

Cal-Tax Staff:

Cal-Tax Leaders Past and Present Pay Tribute to Larry McCarthy

More than 120 people, including Cal-Tax leaders from the past three decades, met at the Sterling Hotel in Sacramento on November 14 for a special salute to Cal-Tax President Larry McCarthy.

Mr. McCarthy, who has been battling cancer for more than a year, was unable to attend the Irish-themed tribute due to deteriorating health, but later watched video footage of the event, and was presented with the many letters that were submitted from friends and colleagues and with a letter from the governor, a resolution from Assembly Republican Leader Mike Villines, and a copy of the Congressional Record that included a tribute to Mr. McCarthy read on the House floor by Congressman George Radanovich.

Toasts were given by Cal-Tax Board President John Cmelak, Acting President Teresa Casazza, Board of Equalization Chair Betty Yee, California Chamber of Commerce President Allan Zaremberg, Deputy Controller for Taxes Marcy Jo Mandel on behalf of Controller John Chiang, former Cal-Tax Presidents Dick Simpson and Kirk West, and many others. Two of Mr. McCarthy's three children, Steven and Christine, attended the event.

The toasts brought tears as well as laughter, as Mr. McCarthy was lauded for his optimism, integrity, family bonds and strong religious faith.

After the event, Mr. Simpson wrote a note to Mr. McCarthy on an online journal: "You filled a large room last night. You filled it with a host of friends and loved ones. Though you were unable to attend the event held in your honor, you were there, my friend. You were with us in the words of all of us who have known you during these past 30 years. We heard accounts of your many qualities – your strength of character, your wisdom, your respect for others, your faith, your sense of humor, and the sheer joy and wonder you found in everyday work and family life and shared with all around you.

"But there was something special I discovered last evening as 'Larry stories' were shared and enjoyed. I discovered that the evening, a nanosecond in our time together, was a precious gift from you. It was the opportunity you gave us to remember the value of the warmth of our love and friendship, not just for you, but for each other. The occasion was emotionally instructive, and you, Larry, were the teacher."