



SENATE
Washington, D. C.
December 1, 2004



Dear Friends,

My condolences and prayers are with all of you who are celebrating the life and work of Zen Master Seung Sahn Soen-sa. Whether working for political and cultural freedom as a young man or, later in life, establishing the Cambridge Zen Center and Zen centers in more than 100 countries, Zen Master Seung Sahn has touched the lives, hearts, and minds of those around him, and untold numbers of people who sought peace and tranquility.

One of the people he influenced is particularly close to my heart – a cherished member of my family, our son John. Our family will always be grateful for the difference and the healing Zen Master Seung Sahn made and continues to make in John's life every day. Teresa and I can see the impact of Soen-sa nim and his teachings on John's work with young people, and in the love he gives so freely and selflessly to his daughter and his family.

Teresa and I wish you all peace in this time of mourning. We know you will continue to be inspired by Soen-sa nim's legacy, and comforted by his teacher, Ko Bong Soen-sa nim's words to him after giving Seung Sahn Kun Sunim the Transmission of Dharma – "We will meet again in five hundred years."

Sincerely,

Senator John Kerry

[5

