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May 30, 2005

Monday, May 30, 2005

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Sacramento, CA – Congresswoman Doris O. Matsui (CA-5) honored our nation’s fallen soldiers at the Annual Veterans Affiliate Council Memorial Day Ceremony. Matsui paid tribute to the brave men and women of our Armed Forces who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty.

“Memorial Day is an opportunity for Americans to come together to remember the brave men and women who have lost their lives defending our country and the ideals of our country. For without the sacrifice of these men and women, I do not believe that we would be living in a country with the robust freedoms, protections, and opportunities that we now take for granted.”

Additionally, Congresswoman Matsui awarded Frank Chico, a World War II veteran, the Purple Heart he earned for wounds he received during the war on the Island of Okinawa.

“I am extremely pleased to be able to award Frank Chico his long-overdue Purple Heart. He courageously served our nation in the Pacific Theater, where he was wounded during World War II and earned this medal.”

With American soldiers serving our nation overseas fighting the War in Iraq and the War on Terror in Afghanistan, Matsui took a moment to recognize the Sacramentans who recently died in the line of duty thanking them for their service and

offering her condolences to the families, friends and loved ones of Specialist Joseph Stevens, who was killed in Sacran, Iraq; Specialist Adam Kinser who was killed in Ghazni, Afghanistan; and Specialist William Dusenberry and Specialist Keicia Hines who were killed in Mosul, Iraq.

Matsui concluded, "As we remember those who have departed, let us not forget those members of the military that are still with us — military retirees, veterans and all of our troops currently serving. We must remember to honor them not just once a year, but though out the year, and we must make sure that we honor the promises our country made to each of them when they joined the military.

"For honoring those who die making us more secure is not just about remembering our past. It is also about ensuring that future generations of Americans live in a county worth of those brave men and women."

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