



CALIFORNIA ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

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ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS STATEMENT ON SENATOR DANIEL INOUE'S PASSING

SACRAMENTO- On behalf of the Asian & Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus, Assemblymember Paul Fong (D-Cupertino), chair of the API Legislative Caucus, issued the following statement in response to the passing of Senator Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii):

“Our thoughts and prayers are with Senator Inouye’s family and friends. The Senator was a remarkable and beloved public representative for his native Hawaii, which is why we are not alone in grieving the loss of a legend in American politics. Senator Inouye had an illustrious, eight decade long career in public service.

Senator Inouye served as Hawaii’s first congressional representative when Hawaii joined the Union in 1959. Since 1962, he has served as its Senate representative. As the Senate President Pro-Tempore, Senator Inouye was the highest ranking Asian American politician ever, paving the way for many Asian & Pacific Islander Americans in politics. In addition, Senator Inouye was a World War II veteran having served as a medical volunteer during the attack on Pearl Harbor and later joining the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. For his military service and dedication to his country, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, and the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Today, the nation has lost a great pioneer in civil rights and American politics. We must strive to honor his memory by dedicating ourselves to the community with the same tenacity as the Honorable Senator Inouye.”

The API Legislative Caucus was established in 2001 with the mission of representing and advocating for the interests of the diverse API communities throughout California. Additionally, the Caucus seeks to increase API participation and representation in all levels of government. Assemblymember Paul Fong and Assemblymember Das Williams serve as chair and vice-chair, respectively, of the caucus.

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