

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. RES. 363

Recognizing and honoring Sacramento, California, Mayor Joe Serna, Jr., and expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives to his family and the people of Sacramento on his death.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 8, 1999

Mr. MATSUI (for himself, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, and Mr. DOOLITTLE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform

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## RESOLUTION

Recognizing and honoring Sacramento, California, Mayor Joe Serna, Jr., and expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives to his family and the people of Sacramento on his death.

Whereas Joe Serna, Jr., was born in Stockton, California, on September 3, 1939;

Whereas Joe Serna, Jr., was the loving husband of Isabelle Hernandez-Serna and devoted father of Phillip and Lisa;

Whereas Joe Serna, Jr., was the son of Gerania and Jose Serna and the brother of Maria Elena Serna, Reuben Serna, and Jesse Serna;

Whereas Joe Serna, Jr., grew up the son of an immigrant farm worker, and was widely recognized as ambitious with an irrepressible drive to succeed;

Whereas Joe Serna, Jr., experienced a pivotal point in his life when he became a successful football player on the Lodi Flames as a sophomore qualifying to play on the varsity squad;

Whereas Joe Serna, Jr., graduated from Lodi High School and went to work, where he later lost his job because he endorsed a strike at the trailer manufacturing facility where he was employed, and decided to further his education, beginning at junior college in Stockton, California, then transferring to Sacramento City College and finally to California State University, Sacramento, where he graduated in 1966;

Whereas Joe Serna, Jr., joined the Peace Corps in Guatemala, where he became involved in the election of a Mayan Indian as mayor of a small town, providing him with a first-hand education regarding the importance of electoral politics;

Whereas Joe Serna Jr., spent more than a decade working with migrant farm workers under the guidance of his role model, Cesar Chavez, and organized food workers and coordinated election campaigns;

Whereas Joe Serna, Jr., began teaching classes on government and ethics at California State University, Sacramento, and became the primary caregiver for his children when his first marriage ended;

Whereas Joe Serna, Jr., was elected to the Sacramento City Council on November 3, 1981, where he served until he was elected mayor on November 3, 1992;

Whereas Joe Serna, Jr., was known as an elected official with profound vision for the future and the energy to implement that vision, who could build coalitions, ignite community involvement, and succeed in achieving his goals;

Whereas Joe Serna, Jr., leaves a legacy in Sacramento of downtown revitalization and growth, more parks and places for Sacramentans to gather and enjoy their families and neighbors, a better public school system, more jobs, more community police, and a higher quality of life; and

Whereas Joe Serna, Jr., faced many challenges in his life, and eventually succumbed to his greatest challenge, the fight against cancer: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved,*

2       **SECTION 1. HONORING MAYOR JOE SERNA, JR.**

3       The House of Representatives—

4               (1) recognizes and honors Sacramento Mayor

5       Joe Serna, Jr.—

6               (A) as a profoundly successful leader  
7               whose drive and energy inspired thousands,

8               (B) for his many lifetime contributions to  
9               Sacramento, the State of California, and the  
10              Nation, and

11              (C) for selflessly devoting his life to the ad-  
12              vancement of others through activism, public  
13              service, education, and dedication; and

