

Statement from our Executive Director, Duy Nguyen, on the Passing of Former Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid,

Yesterday the nation and our state lost a giant, and the Asian and Pacific Islander American (APIA) community in Nevada lost a friend and an advocate. Majority Leader Reid was a champion of our community, he mentored and pushed many of the leaders in our community to fight for seats at the table and ensure our voices are heard - and the APIA community has a deep love for Senator Reid because his story was the story of the American Dream, of what was possible, of hard work and determination, of caring for each other and fight for the community.

In 2016 in an interview regarding his legacy and how he wants to be remembered, Senator Reid said the below

"I don't like talking myself up or going on about what I've done—someone else will have to do all that. But throughout my 34 years in Congress, one thing I am proud of is I have always told it like it is. Many people want to be remembered for the bills they passed or the speeches they gave, but I hope I'm remembered by people—no matter their politics—as a guy who stood for something and never wavered."

Senator Reid never wavered in standing up for us. From ensuring our community had the resources to start hundreds of small businesses to ensuring veterans were honored with their rightful benefits to fighting for every eligible voter to have the tools and access to cast a vote, he was right there on the front lines working for us.

The Asian and Pacific Islander American community in Nevada is not a monolith--it is made up of many languages, many backgrounds, many cultures, and many generations. Senator Reid empowered us all to engage on a level that has empowered our diverse community to thrive.

Our prayers are with Landra and the Reid family - Senator Reid's legacy and his unwavering fight will continue to be carried on in our daily work to strive for Justice and Equity.