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## **Asian Pacific American Community Pays Tribute to Norman Y. Mineta on Feb. 6 at the Smithsonian**

The Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Program and Asian Pacific American community organizations will host a tribute to Norman Y. Mineta on Tuesday, Feb. 6 at the Smithsonian Institution Castle from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Mineta is currently the vice chairman of Hill and Knowlton in Washington, D.C. He represented the city of San Jose, Calif., in Congress for more than 20 years and he served as Secretary of Commerce under President Clinton and as Secretary of Transportation under President George W. Bush. Among his many achievements, Mineta recently received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor in the United States.

Mineta has been a role model for the Asian Pacific American community. He was the driving force behind passage of H.R. 442, the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which officially apologized for and redressed the injustices endured by Japanese Americans during World War II. Mineta and his family were among the 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry imprisoned during World War II. He was a trailblazer for the Asian Pacific American community—the first Asian Pacific American Cabinet member, Smithsonian Regent and Chairman of a Congressional Committee, just to name a few. He also founded the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus in Congress.

Marc Pachter, director of the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery will be announcing that funds raised by the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Program and the community groups will go toward commissioning a portrait of Mineta which, when completed, will be displayed at the National Portrait Gallery. There also will be a short video tribute at the reception.

This tribute was made possible through the generosity of George and Sakaye Aratani, Verizon Communications and various corporate and community supporters.

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