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TRIBUTE TO STELIO MANFREDI

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 10, 1999*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Stelio Manfredi on his retirement from Lucca's Restaurant. Mr. Manfredi has been a respected member of the Madera community for many years. "After all these years, it's finally time to turn the lights out," Manfredi said.

Stelio Manfredi was already one of the most well-known men in town; a life-long Maderan, his face, and name, are among the most recognizable in the community. Manfredi was a bartender at Lucca's Restaurant for 40 years, and during that time he shot the breeze with many, many community members, and listened to the problems of so many more. He always tried to lend a sympathetic ear or give them some advice from the wisdom he's gained in his 83 years of living.

The restaurant's decision to only serve lunch prompted Manfredi's decision to step away, giving himself more time to spend with his wife of 59 years. Being friendly was always Manfredi's nature, as he worked behind the bar at Lucca's. Manfredi, known for his margaritas, will now spend more time in his garden and tending to his many trees and bushes. Leaving behind the people that he befriended will be the hardest part of retiring from the job.

Stelio and Eve Manfredi have lived in the same central Madera home for 52 years, and during that time they have nurtured their shrubs and trees to the point that it is a lush, virtual paradise. "It's therapy for me," Manfredi said of the many hours he spends outside tending to Mother Nature's creations.

Manfredi hopes to go to the Madera Center and work on his General Education Diploma (GED). Stelio and Eve have two children and six grandchildren. As they raised their family, Stelio worked as a bottling room foreman at Hueblein Winery. He also had his own bar on Gateway Drive for 16 years.

The couple has developed a deep respect and commitment for Madera as they grew up,

a feeling they continue to have to this day. Madera has grown tremendously since the early days of their childhoods, they say there will never be another place they will call home. The couple attends St. Joachim's Church and Stelio is a member of the Italo-American Club. Stelio Manfredi said he couldn't ask for more out of life.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Stelio Manfredi on his retirement and service to the community of Madera and Lucca's Restaurant. Stelio Manfredi has been a fixture in the community for many years. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Stelio and Eve Manfredi many years of continued happiness.

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