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EULOGY TO JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER III

SEPTEMBER 13, 1978 TOKYO, JAPAN

Almost two decades ago I first met John D. Rockefeller III. His daughter, Hope, and my daughter, Anne, were classmates and roommates at Smith College in Massachusetts.

On Father's Day, Hope's father and I met each other in the dormitory where our daughters were living. They were placed exclusively in our care for that one day in the year -- even their mothers were not allowed to visit their daughters on that occasion -- and, in that way, I got to know the man whom we are remembering today.

Out of that meeting a lifelong friendship developed between the man from Montana and the man from New York. I visited with him many times since then and with the years our friendship and respect for each other grew. Our last meeting was in New York City on February 2nd of this year when he introduced me to the membership of the Japan Society on the occasion of my speech entitled: "The United States and Japan; Reflections on Our Partnership."

And now that modest and unassuming man, John D. Rockefeller III, has left us and, in leaving, has left a void in our hearts, our minds and our two countries.

Born to riches he contributed of his wealth to better understanding between two nations separated by thousands of miles, different cultures, different languages, and different backgrounds.

Did he succeed? The answer is, yes. Was he appreciated while still living and is he now appreciated that he is gone? The answer is, again, yes. Will his lifelong interest in U.S.-Japan relations be continued; will the foundation he laid in this respect be added to? Again the answer is yes.

What he laid down we will build on. The mutual trust, mutual understanding and mutual good will he did so much to achieve will not be forgotten but will continue to serve as torches to light our way along the paths he has carved out.

A good man, a decent man, a gentleman is now gone. He has left a legacy of promise, of hope and of brotherhood.

By his deeds we knew and appreciated him. By our deeds we will remember him.

May his soul rest in peace.