

RESOLUTION



Pouria Abbassi

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles joins Ellis Island Honors Society in saluting and congratulating Pouria Abbassi on receiving the Ellis Island Medal of Honor; and

WHEREAS, the Ellis Island Honors Society highlights the importance of immigration to America's prosperity and celebrates the contributions immigrants and their progeny have made to our nation. The Ellis Island Medals of Honor are presented annually to those who have shown an outstanding commitment to serving our nation either professionally, culturally or civically, among other criteria. Pouria Abbassi is a recipient of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor at the 35th Annual Ellis Island Medals of Honor Ceremony being held on May 14, 2022;

WHEREAS, Pouria Abbassi, an Iranian-American who came to the United States in 1983, has been the CEO of large companies in three distinct industries – hospitality, health care, and, higher education. His story of becoming the CEO of the Los Angeles Convention Center, responsible for attracting trade and tourism to this global destination, after only eight years of his swearing-in as a US Citizen in the same building, is a true reflection of all the promises that Ellis Island legacy represents. As the CEO of the Phoenix Houses of California, Pouria went on to lead the provision of mental and behavioral health and addiction treatment services for the underserved communities, troubled youth, and those in the criminal justice system throughout California; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, Pouria rejoined his alma mater as the Executive Director & CEO of ASUCLA, the largest global organization of its kind. Pouria leads the four entities of ASUCLA in serving the next generation of leaders and Bruins past, present, and future through an expansive and unique set of academic, retail, media, and student government operations and services and extending the UCLA brand globally in over 120 countries; and

WHEREAS, Pouria was pivotal in recognizing the Persian New Year celebration in Los Angeles and throughout the US and played a vital role in the development of the Freedom Sculpture, a monument to diversity and inclusion. He serves on various boards, including the Los Angeles Business Council, Providence Hospital Foundation, Public Affairs Alliance of Iranian Americans, Beyond Vision Music Foundation, and Wescom;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that by the adoption of this resolution, the Los Angeles City Council does hereby congratulate and commend Pouria Abbassi for his exceptional achievement and wish him the best as he continues to make the City of Los Angeles and this Country a better place to live, work, and play.

PRESENTED BY:


BOB BLUMENFELD
Councilmember, 3rd District

SECONDED BY:


ALL MEMBERS

MAY 06 2022

ORIGINAL

CITY OF LOS ANGELES



RESOLUTION

James Hong

WHEREAS, in 1953, Hong left Minnesota, where he was born and studied engineering, to drive cross country on Route 66. He began his career during an era in Hollywood, where white actors would routinely play Asian characters; and

WHEREAS, realizing that Hollywood wouldn't be able to provide the roles Asian Americans deserved, Hong set out to carve his own space. Along with actor Mako Iwamatsu, Hong helped organize an Asian American acting group in Los Angeles, which became the legendary East West Players. East West Players has nurtured great talent over its 57 years. At one point, approximately 70% of Asian American actors in Hollywood had a connection to East West Players; and

WHEREAS, Hong is one of the most prolific actors in Hollywood history, having amassed a total of 700 credits, which include 469 TV shows, 149 feature films, 32 short films, and 22 video games, from iconic films like "Blade Runner" and "Chinatown" to animated features like "Kung Fu Panda," "Mulan" and classic television shows like "Seinfeld;" and


WHEREAS, his latest credits are "Everything Everywhere All At Once," "Turning Red" and soon to be released "Gremlins," "Wendell and Wild" and his own feature "Patsy Lee and the Five Kingdoms." Hong is the oldest honoree to receive a star on the Walk of Fame and the only living actor to have worked with Clark Gable and Groucho Marx; and

WHEREAS, in addition to acting, Hong is involved with many philanthropic groups including the Society for Brain Mapping and Therapeutics, The Variety Charity Foundation, Wounded Warrior Project, Chinese Chamber of Commerce Golden Dragon Parade, and much more; and

WHEREAS, on Tuesday, May 10, 2022, James Hong will be immortalized by the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce with the 2,723 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 the **JAMES HONG** 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
Councilmember, 13th District

Seconded by:


All Members

MAY 06 2022



ORIGINAL

RESOLUTION

TAIWANESE-AMERICAN HERITAGE WEEK

WHEREAS Los Angeles has been continually renewed and enriched by the many different people who choose to come here and become our fellow citizens;

WHEREAS each immigrant and descendant of immigrants bring a part of their heritage, which over time becomes part of our common heritage;

WHEREAS generations of Asian-Americans have helped make Los Angeles what it is today;

