

## Craig Whitney and Brokaw's op-ed in the New York Times

Tue, Sep 26, 2017 4:30 pm

Grant Ujifusa (captain129@aol.com) To: coyote + 1 more [Details](#)

Dear Tom Brokaw,

Thank you for getting back to me so quickly. I share with you what I wrote to Craig Whitney, NYT page one editor and our mutual friend.

Grant Ujifusa

-----Original Message-----

From: Grant Ujifusa <[captain129@aol.com](mailto:captain129@aol.com)>

To: crwhitney65 [crwhitney65@gmail.com](mailto:crwhitney65@gmail.com), ?<[@nytimes.com](mailto:@nytimes.com)>

Sent: Tue, Sep 26, 2017 4:26 pm

Subject: Fwd: Craig Whitney and your op-ed in the New York Times

Dear Craig,

Thanks for Tom Brokaw's email address. He got back right way, which was good of him. He now says the theme of his op-ed was not the bi-partisanship of the 1980s, needed now, but the unique origins of a personal relationship, and nothing more – not Simpson's heroic status in the Senate passage of HR 442. Brokaw thereby mischaracterizes what he wrote in his own op-ed

The fact is the personal relationship at any time whatever between the Boy Scout Alan Simpson and the Cub Scout Norman Mineta was **not responsible for Senate passage of the Japanese American redress bill. Instead, that was almost entirely the work of Sparky Matsunaga. Who says? So says Sparky's colleague in the Senate, Daniel Inouye:**

"The man who should take nearly all of the credit for Senate passage of the redress bill is Sen. Sparky Matsunaga. He is the one who sponsored the bill and organized the vote on that in the Senate. If Sen. Matsunaga's efforts were to be weighted at 10, mine would be one."

So we have two men trying to steal the legacy of a third who's been dead since 1990. And the third is a real hero of redress, Sparky Matsunaga.

The other problem here is that Barney Frank was the true shepherd of the bill in the House.

Brokaw conveys his best to you, Craig

Grant

-----Original Message-----

From: Brokaw, Tom (NBCUniversal) (NBCUniversal) [coyote@](mailto:coyote@)>

To: Grant Ujifusa <[captain129@aol.com](mailto:captain129@aol.com)>

Sent: Tue, Sep 26, 2017 2:46 pm

Subject: Re: Craig Whitney and your op-ed in the New York Times

i know u had some objections but  
my op ed was primarily about the simpson minetta personal relationship and its unique origins

congressman minetta shepherded the reparations bill through the House and Sen Simpson eventually saw the light

if i had been writing just about reparations certainly i would hv emphasized the role of Sen Matsunaga - which was heroic

give your best to craig

tom

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 26, 2017, at 1:57 PM, Grant Ujifusa <[captain129@aol.com](mailto:captain129@aol.com)> wrote:

Dear Mr. Brokaw,

I have admired your work in journalism for many years, in part because we grew up neighbors -- you in South Dakota and I in Wyoming.

We also have a mutual friend in Craig Whitney, a college classmate of mine with whom I frequently have lunch. Craig gave me your email address and suggested that I send you the two links below from my Japanese American redress website.

I say in both links that the person almost solely responsible for Senate passage of our bill was Sparky Matsunaga, who worked an intense three years to fashion a 69-vote majority on the floor. I even saw him spend five minutes lobbying a junior aide of Alan Cranston, one of our bill staunchest supporters. I ask Sparky why he did that. In line with the ways of Japanese custom, he answered: "Because you can never be too sure."

Alan Simpson effectively voted against Sparky's bill, S. 1009, by voting for an amendment offered by Jesse Helms to strip all of the money out of it. Simpson said in a recent Washington Post feature that the money made the apology "insincere." On the contrary. Nearly all Japanese Americans felt that without the money the bill was an exercise in symbolism only; in short, insincere.

There was huge voter opposition to HR 442 in Wyoming, making Malcolm Wallop almost fanatically opposed to the legislation. That opposition might in part explain Simpson's opposition.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Grant Ujifusa

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- **BROKAW, SIMPSON, AND MINETA**
  - **Stand Up For Spark**
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