

agency eliminates an important moving option for do-it-yourself consumers. This would economically hurt the principal users of portable storage companies, namely the middle class, military, students and other price-conscious consumers. For these reasons and the others mentioned by my colleague, it is my sincere hope that the FMCSA preserves the rights of consumers, as intended by Congress, to ready and unfettered access to lower cost options with respect to moving their household goods.

TRIBUTES TO DEPARTING SENATORS

DAN AKAKA

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, for the last 22 years, DANIEL AKAKA has represented the people of Hawaii in this body. They have been the better for his service, and I have greatly appreciated the wisdom, humility, and passion with which he has served here.

One issue on which we have been able to work closely as fellow members of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee is oversight of the Federal workforce, a key issue for his State and for taxpayers everywhere. Senator AKAKA's passion for Federal workforce issues comes from his passion for public service and for effective government. Just in this Congress, I was an original cosponsor of his Federal Whistleblower Protection Act, to strengthen the law protecting Federal employees who bring to light fraud, waste, and abuse in Federal programs. That Akaka bill is expected to be signed into law before the end of the year. Also this Congress, I was proud to cosponsor his Hatch Act Modernization Act to allow hard-working employees of State and local governments, who are covered by the Hatch Act, to serve as elected officials in their communities.

In addition to his focus on Federal workforce issues, Senator AKAKA has long been a valued member of the Armed Services Committee. We have worked together on legislation to reform Defense Department business and financial management systems; strengthen oversight and accountability of wartime contracting; and strengthen the Defense Department's management of the substantial funds it spends to acquire property and services.

Senator AKAKA joined in 2002 with Senator INHOFE to form the Senate Army Caucus, and through this bipartisan group they have focused welcome attention on the programs and needs of our Army. Senator AKAKA, himself an Army veteran, has been an important source of insight into the challenges facing our soldiers and their families.

Of course, as the former chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, Senator AKAKA has long demonstrated an intense dedication to those who have helped defend our Nation. His steadfast advocacy for veterans health programs,

education benefits, and other important programs has made a significant and lasting impact on the lives of veterans and their families.

When people describe DANIEL AKAKA, one of the first words used to describe him is "humble." He is indeed that. He has been a dedicated and principled servant of the people of Hawaii and our Nation, an unfailing ally of our veterans and their families, and a valued colleague and friend. I will miss him, and I will always remember how he taught us that gentleness and effectiveness are not mutually exclusive characteristics.

HERB KOHL

Mr. President, in his four terms representing the State of Wisconsin in this body, Senator HERB KOHL's focus has been precisely where it should be: the welfare of the people of his State and of our Nation. Whether in supporting American manufacturers and the jobs they provide, in fighting for protection from crime and for adequate nutrition for our children, in protecting senior citizens from elder abuse, or in preserving the Great Lakes that our two States share, Senator KOHL has accomplished much on behalf of American families.

I have been fortunate to work closely with Senator KOHL on issues of vital importance to our States. He has long been a strong supporter of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, which helps U.S. manufacturers with technical support and services that make them more efficient and competitive in the global marketplace. His support for adequate MEP funding has made a significant difference for American companies and workers.

Now, we in Michigan bow to no one in our love for the Great Lakes, but even I would admit that Wisconsin, second only to Michigan in its length of Great Lakes coastline, is a close competitor. As a member of the Great Lakes Task Force, which I cochair, he has supported cleanup of toxic hot spots, the fight against invasive species, protecting Great Lakes water quality, and sufficient funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

We have also shared an interest in consumer protection. Senator KOHL chairs the Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights, and from that platform, he has battled those who would prey on American consumers, whether they are abusive credit card companies or oil-exporting cartel nations.

But where Senator KOHL has left what may be his most lasting impression is in his hard work on behalf of our Nation's most vulnerable citizens: children and seniors. He has long advocated solutions to help make college more affordable. He has helped expand the availability of nutritious breakfasts for school-age children and programs to help parents afford food on the table for their families. He has worked to strengthen afterschool pro-

grams. And in 2007 and again in 2008, he introduced the Patient Safety and Abuse Protection Act, which allowed employers to perform background checks on nursing home employees to help prevent elder abuse. When this legislation was included in the Affordable Care Act in 2009, it was a major step forward for patient safety.

I will miss working with HERB KOHL on these and many other issues. I will miss the opportunity to give him a hard time whenever our Detroit Pistons beat his Milwaukee Bucks. I hope we can continue the important work he has helped move forward: protecting good jobs, our Great Lakes, our students, and our seniors.

DANIEL K. INOUYE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, today the State of Hawai'i, the Senate, and the United States mourn the loss of Senator Daniel Inouye.

Observers of the Senate today know Chairman Inouye as a poised, soft-spoken statesman: courteous and collegial; shunning of the spotlight; above the petty churn of the partisan fray. But historians will remember him as a great patriot, a fierce warrior, a brave pioneer, and a great leader.

Chairman Inouye's unflinching commitment to his country withstood both the moral threat of having his family deemed "enemy aliens" and the direct physical threat of Nazi firepower. His famed "Go For Broke" 442nd Regimental Combat Team was made up of Japanese-American volunteers, but even among this exceptionally decorated group of men, Second Lieutenant Inouye exemplified exceptional bravery and sacrifice in what Winston Churchill described as the war "to confront not only military but moral aggression."

The fight to see the American values of freedom, justice, and equality fulfilled would continue beyond the war years and throughout Chairman Inouye's lifetime of service to his home state and his country. The new State of Hawai'i sent him to Washington as part of its very first delegation. The first Japanese American elected to Congress, he has been a champion of civil rights for women, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and African Americans. Indeed, Chairman Inouye was the last surviving member of the Senate to have voted for the Civil Rights Act of 1964. He also ferreted out corruption at the highest level of government, serving on the Senate's select committee on the Watergate scandal, and chairing the investigation of the Iran-Contra arms affair.

But Dan Inouye was first and foremost a servant of the people of Hawai'i. Ever grateful for the faith they entrusted in him year after year, he worked to make sure they had every opportunity to achieve the full potential of the American Dream. I was honored that he joined me as an original member of the Senate Oceans Caucus,