

little attention then and is even less remembered now.

My colleagues, DANNY'S speech should be required reading today given the recent tragedies. It was just last week that I was asked to speak on Senator INOUE's behalf at an event concerning the proposed Eisenhower Memorial. It is a joint bipartisan effort that has taken far too long to bring to fruition. In the cloakroom the day before we had one of our many discussions where he grabbed my hand and looked me in the eye and said: You and I probably vote differently 80 percent of the time, but in all of our mutual efforts and all of our travels, I have considered you a brother.

I didn't know what to do. I responded with a tear in my eye, and I said: I love you, DANNY INOUE.

And he said: I love you too.

What a wonderful thing to hear from a true American hero in every respect. It has been a privilege and an honor to serve with such a remarkable and truly humble man.

I also want to thank his wonderful staff in working with my staff on so many mutual projects.

Aloha, my dear friend. I will miss you every day.

I yield back the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, there are few times in the history of this institution when one Senator, a singularly iconic leader, comes along and reminds us of what it means to be a U.S. Senator and what it means to represent the very best of what this Nation stands for and to do it, as he always did, with the utmost dignity, honor, pride, and integrity.

I am deeply saddened to have to speak to the passing of a true American hero. He was someone who inspired so many of us in the Senate. His ideals and sense of justice were always on display.

The passing of Senator INOUE leaves a painful void in the leadership of this body. In so many ways, the life and sacrifice of Senator INOUE embodies the essence of the "greatest generation."

Even when faced with the suffering, indignity, and humiliation of an internment camp, he did not allow his heart to be turned or his love and commitment to his country to be diminished. Justice was a constant theme in his life. He represented the challenges faced by his Hawaiian people since statehood, when he became its first representative in the U.S. Congress.

We had a close bond when it came to our concern for minorities in our country. Because of the struggles in his life, he understood the struggles in both of our communities. He felt a kinship to

the Hispanic community and shared the community's hopes and aspirations. In recent conversations, I know from his comments that he understood the growing importance of the Hispanic community and the benefit of advancing their interests within American society. He lived it, he understood it, he knew.

We worked together on the recognition of Filipino veterans—something he was very passionate about—and he thanked me most graciously, as always, for my interest and for my commitment to working with him on an issue so dear to his heart.

These are just a few stories of a man who led a quintessentially American life. I know there are thousands more stories to be told, some of which have already been told on the Senate floor, but the real story is that this was a man who sacrificed for his country, met the challenges it presented, but ultimately, because of a kind heart and loyalty to the ideals we profess as Americans, he became one of the most important, yet most humble, leaders in the U.S. Senate.

Senator INOUE and his life and deeds remind us what it means to be an American hero, a war hero who carried the burden of his service with him all of his life. His courage, his patriotism, and his respect for the values he fought for informed his views and his votes in this Chamber.

The Senate is sadly diminished today with the passing of one of our most respected and iconic leaders—a hero, a powerful voice for reason, rationality, and common sense when reason, rationality, and common sense are too often in short supply. He will be missed not only by all of us who had the privilege to serve with him but by a nation that needs more leaders like him.

We, all of us, remember his lasting influence, his way of making us look into the heart of the matter without prejudice or preconceived political impressions. He knew how to get to the crux of an issue, and he led the way so many times for the rest of us. We followed his lead, and the Nation is better for it.

All of us who worked with him as chairman of the Appropriations Committee respected his word and his commitment to fairness. He was always willing to listen, always willing to hear your side, always willing to reach out across the aisle for what he believed was right.

Most recently, he was the voice of support and wisdom in our efforts to secure disaster relief for my home State of New Jersey. He empathized with the needs of New Jerseyans, just as he addressed the needs of Hawaiians for decades. There is no more gracious man than DAN INOUE, no one who was as dignified and respectful than the senior Senator from Hawaii.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife and his family and to the people of Hawaii today. We have lost an incredibly great man.

Mahalo, my friend, until we meet again.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:33 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. WEBB).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to extend morning business until 3 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Texas.

REMEMBERING DANIEL K. INOUE

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I rise this sad day to comment on the passing of a great patriot, Senator DANIEL INOUE. He fought for his country as part of the Greatest Generation and served his State with distinction for more than 50 years.

We were all honored to know him and blessed by his sacrifice in defense of American freedom. We served together on the Armed Services Committee and later on the Appropriations Committee as well. DANNY'S insight was invaluable to our Nation's defense and military policy. He did make America stronger.

I had the pleasure of working with him when we traveled together to Bosnia to visit our troops in the very early stages of that conflict. We later went to the Middle East on a CODEL with Senator Stevens as well. One of the pictures in my office is of Senator Stevens, Senator INOUE, Senator SNOWE, and myself in our helmets and flak jackets the first time we flew into Sarajevo in the early 1990s, when the Serbs had still been shooting from the hills into the airport.

In 1995, on the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, Senator INOUE and a number of other World War II veterans gathered at the Smithsonian to reminisce about their time in battle.

Senator INOUE recalled the morning of December 7 at Pearl Harbor, when he recognized that the men in the Japanese planes looked like him, and he said he knew then his life would never be the same.

As soon as the Army permitted Japanese Americans to volunteer, he signed up and ventured to the mainland of the United States for the first time in his life. He and his fellow Hawaiians of Japanese descent worried about how they would be treated in the United States but, as he recalled it, they encountered kindness and respect at every stop their train made.