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AMBASSADOR OF
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TOKYO

EULOGY

To Takeo Miki

Today I come here on behalf of the American Government and people, our Embassy, my wife, Maureen and myself to pay our nation's deepest respects to a great man, Former Prime Minister Takeo Miki. His passing is a tragedy for all. Japan has lost one of its finest statesman, America has lost one of its most noble allies, the world has lost a peerless human being, and my family and I have lost a friend.

Ever since our first meeting almost two decades ago when I was the U.S. Senate Majority Leader, I have had countless occasions to be grateful to His Excellency for his kindness, for his wise counsel and for his leadership.

As my years of service as Ambassador to Japan draw to a close, I find my thoughts turning often to the changes that I have seen in over a decade of my service here. Above all, I am grateful to have been here to see the maturing of the New Japan. The Japan of today is an economically powerful, politically assured and spiritually confident nation.

I know that Mr. Miki has taken great pride in the growth and maturing of his country and its magnificent people. That is as it should be. It was he who nurtured Japan and gave it strength and direction during much of this era. He held aloft the torch that showed the way for other leaders and for the citizens of Japan to follow. In that effort, he also gave light to my country and to the nations of the world. It should comfort our dear friend, Mrs. Miki and her warm and gracious family, and all who shared his life, to know that he lived to see a strong, confident Japan -- shaped so much by his own hands, his own thoughts and his own dreams -- move to the center of the world's stage.

He shall, of course, be missed by all of us as he was a great political leader who held in his hands the future of his nation and the economic well-being of much of the world. But far beyond that, I shall miss him most because he was one of those most rare and most precious gifts that heaven can give us: an honorable, caring and thoroughly decent human being.

Someone once wrote:

"Of those who dream, only the few turn their dreams into action. Of those who act, only the few turn their actions into successes. Of those who succeed, only the few turn their success into greatness. And of those who achieve greatness, there are only a few whose deeds and character will outlive them for generations to come."

Such a man was Takeo Miki. May we find in his memory the courage to measure our own character against the sterling example he has left us and may we find the strength and inspiration to build a better future upon the dreams that he has realized.

Rest well, my friend. . .