



Ma. Isabella Chingcuangco (SFSU 2021)

Ethnicity: Japanese

Place of Birth: Kukuiula, Kauai, HI

Party Affiliation: Democratic

Highest Elected Position:

US Senate (1977-90)

Other Positions:

US House of Representatives, HI

(1963-77); Hawai'i Territorial

Legislature Representative

(1954-59)

Spark Masayuki Matsunaga

(October 8, 1916–April 15, 1990)

Because Masayuki often finished last in races when he was young, he was teased with the nickname "Sparky," a slow horse from a comic. This resulted in "Spark" becoming his legal name. Spark was the son of a very poor plantation worker and became a World War II Bronze Star hero serving in the US Army. During his congressional years, he advocated for peace and the end of the Vietnam War. He focused on space exploration and alternative energy sources. Most significantly, Spark campaigned for the civil rights of Japanese Americans, which succeeded in the redress for Japanese Americans interned during World War II. After Spark's death, the United States Institute of Peace was renamed the Spark M. Matsunaga Institute of Peace and Conflict Resolution.