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For Immediate Release:

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California Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus Statement on Passing of San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee

Sacramento- Members of the California Asian Pacific Islander Caucus issued the following statements on the passing of San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee, the first Asian American mayor of San Francisco.

“We are deeply saddened to learn about the sudden passing of Mayor Ed Lee, a stalwart leader for civil rights,” said Assemblymember Rob Bonta (D-Oakland), Chair of the California Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus. “As the first Asian American mayor of San Francisco, he protected immigrant rights, fostered innovation and continued his pursuit of affordable housing. Mayor Lee stepped up from civil servant to become mayor and subsequently won two elections. His leadership will leave a lasting legacy for Californians for generations to come. But before anything else, Mayor Lee was a good person with a big, warm heart. My thoughts and sympathies are with the Lee family.”

“I am shocked and saddened for Mayor Lee’s family and express my deepest sympathy for their loss,” said Assemblymember Phil Ting (D-San Francisco), Vice Chair of the California Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus. “Mayor Lee and I were honored to work at different times for the Asian Law Caucus, advancing civil rights and fighting for immigrant communities. Together, I was proud to join with him to tackle homelessness, economic development, and transportation. I know that San Francisco has lost one of its most dedicated servants. Mayor Lee worked tirelessly to improve the lives of every San Franciscan during times of both great prosperity and extreme hardship, and his legacy will persist in the years to come.”

“I am stunned by Mayor Ed Lee’s passing. He was an incredible leader, mentor, trailblazer, advocate, and, most importantly, a wonderful friend,” said Assemblymember Evan Low (D-Silicon Valley), Parliamentarian of the California Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus. “San Francisco and the state of California will forever remember his achievements. My heart is with the Lee Family as well as his friends and staff during this extremely difficult time.”

“This morning, I was absolutely stunned and deeply saddened to learn about the passing of Mayor Ed Lee,” said Assemblymember David Chiu (D-San Francisco), member of the California Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus. “Years before he was Mayor, I knew him as a devoted public servant who just got things done with a deep love for our city. As we grieve, we will remember his jovial personality, his consensus building, his work to create jobs and housing, and his legacy as the first Chinese American Mayor of San Francisco. My prayers are with the Mayor’s family during this incredibly difficult time.”

The California Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus represents and advocates for the interests of the diverse API communities throughout California. It seeks to increase Asian Pacific Islander participation and representation in all levels of government.

Website of the California API Legislative Caucus: <http://apicaucus.legislature.ca.gov>

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