

## March 6, 2007: Honoring the Life of Leo T. McCarthy

The Honorable Loretta Sanchez

### HONORING THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF LEO T. McCARTHY AND EXPRESSING PROFOUND SORROW ON HIS DEATH

March 06, 2007

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Leo McCarthy, former Lieutenant Governor of California, who passed away last month after a long illness due to a kidney ailment.

Born in New Zealand, Leo began his lifetime of public service for his adopted country as a member the United States Air Force Strategic Air Command in the Korean War.

His political service began in 1963 when he was elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, and later to the California Assembly, where he had the honor and distinction of serving as speaker from 1974 to 1980.

In 1982 he was elected Lieutenant Governor--a position he held until 1994.

Leo's dedication to his community was clear from the diversity of issues on which he worked: from assisting welfare recipients, to increasing breast cancer awareness, to finding ways to stop toxic contamination.

He also worked to promote tolerance by establishing the Lieutenant Governor's Commission on the Prevention of Hate Violence.

After leaving the political field, Leo continued to serve the community by founding the Leo T. McCarthy Center for Public Service and the Common Good at the University of San Francisco.

This Center, where young men and women can learn and be inspired to pursue a life and career of ethical public service, is a fitting legacy for a man whose life was devoted to serving the community.

Leo McCarthy is survived by his wife, Jacqueline, their four children and eleven grandchildren. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.