



RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION HONORING LEO SARKISIAN October 11, 2012

WHEREAS, Leo Sarkisian, who was recruited by former U.S. Information Agency Director Edward R. Murrow, has served with distinction as the “Music Man of Africa” for the Voice of America (VOA) from September 1963 to September 2012;

WHEREAS, in 1965, Mr. Sarkisian started the immensely popular English-language “Music Time in Africa” radio program, the longest-running English-language music show at VOA;

WHEREAS, Mr. Sarkisian’s wife of 63 years, Mary Sarkisian, has been by his side throughout his career overseas and in the United States, helping him answer hundreds of fan letters every month;

WHEREAS, throughout Mr. Sarkisian’s career, he has collected and helped preserve Africa’s musical heritage by building an extraordinary collection of recorded ethnic music, including thousands of rare recordings he made during his travels to every country on the African continent;

WHEREAS, in 2004, VOA established “The Leo Sarkisian Library of African Music” to preserve Mr. Sarkisian’s recordings;

WHEREAS, Mr. Sarkisian has shared this music with African radio stations and organizations such as the Smithsonian Institution and the Library of Congress;

WHEREAS, for the past decade, the State Department’s Bureau of International Programs has been sending Mr. Sarkisian to visit Africa as VOA’s music ambassador;

WHEREAS, Mr. Sarkisian, whose picture has been displayed in villages, schools, and radio stations throughout Africa, will be always be admired and remembered by his colleagues, friends and loyal fans; and

WHEREAS, VOA will dedicate a radio studio with a commemorative plaque in honor of Mr. Sarkisian.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Broadcasting Board of Governors hereby expresses its great appreciation and gratitude to Mr. Sarkisian for his invaluable contributions to the furtherance of the mission of U.S. international broadcasting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an appropriate copy of this resolution be forwarded to Leo Sarkisian.