

**MATSUI ON THE LEGACY OF FRED KOREMATSU**

April 16, 2005

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**SACRAMENTO, CA**     Ãçâ,~â€œ Representative Doris O. Matsui (D-CA) called Fred Korematsu a Ãçâ,~â€œ

Ãçâ,~â€œ“I want to begin by thanking the Korematsu family for inviting me here today, and offering me the

"Because of his work Fred Korematsu has left a tremendous legacy and I have no doubt that his life and

"Standing before his friends and family today, there is no need for me to recount FredÃçâ,~â€œs struggle

"But we would be remiss if we did not honor, and in our own lives, seek to replicate his uncommon coura

"Like some of you here today, I was born in an internment camp in Arizona towards the end of World War II.

"It was an experience that forever impacted my family, and the families of thousands of Japanese American citizens.

"But at a time when our country faces unprecedented challenges, we must all lend our voices, our stories, and our experiences.

"Because telling our stories is critical to ensuring the nation we all love so dearly does not repeat the mistakes of the past.

"We know, and Fred demonstrated, that opposing injustice is difficult. Defending what is right in the face of adversity is often the hardest thing to do.

"But Fred Korematsu proved that the fight is always worthwhile. He showed us the value of never giving up on our principles.

"That legacy is a tremendous comfort to us all. Because when we tell our stories and speak out for justice

"So when we leave here today, I hope we all go with a renewed commitment to the values that Fred cher

"When President Clinton awarded Fred the Presidential Medal of Freedom, he noted that the Korematsu

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