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COMMITTEE ON  
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SUBCOMMITTEES:  
READINESS  
SEAPOWERS AND PROJECTION FORCES

COMMITTEE ON  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE AFFAIRS  
(RANKING MEMBER)  
ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES  
PUBLIC LANDS AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION

May 27, 2013

On behalf of the First Congressional District of Hawai‘i, I send my warmest aloha to the Spirit of ‘45 Day, the Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA), and the Board of the Memorial to Japanese American Patriotism in World War II in honor of this year’s National Memorial Day Parade and Memorial Day remembrance ceremonies.

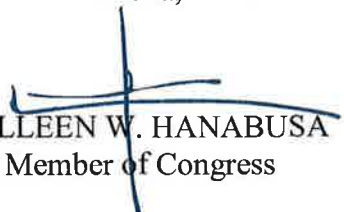
When the call came to serve the United State of America in the aftermath of the attack on Pearl Harbor, the men and women of our nation’s Greatest Generation answered unequivocally. As we soon came to find out, bravery and courage knew no boundaries; men from all backgrounds became brothers in arms and women across the country pledged their support to the war effort. In spite of great odds, millions of Americans reaffirmed their allegiance to the Stars and Stripes, pledging to defend freedom, equality, justice, and liberty for all.

For many Japanese Americans like Senator Daniel Ken Inouye, racial prejudice could do nothing to diminish their love for the United States. In their hearts and souls, they knew that defending our country was not a choice, but a necessity. Our families depended on them and even in the face of adversity, Senator Inouye and his brothers in arms fought with courage, honor, and distinction.

It is with a heavy heart that we gather each Memorial Day to remember and pay tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice those many years ago. While the sands of time may have washed away the material objects of the Second World War, the memories of those who served so honorably will never leave our hearts or minds.

Senator Inouye is now resting easy, smiling down on us with his comrades. His legacy—along with the many brave soldiers who served our nation in the Second World War—lives on through each and every one of us. We are eternally grateful for his lifelong service and the service of so many others. Thank you Senator Inouye and each and every member of our Armed Services; you are always in our thoughts and forever in our hearts.

Aloha,

  
COLLEEN W. HANABUSA  
Member of Congress