

In Memoriam
Matthew K. Fong

WHEREAS, Matthew Kipling Fong, California's 29th State Treasurer and former Member of the California State Board of Equalization passed away Wednesday, June 1, 2011 at age 57, and

WHEREAS, Matthew was born in Alameda County on November 20, 1953 and raised by loving parents, former Secretary of State March Fong Eu and Chester Fong, and

WHEREAS, Matthew was a graduate of the United States Air Force Academy, attained the rank of Lt. Colonel in the Air Force Reserves, serving five years active duty, and was awarded the U.S. Air Force Meritorious Service Medal for exceptional management performance, and

WHEREAS, Matthew earned an MBA at Pepperdine University and a law degree from Southwestern Law School, and was presented with the Distinguished Alumnus Award by Pepperdine University in 1992, and

WHEREAS, in 1990 Matthew was selected as the Republican nominee for State Controller, and considered to be a rising star in California politics, and

WHEREAS, in 1991 Matthew was appointed by Governor Pete Wilson to represent California's Fourth Equalization District as a Member of the Board of Equalization, and during his term worked tirelessly to increase efficiency and transparency in tax administration, and

WHEREAS, Matthew was elected State Treasurer in 1994, becoming the first Asian-American Republican elected to statewide office, and

WHEREAS, Matthew was a leader in the national effort to persuade Swiss banks to provide restitution to Holocaust victims whose assets were held by the banks, and was presented an award for his efforts by the Simon Wiesenthal Center, and

WHEREAS, Matthew is survived by his wife, Paula, son, Matthew, and daughter, Jade, and leaves behind countless friends, colleagues, and co-workers who will dearly miss him: Therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the people of the great State of California and the Members of the State Board of Equalization hereby recognize Matthew for his many years of dedicated service and outstanding contributions to the State of California, and extend to his family our sincere condolences.