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IN MEMORY OF ROBERT KENNAN, JR.

HON. WALTER E. FAUNTROY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, November 6, 1973

Mr. FAUNTROY. Mr. Speaker, the residents of the District of Columbia have lost a very fine friend in the person of Robert Kennan, Jr., the late general counsel to the National Wildlife Federation. It is with a heavy heart that I share this loss with you.

At 35, Bob established himself as one of the leading conservationists in the country. He joined the Wildlife Federation in January 1971 after serving with the law firm of Purcell and Nelson for 6 years. He was a formidable opponent for those who attempted to infect the Nation's environment with unneeded and dangerous undertakings.

Many times, Bob stood up and fought against environmentally harmful and unneeded roads and highways. As general counsel to the federation, he led efforts to keep Federal interstate highways out of the Big Cypress Swamp in Florida and the Sandia Crest Mountains of New Mexico. His sincerity and determination was frequently rewarded as his success in these areas illustrates.

Bob Kennan's position did not keep him away from controversial issues. He was involved in one litigation to open the procedures of the Federal Highway Administration to public view and comment in an effort to bring them into compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act. Efforts like this illustrates the purpose behind the life of Robert Kennan. Using the authority of the courts, he attempted, and succeeded to bring the Nation's environment under this protection.

Robert Kennan's last major case is a prime example of the cause he furthered on behalf of the National Wildlife Federation. In a suit he brought against the Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration, 1,000 highway projects around the country were forced to meet environmental standards set forth by the Environmental Policy Act which Bob maintained as being fair and equitable to everyone it affected.

Locally, this dear friend of mine was a member of the Committee of 100 on the Federal City. He participated in the fight against urban freeways and was personally involved in halting construction of the Three Sisters Bridge, the Potomac Freeway and Interstate 66 by using his personal time and talent in assisting to resolve the legal complexities which were involved in these issues.

Robert Kennan's personal life was, of course, as honorable and distinguished as his public image suggests. Born in Kohala, Hawaii, he studied at Pomona College, Calif., under a George R. Baker scholarship, and at Oxford University, England, under a Marshall scholarship. He was also a graduate of the University of Washington School of Law, where he was editor of the Washington Law Review.

Robert Kennan was a man of impeccable character; dedicated to his family, job, and friends. I extend my deepest sympathy to his wife Elizabeth and his son, Alexander. I am sure that they, along with all of us who knew him, will be forever impressed by the memory of such great a man.