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SPEECH OF
HON. TED W. LIEU
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, December 5, 2019

Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate Mr. George Wolfberg, a longtime community leader in California's 33rd Congressional District who will receive the Pride of the Palisades award from the Pacific Palisades Community Council. George worked for the City of Los Angeles for 37 years and played a hand in its bid for the 1984 Summer Olympics, divestment from South Africa over apartheid, and rewriting of the city charter.

Born on April 22, 1938 to Bernard Wolfberg and Leah Wolfberg, George was raised in Los Angeles, attending Los Angeles High School and the University of California, Los Angeles, where he received his degree in political science. George and his wife, Diane, married on February 9, 1964 and went on to have three children: Anya, David, and Michael, and four grandchildren.

George began working for the city of Los Angeles in 1961 in the City Administrative Office, where he eventually rose to Chief Administrative Analyst, the highest non-appointed position in the office. In that role, he prepared Los Angeles' successful bid for the 1984 Summer Olympics and worked to ensure infrastructure upgrades were completed for the event. He also administered the City's anti-apartheid program, overseeing the research necessary to ensure successful divestment from South Africa under apartheid. Even after he retired, George continued to play an outsized role in city government, serving as City Charter Commission Research Director and co-authoring the City's administrative code.

The neighborhood of Pacific Palisades in some ways owes George a debt for its development. George helped craft and implement the Los Angeles Community Plan that has guided the growth and land use of Pacific Palisades and will for years to come. In addition to serving as Chair, Chair-Emeritus, and Vice Chair on the Pacific Palisades Community Council, he served on the board of the Santa Monica Canyon Civic Association and Portrero Canyon Park citizens advisory committee, calling attention to the importance of proper landscape design and

infrastructure. Even from his bed in the ICU this past September, George has been contacting Los Angeles city staff and officials to support a new park in his neighborhood.

George's passion for engaging the youth is evident through his work on the Los Angeles County Bicycle Advisory Committee, service as a Watts Friendship Sports League commissioner following the 1992 riots, and efforts with the local American Youth Soccer Organization, where he was a National Referee still overseeing games as recently as last year. George has also received numerous awards for his volunteer work, including the Pacific Palisades Community Council's Citizen of the Year award in 2011.

George's impact in Los Angeles and Pacific Palisades is remarkable and inspiring. I want to thank and recognize George for his efforts to improve his community and outstanding leadership throughout his career.