Li not only did not charge the U.S. businessman who had changed his mind, but proceeded to complete the second order as directed. This single act later opened the door to Mr. Li and his company becoming one of the key producers of toys and home decorations for American companies. In fact, to this day, some still refer to him as G.I. Joe, as it was Mr. Li and his company that manufactured that popular line of toys in the '60s and '70s.

Building on this foundation, Mr. Li expanded into real estate investment, creating a company that was listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange in 1972. Meanwhile, Cheung Kong continued its rapid growth trajectory with acquisitions of Hutchison Whampoa, a British trading company that has been active in Hong Kong since the 1820's, and Hong Kong Electric Holdings Limited in 1979 and 1985, respectively.

Today, Mr. Li leads a vast global business empire as chairman of Cheung Kong Holdings Limited and Hutchison Whampoa Limited. Cheung Kong Holdings Limited is the flagship of the Cheung Kong Group, which has business operations in 57 countries around the world and employs about 260,000 staff. In Hong Kong alone, the Group includes eight listed companies with a combined market capitalization of approximately US\$122 billion.

The Cheung Kong Group's businesses encompass such diverse areas as property development and investment, real estate agency and estate management, hotels, telecommunications and e-commerce, finance and investments, retail, ports and related services, energy, infrastructure projects and materials, media, and biotechnology. Hutchison Whampoa Limited is a Fortune Global 500 company.

Mr. Li's personal holdings confer the distinction of being Asia's richest man. But his deep humility and gratitude—coupled with an intrinsic understanding of the true value of money and the good it can do—have never allowed him to flaunt his wealth or his position. True to the lessons of his humble beginnings and hardships and his Horatio Alger story, he has found that wealth, when used to serve others and not self, can be employed with great purpose and power.

Mr. Li believes that an equitable society can only be achieved if individuals are ready to do their part. In 1980, he established a charitable foundation—the Li Ka Shing Foundation. Its mission is to enhance the impact of its philanthropy through two strategic objectives: to nurture a culture of giving and to foster creativity, constructive engagement, and sustainability