

CITY OF LOS ANGELES



RESOLUTION

Andy Madadian

WHEREAS, Andy Madadian’s immense musical talent, humanitarian efforts and diverse background have culminated in a remarkable entertainment career spanning 40 years, during which he has become a beloved icon around the world. Andy has released 15 albums that have sold millions of copies internationally; and

WHEREAS, Andy’s family came from humble beginnings. He grew up with nine people living in a small one-room house. But their house was filled with love, laughter, and most importantly for Andy, music; and

WHEREAS, as Andy was beginning to explore his musical roots, his native land entered into a turbulent period that led to a civil war. He made the decision to leave Iran, and moved to California with a student visa to play soccer for Cal State University LA. Despite starting from zero with no support network or place to live, Andy managed to make a life for himself in Los Angeles. He attended classes during the day and found work playing guitar at local clubs at night. Andy then formed the musical duo *Andy and Kouros* with fellow musician Kouros Shahmiri. The duo released four albums together before embarking on their respective solo careers; and

WHEREAS, Andy is credited for creating a new fusion of sound that combines the music of his Iranian-Armenian heritage with African rhythms, Spanish flamenco guitar licks, and Western dance music. His global, exotic sound reflects his international roots and experiences, which have allowed him to connect with millions of people around the world; and

WHEREAS, nicknamed the “Persian Bono,” the Iranian-Armenian American musician has toured extensively around the globe playing some of the world’s most prestigious venues, theatres, and stadiums and has sold millions of albums in the process. In 2017, Andy became the first Iranian-Armenian-American singer to receive the prestigious Ellis Island Medal of Honor in New York; and

WHEREAS, he recorded the song “Stand by Me” with Jon Bon Jovi to show solidarity and bring awareness for the people of Iran, garnering over millions of hits on YouTube. In addition to high profile musical collaborations with Jon Bon Jovi, Ritchie Sambora, La Toya Jackson, Don Was and John Shanks, he has contributed musically and as an actor to films which include “The House of Sand and Fog”, “The Keeper”, as well as several indie films; and

WHEREAS, Andy has won several awards over the course of his 40 year career, including the Icon Award and Best Duet with La Toya Jackson from the Big Apple Music Awards, the Concord Award from Moscow in 2014, The Voice of America (Persian News Program) award for Best Artist of the Year, the FOG (Festival of Globe) Award for Legendary Artist and Excellence in Music in San Jose, CA, and several awards from AMFA; and

WHEREAS, a true humanitarian, Andy has contributed to many international charitable causes during the span of his career. He is an Officer of Voices Out, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded by his wife, Shani Rigsbee, a fellow singer/songwriter and film producer. Voices Out’s mission is to provide a voice and aid children and animals in neglectful, abusive and abandoned conditions both in the US and abroad. Andy has donated countless hours and performances for fundraisers to support medical facilities around the world. Due to his international popularity and philanthropic reputation, Andy was invited to perform at the One World Peace Concert with His Holiness the Dalai Lama in 2012. The concert was a celebration of music, peace, and common ground; and

WHEREAS, today, Andy is the living proof of the American dream. A long-time resident of Los Angeles, the city’s diversity and rich culture have helped to continue to fuel his unique sound that has catapulted him to international superstardom; and

WHEREAS, on Friday, January 17, 2019, Andy Madadian will be immortalized by the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce with the 2,684 star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame:

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that by the adoption of this resolution, the Los Angeles City Council does hereby commend and congratulate **ANDY MADADIAN** on the occasion of being presented with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Best wishes on many years of continued growth and success on all future endeavors.

JAN 14 2020

Presented by: 
MITCH O'FARRELL
Councilmember, 13th District

Seconded by: 
All Members

ORIGINAL

CITY OF LOS ANGELES



RESOLUTION

Burt Ward

WHEREAS, Burt Ward had all the makings of a true boy wonder: At the age of two, he was the youngest professional ice skater in the world and was featured in "Strange As It Seems," a predecessor to the Ripley's "Believe It Or Not" and to "The Guinness Book Of World Records." With the help of his father, a prominent real estate broker in Beverly Hills, CA, Burt became one of the youngest real estate agents in California, and met producer, Saul David, who arranged for him to sign with a Hollywood agent; and

WHEREAS, his first interview was set up at 20th Century Fox Studios, and a few weeks later, Burt was called back for a screen test with Adam West. It wasn't until six weeks after the screen test that Burt learned that he had won the coveted role of Robin, the Boy Wonder in the new "Batman" TV series for ABC-TV. Executive Producer, William Dozier, told Burt that he was chosen out of more than 1,100 other young actors trying out for the role of Robin because the producers believed that "If there really was a real 'Robin, The Boy Wonder,' then Burt would be it," so they requested him to "just be himself and be enthusiastic;" and

WHEREAS, as a result, all of the mannerisms you see Robin doing like punching his fist into his palm, jumping over the door in and out of the Batmobile, and all the unique Robin traits of the character that were not scripted, were created by Burt himself as his contribution to the legendary role of the Robin character. He was everything they wanted. All he had to do was just be himself; and

WHEREAS, Batman was an overnight sensation. The ratings soared and audiences fell in love the dynamic duo of West and Ward. In fact, Burt Ward and Adam West continued to do movies, TV shows and appearances, individually and together, until Adam's death, and had a lifetime of more than 50 years of friendship working together and have even been submitted to the Guinness Book of World records in 2017 as the only two actors who have worked together for more than 50 years. Burt has also been submitted to the Guinness Book of World Records as the actor who has played "Robin, the Boy Wonder" most onscreen in all forms of media; including TV, Movies, Animated Features, TV Animated Series, Radio performances, and more. In 2016, Burt Ward's and Adam West's new animated feature film, "Batman: Return of The Caped Crusaders" was released in theaters as well as on Blu-Ray and DVD and was reviewed and acknowledged to be the best Animated Superhero Movie of the year for 2016; and

WHEREAS, outside of his time as a "Caped Crusader", Burt and his wife Tracy have made names for themselves as "Canine Crusaders" in founding the non-profit charity Gentle Giants Rescue and Adoptions. The charity has rescued and adopted more than 15,500 giant breed, medium breed, and small breed dogs, along with unique combinations, during their 25 years of operation. All of the dogs are socialized, behaviorally trained, and live communally together in their home. Gentle Giants is the largest giant breed dog rescue in the world and rescues and finds homes for 45 different dog breeds; and

WHEREAS, in addition to Gentle Giants, Burt and Tracy also formed 'Burt Ward's and Tracy Ward's Superheroes to The Rescue, Inc.' which encourages and empowers each and every one of us to use our own special abilities and 'Super Powers' to help each other, to help animals, and to help the world; and

WHEREAS, on Thursday, January 9, 2019, Burt Ward will be immortalized by the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce with the 2,683 star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame:

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that by the adoption of this resolution, the Los Angeles City Council does hereby commend and congratulate BURT WARD on the occasion of being presented with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Best wishes on many years of continued growth and success on all future endeavors.

Presented by: Mitch O'Farrell
MITCH O'FARRELL
Council member, 13th District

Seconded by: Paul Kuboni
All Members

JAN 14 2020

ORIGINAL