

2022 SPECIAL SESSION I

ENROLLED

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 776

Celebrating the life of Norman Yoshio Mineta.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, June 17, 2022

WHEREAS, Norman Yoshio Mineta, a former congressman who became the first person of East Asian descent to serve as a presidential Cabinet secretary, then oversaw the creation of the Transportation Security Administration as the longest-serving United States Secretary of Transportation, died on May 3, 2022; and

WHEREAS, Norman Mineta grew up in San Jose, California, and was the child of Japanese immigrants who were barred from becoming citizens of the United States by the Immigration Act of 1924; during World War II, he and his family were held at an internment camp in Wyoming for 18 months, along with many other Japanese Americans; and

WHEREAS, Norman Mineta earned a degree in business administration from the University of California, Berkeley, then joined the United States Army and served as an intelligence officer in Korea and Japan; and

WHEREAS, after his honorable military service, Norman Mineta returned to San Jose and worked in his father's insurance business until he was appointed to a vacant seat on the San Jose City Council in 1967; he was subsequently elected as vice mayor by his peers on the council after winning an election to his first full term; and

WHEREAS, in 1971, Norman Mineta became the first Japanese American mayor of a major American city when he was elected as the 59th mayor of San Jose with more than 60 percent of the vote in every precinct; as mayor, he worked to address traffic congestion and ended the city's longtime policy of rapid growth by annexation; and

WHEREAS, desirous to be of further service, Norman Mineta ran for and was elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1974, and he represented California's 13th Congressional District, which was later renumbered as the 15th District, from 1975 to 1995; he and his family resided in Alexandria for much of that time; and

WHEREAS, Norman Mineta helped author the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 and supported additional funding for the Federal Aviation Administration; he was also a guiding force behind the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which granted reparations to Japanese Americans who had been detained by the government during World War II; and

WHEREAS, Norman Mineta served as the chair of the House Committee on Public Works and Transportation, and he cofounded the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus and served as its inaugural chair; and

WHEREAS, Norman Mineta was appointed by President William Jefferson Clinton as the United States Secretary of Commerce in 2000; the following year, he was appointed by President George W. Bush as the United States Secretary of Transportation, making him only the fourth person ever to serve in the Cabinet of a president from a different political party; and

WHEREAS, in one of the defining moments of his career, Norman Mineta gave the unprecedented order to immediately ground all flights over the United States on September 11, 2001; and

WHEREAS, in the months after the attacks, Norman Mineta's extensive knowledge of the intermodal system and deep understanding of the complex laws related to the nation's roadways, railways, and airports made him uniquely suited to quickly address security flaws; and

WHEREAS, Norman Mineta was tasked with establishing the Transportation Security Administration under the United States Department of Transportation, and the new agency had replaced private security companies at the nation's airports within one year thanks in large part to his steady and effective leadership; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, Norman Mineta stepped down as United States Secretary of Transportation to pursue other opportunities in the private sector; he ultimately joined the public relations firm Hill & Knowlton as vice chair and settled in Edgewater, Maryland; and

WHEREAS, among many awards and accolades, Norman Mineta received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Wright Brothers Memorial Trophy, the Golden Plate Award of the American Academy of Achievement, and the Grand Cordon, Order of the Rising Sun from the emperor of Japan; and

WHEREAS, the Norman Y. Mineta San Jose International Airport and Mineta Transportation Institute, a government-funded transportation research institute at San Jose State University, were both named in his honor; and

WHEREAS, Norman Mineta will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by his wife, Deni; his children, David and Stuart, and stepchildren, Robert and Mark, and their families; and numerous other

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family members, friends, and colleagues; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Delegates hereby note with great sadness the loss of Norman Yoshio Mineta, a distinguished public servant and a trailblazing leader for Asian Americans; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of Norman Yoshio Mineta as an expression of the House of Delegates' respect for his memory.