

earned, and fast-tracking veterans' health care, housing and other benefits.

I am grateful for the support of committed allies in our community who have helped me tackle problems such as safety and pollution at Santa Monica Airport, helicopter noise, veteran homelessness, attempts to commercialize the West LA VA property, traffic gridlock, beach pollution, and so many more. Of course these challenges remain and new ones will emerge, but I have full confidence in the ability of Representative-Elect Ted Lieu to successfully tackle them.

It has been an honor to work with some of the finest elected state and local officials in the nation. I thank my colleagues in the cities of the 33rd Congressional District, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, and the California State Legislature for fiercely advocating on behalf of our constituents and working closely with me on federal policies that affect our State.

I have had a long career and an eventful one—and I wouldn't trade any of it. I woke each day looking forward to opportunities to make our country stronger, healthier, and fairer. I will always be grateful for this opportunity and privilege and for the many friendships I've forged over the last forty years.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

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### HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 9, 2014*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, during last week's vote on Roll No. 551, I inadvertently voted "yea." I intended to vote "nay" on Roll No. 551.

#### REMEMBERING ED LEONG

### HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 9, 2014*

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness that we mourn the loss of Edward J. Leong, who passed away on December 7th, after a lengthy battle with cancer.

Ed served for 36 years in the Office of the House Legislative Counsel, 16 of them as Senior Counsel. He specialized in titles 5 and 39 of the United States Code, the law governing the federal workforce and the United States Postal Service. His sharp mind, relentless pursuit of perfection, and skill ensured the bills considered by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Congress were written in a manner that allow for effective implementation.

Ed was a mentor and teacher to many current and former staff. His professionalism and dedication to his work are an example to this institution. Ed's soft-spoken manner, kind nature, and laugh made him a pleasure to work with.

As Chairman, I extend the sympathy and condolences of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee to Ed's wife, Chee Lee, his children Stephen and Anna, and his colleagues—in particular those in the House Office of Legislative Counsel.

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#### HONORING TURLOCK MAYOR JOHN LAZAR

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### HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 9, 2014*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Turlock Mayor John

Lazar on his retirement from the Turlock City Council and to personally thank him for his dedicated, life-long spirit of community service.

Mayor Lazar was born and raised in Turlock and is a graduate of California State University, Stanislaus. In 1976, he served as a page in the U.S. House of Representatives, beginning his long career in public service. His experience includes working as a district representative for U.S. Representative Tony Coelho and as a legislative assistant for Assembly Members Gary Condit and Jack O'Connell. In 1988, he secured his real estate license and began working at Coldwell Bank Central Valley Realtors.

John Lazar was first elected to the Turlock City Council in 1992 and served on the council for 14 years until elected as Mayor of Turlock in 2006. He was appointed to the Stanislaus County Council of Governments, where he served from 1999–2000, California State Mandates Commission from 2000–2005, and the Stanislaus County Local Agency Formation Commission from 2000–2006. He is currently a member of the Emanuel Medical Center Governing Board.

Over the years, Mayor Lazar has received several honors; including receiving the 2007 Turlock Chamber of Commerce's Citizen of the Year, 2002 Central Valley Association of Realtors' Realtor of the Year Award, and the 1995 California Junior Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Young Californian Award.

He has sat on numerous boards, including the Rotary Club of Turlock, Stanislaus County Organization of Governments, Turlock Community Auditorium, and the California Association of Realtors.

Mayor Lazar and his wife, Nellie, have three sons. His hobbies include reading history and biographies and collecting political buttons.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Turlock Mayor John Lazar on his retirement from the Turlock City Council and thanking him for his exemplary leadership and service to the community.