

he dedicated his time and efforts selflessly to numerous students, teachers, and people of the community, he is also a faithful servant of God, loving husband to the late Roberta Emogene Matthews, and compassionate father to his five daughters: Carmen, Cheryl, Vickie, Judy, and Emelia. I respectfully ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in wishing John a very happy 90th birthday!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, on February 29, 2012, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to record my vote for rollcall Nos. 80–82. Had I been present, I would have voted: rollcall No. 80: “no”—Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1837) to address certain water-related concerns on the San Joaquin River, and for other purposes; rollcall No. 81: “no”—Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1837) to address certain water-related concerns on the San Joaquin River, and for other purposes; rollcall No. 82: “yes”—On Approving the Journal.

HONORING THE LEROY PANTHERS
WRESTLING TEAM

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of a talented group of student athletes from LeRoy, Illinois.

The LeRoy Panthers wrestling team recently captured the Illinois High School Athletic Association Class 1A Dual Team state wrestling finals after placing 2nd in 2009 and 3rd in 2011. The Panthers won with an impressive 40–24 victory over Lena-Winslow.

I hope that members of the LeRoy community continue to support and promote local athletics, as I believe that physical activity and extra circulars are an important staple of our education system. This team was considered being cut in the past, and now it is clear that this program has positively impacted the lives of these young men.

I would like to congratulate Head Coach Doug DeWald for all of his hard work with the team. But most of all, I want to congratulate the 2012 state champion wrestling team from LeRoy. These young men have represented themselves, their school and their community in an exemplary fashion and I want to join with all the members of this House in wishing them continued success in their athletic and academic endeavors.

SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN
VALLEY WATER RELIABILITY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 29, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1837) to address certain water-related concerns on the San Joaquin River, and for other purposes:

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Chair, I rise to speak against this hazardous piece of legislation.

H.R. 1837 is an assault on the environment and on the state of California. It would lead to gridlock in the Delta with potentially disastrous consequences for ecosystems and communities throughout our state.

This bill would undermine years of bipartisan compromise, and would prohibit California from following established precedent in managing its own water resources.

The policies in place today have been carefully crafted by broad consensus and represent the needs of a variety of stakeholders.

The success of these policies prove that cooperative and fair governance are the best way to protect natural resources, promote conservation and boost California's economy.

For example, the Delta Protection Commission has determined that the Delta region provides nearly \$800 million in annual agricultural revenues and \$250 million in revenue related to recreation. This is due to sound management of the commons by an extensive network of public-private partnerships in my State.

But H.R. 1837 would reduce water quality and reliability for Delta communities and farmers—diverting water supply from North of the Delta to agribusiness in the South, and seriously damaging Delta agriculture, a \$4.2 billion dollar industry.

Nearly every environmental group in the country opposes this bill because of the devastating effects it would have on the San Joaquin River Valley.

And, hundreds of fishing groups oppose this bill because it would divert water from the Delta, leaving 40 miles of the San Joaquin River completely dry in most years.

This would devastate the restoration of the river, and the salmon and steelhead that depend on it, hurting our state's fishermen, including many that call the Central Coast home.

This bill also disregards the best available science, repeals environmental protections, and damages local tourism.

That's why our state's two Senators, the California Department of Natural Resources, and the California Attorney General oppose this bill.

Mr. Chair, water management is a growing challenge across the nation, particularly in the West.

Developing balanced water solutions is essential to California's long-term economic and environmental health.

California deserves sound water policy that benefits all Californians, not just the needs of a few.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this legislation.

IN HONOR OF DENNIS “DENNY”
GILLETTE

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Dennis “Denny” Gillette, who retires today after nearly 14 years on the Thousand Oaks City Council, making him the second-longest serving councilmember in the city's history.

My wife, Janice, and I have had the honor of knowing Denny and his wife, Terry, for more than 30 years. Denny spent his entire adult life in the service of his country and his community, as a Marine, as a sheriff's deputy who rose to the rank of assistant sheriff, as vice president of California Lutheran University (CLU), and as an elected official.

Denny stepped down from the council for health reasons. I mention that only to share a story that illustrates his dedication as a public servant. Last month, Denny was hospitalized for surgery. At the time, the council was interviewing candidates for city attorney. Although Denny was advised by his doctors to rest, Denny insisted that the finalists come to the hospital, where he interviewed them from his hospital bed.

I was not surprised to hear that story.

When Denny was with the Ventura County Sheriff's Department—a career that spanned 25 years—I worked with him often on criminal justice issues. During his 12-year stint as vice president of CLU, we worked together on educational and community issues. As a councilmember—and three-time mayor—we worked together on a host of issues, including the widening of the 123 Freeway and 101/23 freeway interchange.

Denny's sure hand and calm but determined demeanor ensured that projects moved forward and were completed. Denny was also served 10 years on the Conejo Recreation and Park District Board before deciding to run for the City Council, and he completed many of the park projects he started on the park board from the council dais.

His many other accomplishments are too lengthy to list here, but they include: construction of the Community Transportation Center; forging a strong working relationship among the city, Park District, and Conejo Valley Unified School District; forging a highly successful “Town-Gown” relationship between the city and CLU when he was at CLU, resulting in the successful completion of the North Campus Specific Plan and construction of the popular Community Pool located on the CLU campus; and construction of state-of-the-art athletic fields at Newbury Park High School, Thousand Oaks High School, and Westlake High School.

Current Mayor Jacqui Irwin told a local newspaper that when she learned of Denny's decision to retire, her heart dropped because she could not imagine the City Council without him.

The rest of the community feels the same way, Denny.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in thanking Denny for his lifetime of public service and in wishing him good health and many years of continued happiness with Terry, his wife of 42 years, and their daughters, Kristine and Lisa.