

Rep. Honda and CAPAC Members applaud unanimous passage of resolution honoring former Secretary Norman Mineta

Washington, DC – Yesterday, US Rep. Mike Honda (CA-15), chairman of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), along with CAPAC executive board members, issued the following statements applauding the passage of House Resolution 1377 honoring and recognizing the contributions made by former Secretary Norman Mineta to the Asian American and Pacific Islander community and to our nation:

Rep. Mike Honda (CA-15), CAPAC Chair: “Norm Mineta is a champion in Silicon Valley and a national icon, and I was honored to author this resolution for my dear friend and mentor, along with Rep. Judy Chu. As an Asian American, Norm has broken through many glass ceilings, paving the way for Asian American and Pacific Islanders to claim our full rights as Americans. This resolution is a great opportunity to remind ourselves of what a major player Norm has been on a national level—Chairman of the Transportation Committee in Congress, Secretary of Commerce for President Clinton, and Secretary of Transportation for President Bush during the 9/11 Terrorist Attacks. From his time as Mayor of San Jose to his rise to the top levels of power in Washington, DC, Norm has remained rooted in social justice and love of country. Norm Mineta’s undying patriotism and loyalty to the United States and our Constitution is an example for all Americans.”

Congresswoman Judy Chu (CA-32), CAPAC Executive Board Member: “Secretary Norman Mineta is a role model for Americans of every color, background and creed. His story is a story of sacrifice, hardship, dedication and triumph. I can think of no one more deserving for this body to honor than Secretary Mineta. He is an inspiration to many, including me, and we owe a debt of gratitude for all he has done to put Asian Americans on the map. And it is because of his leadership that America is a better and stronger nation today!”

Congressman Eni F.H. Faleomavaega (AS), CAPAC Vice Chair: “Norm has played an influential role, setting the path for future Asian Pacific American members who serve in this Chamber. During his successful 20 years in Congress, Norm cofounded CAPAC in 1994, and served as its first Chair. Since inception, CAPAC has been a strong advocate for the Asian Pacific American community on critical issues such as housing, healthcare, immigration, civil rights, economic development, and education, just to name a few. I am honored to serve with Chairman Honda and our fellow CAPAC members to continue the groundbreaking path that Norm helped pave. Today, we honor and recognize Norm’s remarkable leadership and service. Yet what makes his story even more remarkable is his example of overcoming many hardships while maintaining a heart of service for our nation.”

Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo (GU), CAPAC Secretary: “I commend Norman Mineta for his years of public service and dedication to promoting civil rights and liberty for all Americans. As the founder and former chairman of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, Norm worked to inform Members of Congress of the unique challenges facing Asian Pacific Americans in our nation. I further appreciated Norm’s work to modernize and improve our infrastructure system in America as the longest serving Secretary of Transportation. I join the CAPAC in honoring Norm’s service and accomplishments, and on behalf of the people of Guam, I wish him a sincere Un dangkulo na Si Yu’os Ma’ase.”

Congressman Al Green (TX-09), CAPAC Executive Board Member: “It is with great pleasure that I honor a former colleague in Congress, Norman Mineta. Former Congressman Mineta has obtained numerous respected leadership positions where he was the first Asian American to take presence in that office. He was the first Asian American Mayor of a major United States city where he was able to strengthen ties and provide leadership, including the leadership needed to span the racial divide. Former Congressman Mineta is a strong and dedicated person with the insight needed to serve all people. His accomplishments remind us to push ourselves to fight for total justice for the masses and social justice for all classes. H.Res. 1377 represents the first time Congress formally recognizes former Congressman Mineta for his accomplishments and dedication to serve our country. I am honored that our nation will pay tribute to his greatness.”

Congressman David Wu (OR-01), CAPAC Executive Board Member: “Norm Mineta, a pioneering public servant and my dear friend and mentor, has served this country and the Asian American and Pacific Islander community with great distinction and unparalleled humility. Norm has many firsts to his name: the first Asian American mayor of a major U.S. city, the first chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, and the first Asian American member of a presidential Cabinet. These milestones dot a career that has been dedicated to bettering lives through efficient transportation, expanding civil rights for all, and strengthening Asian American and Pacific Islander participation in public life. I am privileged to call Norm a friend, and I thank him for his tremendous and longstanding leadership on behalf of our community.”

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The Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC) is comprised of Members of Congress of Asian and Pacific Islander descent and members who have a strong dedication to promoting the well-being of the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. Since 1994, CAPAC has been addressing the needs of the AAPI community in all areas of American life. For more information on CAPAC, please call (202) 225-2631 or visit <http://www.honda.house.gov/capac>.