WHEREAS Taiwanese-Americans have made enormous contributions to the diversity and prosperity of American society, consistently contributing to the promotion of democracy, and security of their homeland;

WHEREAS 2022 marks the 43rd anniversary of the enactment of the 1979 "Taiwan Relations Act," which with the 1982 "Six Assurances" forms the cornerstone of U.S.-Taiwan relations;

WHEREAS 2022 is the 43rd anniversary of the Los Angeles-Taipei Sister City relationship which seeks to cultivate mutual understanding, cultural exchange, and fraternity;

WHEREAS there are thousands of Taiwanese-Americans in the City, with a significant Taiwanese-American population in the San Fernando Valley;


WHEREAS the West San Fernando Valley is hosting the first annual Valley Asian Cultural Festival which showcases various asian cultures of the region with tremendous participation by the Taiwanese and Taiwanese-American communities;

WHEREAS the North Valley is hosting the first annual Pan-Asian Pacific Arts & Cultural Festival which further highlights immigrant stories and the contribution of Taiwanese-Americans;

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles values Taiwan's status and culture and affirms our commitment to assuring the longstanding friendship between the City of Los Angeles and Taipei, and between Angelenos and Taiwanese;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Los Angeles declares May 8 to May 15, 2022 to be Taiwanese-American Heritage Week.

PRESENTED BY:


BOB BLUMENFELD
Councilmember, 3rd District

SECONDED BY:



MAY 06 2022



ORIGINAL

RESOLUTION

WAT THAI OF LOS ANGELES

WHEREAS, WAT THAI OF LOS ANGELES was born on July 6, 1971, when a suburban home on Sepulveda Boulevard was converted into the first Thai Buddhist temple in the United States; and

WHEREAS, WAT THAI OF LOS ANGELES moved from that temporary location to its current location, and four monks took residence there, on May 16, 1972; and

WHEREAS, over the last half century, WAT THAI OF LOS ANGELES has been the spiritual and cultural center of the Thai community of Southern California, and it is the largest Thai Buddhist temple in Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS, WAT THAI OF LOS ANGELES has also provided a haven of spiritual comfort for refugees from Cambodia, Vietnam and Laos, and people of many other backgrounds and birthplaces; and

WHEREAS, in addition to conducting ceremonies such as birthdays, weddings, memorials and funeral services throughout the year, WAT THAT OF LOS ANGELES observes large annual festivals and celebrations on Buddhist holy days and other traditional holidays; and

WHEREAS, the Temple publishes *Duang Pratip*, a bilingual monthly magazine, to promote the teachings of the Buddha, Buddhist beliefs and practices and Thai culture, and to publicize its activities; and

WHEREAS, WAT THAI OF LOS ANGELES runs Buddhist Sunday School classes for children to learn Thai language and culture as well as Buddhist morality; and

WHEREAS, the school offers regular meditation training to Thais, Americans and others; and

WHEREAS, WAT THAI OF LOS ANGELES operates a vocational school where adults can learn the traditional decorative art of fruit and vegetable carving; and

WHEREAS, WAT THAI OF LOS ANGELES, in cooperation with the Faculty of Education of Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, has launched a Research Project for Curriculum and Instruction Development in Thai Language and Culture; and

WHEREAS, through this project, professors and lecturers from Chulalongkorn University come to Los Angeles to conduct classes in Thai culture for Thai students who live in the United States; and

WHEREAS, for half a century, Wat Thai has been a place of peace, dedicated to the principle that every human life is precious; and

WHEREAS, WAT THAI OF LOS ANGELES has been a welcoming place to all people and has made an outstanding contribution to the City of Los Angeles through the preservation and dissemination of Thai culture and Buddhist ethics among us;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that by the adoption of this resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby commends WAT THAI OF LOS ANGELES for its outstanding contribution to the cultural and spiritual life of our city, and joins with the monks and congregants of the temple in celebrating its 50th anniversary.

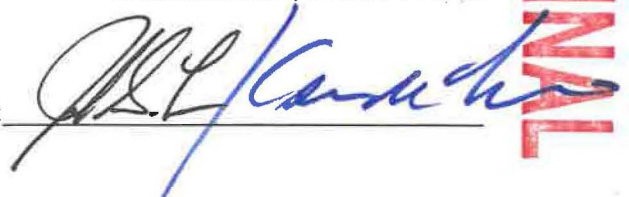
PRESENTED BY:



PAUL KREKORIAN

Councilmember, Second District

SECONDED BY:



MAY 06 2022



ORIGINAL