NAB SALUTE TO SENATE CHAIRMEN DAN INOUYE AND TED STEVENS

IT IS A PLEASURE AND HONOR TO SALUTE WW II HERO CHAIRMAN DAN INOUYE BEFORE THIS PRESTIGIOUS STATE ASSOCIATION GROUP.

IT IS PARTICULARLY PLEASING TO ME BECAUSE ONE, I'M A FORMER PRESIDENT OF MY MICHIGAN BROADCASTING ASSOCIATION AND, TWO, I HAVE FIRST HAND KNOWLEDGE OF THE HEROIC COMBAT ACTIONS OF LT. DAN INOUYE. I'M THE ONLY ONE IN THIS AUDIENCE AND PROBABLY THE ONLY ONE IN WASHINGTON WHO WAS IN THE ARMY IN ITALY AND WITNESSING THE AWESOME HEROICS OF THE FORMER JAPANESE-AMERICAN 442ND REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM. IT WAS THIS UNIT WHERE LT. DAN INOUYE WAS GRAVELY WOUNDED THREE TIMES HEROICALLY CHARGING AN ENEMY MACHINE GUN NEST IN NORTHERN ITALY. HE EARNED EVERY TYPE OF THE HIGHEST DISTINGUISHED COMBAT AWARDS. IT IS INSPIRING TO SEE WWII HERO DAN INOUYE ATTAIN THE LEADERSHIP POSITION OF SENIOR SENATE LEADER AND CHAIRMAN OF THIS IMPORTANT SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE. I'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER HIS REMARKABLE WARMHEARTED INTRODUCTION OF SENIOR SENATE REPUBLICAN AND PRESIDENT PRO TEMPE TED STEVENS AT A QUELLO CENTER LUNCH. CHAIRMAN DAN STATED "HE IS A REPUBLICAN, BUT I LOVE HIM. HE IS MY BROTHER." THEIR RELATIONSHIP WAS CHARACTERIZED AS THE ULTIMATE IN BI-PARTISAN SYNERGY THAT SHOULD SERVE AS AN IDEAL EXAMPLE FOR OTHERS.

SO IT IS MOST APPROPRIATE THAT SENIOR SENATE REPUBLICAN TED STEVENS IS SALUTING BROTHER DAN INOUYE TONIGHT. CHAIRMAN TED IS ALSO A WWII HERO AS A FLYING TIGER EARNING PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS AS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE FLYING CROSSES.

I'M PARTICULARLY GLAD TO TELL YOU THAT CO-CHAIRMAN DAN AND TED HAVE ACCEPTED INVITATIONS TO BE SALUTED AT MY PATRIOTIC 100TH BIRTHDAY PARTY APRIL 21, 2014 AT THE ARMY NAVY COUNTRY CLUB . YOU ARE ALL INVITED. JOT DOWN THE DATE.

INCIDENTALLY, AS A FELLOW WWII VETERAN I HAVE TAKEN THE LIBERTY TO WARN BOTH CHAIRMAN DAN AND TED THAT IF THEY KONK OUT ON ME BEFORE MY 100TH BIRTHDAY, I'LL NEVER FORGIVE THEM. DON'T TRY THIS TACTIC ON IMPORTANT SENATE LEADERS UNTIL YOU ARE OVER 80 YEARS OLD.

I WISH WE HAD MORE TIME TO TELL YOU ABOUT THE WWII HEROICS OF CO-CHAIRMEN TED AND DAN BUT THIS IS NOT THE TIME OR PLACE.

IN SUMMARY CHAIRMEN DAN AND TED REPRESENT THE GREATEST OF "THE GREATEST GENERATION", A FAST VANISHING GROUP LEAVING THE EARTH AT THE RATE OF 2000 PER DAY." I HAVE NO PLANS TO JOIN THAT HURRIED PHASE OF THAT ELITE GENERATION SOON. MY PERSONAL MESSAGE TO YOU - - WE ALL HAVE A STAKE IN KEEPING IN OFFICE THESE TWO DISTINGUISHED SENATE LEADERS, THESE GREAT ALL AROUND HUMAN BEINGS AND EXPERIENCED FAIR-MINDED LEGISLATIVE LEADERS. THE PUBLIC, THE NATION AND HUMANITY WILL BE WELL SERVED.

ALSO, SUPPORT YOUR NAB - - IT IS DOING A SUPER JOB IN PROTECTING BROADCASTING FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHTS DURING THESE TURBULENT TRANSITION TIMES.

SO KEEP THE FAITH - - THE LORD BE WITH YOU, BUT NOT TOO SOON.