

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR KATHRYN BARGER

April 5, 2022

Recognizing Fifth District Armenian History Month Honorees

Every year since 2017, this Board has declared the month of April as Armenian History Month in recognition of the rich history and incredible contributions by this resilient community. Traditionally, we take the time during each board meeting in April to honor an individual of Armenian heritage for their contributions. Due to the pandemic, we will not have in-person presentations, but we will continue the tradition of recognizing Armenians who have made a positive impact on our community.

Sona Van has tirelessly committed herself to helping people in both the United States and Armenia. Sona was born in Yerevan, Armenia and has lived in the United States since 1978. She started her career in Armenia as a doctor, continuing to practice medicine and psychology after moving to the United States. Yet her greatest impact has been her literary career as a poet, which focuses on the Armenian Genocide. Author of seven books of poetry which have been translated and published in 20 different languages, Sona’s work is internationally recognized for her contributions to the

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literary field. Her poetry on the Armenian Genocide will continue to educate people around the world for generations to come.

Al Cabraloff has been a community leader and advocate for Armenian causes. Since 2004, Al has been a member of the Armenian Education Foundation (AEF), an organization dedicated to financially assisting Armenian educational institutions and assisting students of Armenian heritage. He has served as President of the Board twice and during his time as a board member the AEF has disbursed over \$9 million for various education programs, including \$5 million renovating over 200 village schools in Armenia, Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh), and the region of Javakhk (the latter located in the Republic of Georgia), and funded \$3 million in scholarships.

Ronald Altoon is a third generation Armenian American. Trained as an architect, Ronald is a founding design partner of Altoon Partners, LLP, an internationally recognized architect with numerous design awards and is considered a global expert in commercial retail and mixed-use facilities. Ronald was recognized for his leadership in the field of architecture in 1998, serving as the National President of The American Institute of Architects. Locally, Ronald served on the USC School of Architecture Board of Councilors, and the USC Alumni Association Board of Governors. Currently he serves as a member of the Board of Trustees of Woodbury University. He has made a tremendous impact on Armenia by designing the new state-of-the-art Paramaz Avedesian academic building for the American University of Armenia in Yerevan and contributed his time advising the AMAA on the design of a new K-12 Avedesian School

and Community Center in Yerevan.

Mariam Kuregyan has been a tireless advocate for those in need. Immigrating from Armenia to United States at the age of 12 with her family, Mariam attended Whittier Law School in 2006. During her time in law school, she volunteered at the YWCA Domestic Violence Legal Division, in Glendale, where she helped women affected by domestic violence to obtain protective court orders and pursue immigration status through Violence Against Women Act. Since starting her own law practice, Mariam has continued to give back to the community through her volunteering at National Association of Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR), Armenian Bar Association (ABA), All-Inclusive Community Health Center AICHHC, Society for Orphaned Armenians Relief (SOAR), Parent Teacher Organization and other church and youth groups.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

In honor of Armenian History Month in Los Angeles County, acknowledge and recognize the contributions of Sona Van, Al Cabarloff, Ronald Altoon and Mariam Kuregyan for their contributions to Los Angeles County.

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SUP:KB

AGN. NO.

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Enter Board Meeting Date

VOTES REQUIRED:

3-VOTES 4-VOTES 5-VOTES

CATEGORIES: (Please check those that apply)

- 1. Child Welfare
- 2. Community and Youth Empowerment
- 3. County and Municipal Services
- 4. Economic Justice
- 5. Economic and Workforce Development
- 6. Education
- 7. Environment and Environmental Justice
- 8. Fiscal
- 9. Governance
- 10. Health
- 11. Homelessness and Housing
- 12. Immigration
- 13. Public Safety and Diversion
- 14. Social Justice and Human Rights
- 15. Technology and Data
- 16. Arts, Culture, and the Creative Economy
- 17. Legislation
- 18. Parks and Open Space
- 19. Planning/Land Use
- 20. Transportation
- 21. Veterans
- 22. Delegated Authority