

# CITY OF LOS ANGELES



## RESOLUTION

### GEORGE JOSEPH FOUNDER, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD MERCURY GENERAL CORP.

WHEREAS, George Joseph was born on September 11, 1921 and was raised during the heart of the Great Depression by parents who emigrated to the United States from Lebanon. His father worked as a coal miner and storekeeper in Beckley, West Virginia, where the family raised pigs, chickens and grew vegetables; and

WHEREAS, George Joseph volunteered for military service prior to World War II, leaving the coal mines of the Appalachians in the Spring of 1941 for Kelly Field, Texas; and

WHEREAS, in December 1941, George Joseph was assigned to a North African-based B-17 crew in late 1942. Because of his affinity for math, he was the crew's navigator for 50 missions that ranged from bombing runs over Tunisia to supporting Allied efforts to take Sardinia, Sicily and other parts of Italy; and

WHEREAS, George Joseph was nearly 24 years old when the World War II ended. He quickly found a job, applied for admission to Harvard through the GI Bill; and

WHEREAS, George Joseph was so anxious to get going with life and with school, he took more courses than the average student and graduated Harvard in less than 3 years in 1949. George majored in both math and physics; and

WHEREAS, after graduation from Harvard, George began working for the Occidental Life Insurance Company. Eventually, many customers began asking George about auto and life insurance, so he tried to persuade Occidental management to allow its agents to offer a full line of coverage. However, the company declined, so George started packaging auto and home insurance from another company with the Occidental life policies he was already selling; and

WHEREAS, armed with a belief that there was a better way to provide insurance to California drivers, he managed to raise \$2 million in start-up capital and his new company sold its first policy on April 1, 1962; and

WHEREAS, now in its 50<sup>th</sup> year, Mercury has employed nearly 20,000 people and paid out more than \$20 billion in claims since the company opened its doors. In fact, Mercury pays out as much as \$5 million a day to make its customers whole while providing a reasonably priced alternative to other insurance companies; and

WHEREAS, Mercury, which operated exclusively in California until 1990, has evolved to become a multiple-line insurance organization offering mainly personal auto and homeowners insurance through independent agents in 13 states; and

WHEREAS, this past April 2012 Mercury Insurance celebrated it's 50th anniversary. This landmark event is a true testament to Mr. Joseph's foresight, business acumen and tenacity in the insurance industry:

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that by adoption of this resolution, the City Council of the City of Los Angeles does hereby extend their highest regard and heartfelt gratitude to George Joseph for his distinguished career and dedication to a lifetime of service to Mercury General Corporation. George you have made the City of Los Angeles a better place in which to live with Mercury Insurance.

PRESENTED BY: \_\_\_\_\_



TOM LABONGE  
Councilmember, 4<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY: \_\_\_\_\_



**ADOPTED**

JUL 24 2012

**LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL**

JUL 24 2012

**ORIGINAL**



RESOLUTION

Gary A. Wachtler

Whereas, Gary A. Wachtler honorably served his country in the United States Air Force from 1966 to 1970 where he obtained the Rank of Staff Sergeant; and

Whereas, as a Sergeant in the United States Air Force, Gary A. Wachtler headed the 1973 Communication Squadron in Vietnam in 1969; and

Whereas, Gary A. Wachtler joined the Los Angeles Police Department in June of 1970; and

Whereas, his Assignments included: Training Division, Van Nuys Patrol, Central Communications Division, Foothill Patrol, Foothill Narcotics & numerous Detective assignments; and

Whereas, Gary A. Wachtler, while working at Foothill Division, was in charge of the Mounted Horse Patrol from 1973 to 1976; and

Whereas, Gary A. Wachtler worked the Outlaw Gang Bikers for 2 years; and

Whereas, Gary A. Wachtler was a Senior Lead Officer P3+1 until 1983; and

Whereas Gary A. Wachtler was appointed to the Use of Force Review Board where he served as a peer group member for 11 years; and

Whereas, Gary A. Wachtler was recognized for over 700 felony arrests and netting thousands of pounds of narcotics; and

Whereas, Gary A. Wachtler, in 1983, was assigned to Valley Traffic Division for 13 years; and

Whereas Gary A. Wachtler was involved with the Prestigious Off Road Detail for 11 years; and

Whereas, Gary A. Wachtler, during his career received over 100 commendations for outstanding police work from citizens, his supervisor, the District Attorney's Office and the Judiciary; and

Whereas, Gary Wachtler retired in July 1996 with 26 years of dedicated service to the Los Angeles Police Department and the Citizens of Los Angeles:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that by the adoption of this resolution the Los Angeles City Council does hereby congratulate and commend Policeman Gary A. Wachtler for his many years of devoted service to the Los Angeles Police Department and the citizens of Los Angeles; extends best wishes for a happy and rewarding retirement together with his family.

July 24, 2012

**ADOPTED**  
JUL 24 2012  
**LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL**

JUL 24 2012

Presented by:

  
Dennis P. Zine

Seconded by:

  
All Council

ORIGINAL

R E S O L U T I O N



Dr. Grace Harper  
Code Enforcement Bureau Chief  
Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety

WHEREAS, Dr. Grace Harper is retiring in July 2012 after having worked with the City of Los Angeles in the Department of Building and Safety for 34 years; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Harper most recent recently held the position of Chief of the Code Enforcement Bureau at Building and Safety, where she directed and managed inspection and support staff engaged in Code Enforcement activities in the City of Los Angeles. She was responsible for protecting public safety by removing blight caused by businesses and homeowners. The Bureau responds to over 27,000 complaints by the public every year on possible violations and has continued to provide these vitally needed services despite budget reductions; and

WHEREAS, since entering the male-dominated construction industry, Dr. Harper has encountered and overcome countless obstacles to her success, and has become a outstanding role model to women and girls, demonstrating that there is nothing that they cannot achieve; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Harper Grace was accepted into a plumbing apprenticeship program in 1972 in Colorado, and, after moving to California in 1976, completed the plumber's apprenticeship and was honored to be the First Female Journey-level Plumber under the Division of Apprenticeship Standards in the State of California; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Harper joined the City of Los Angeles as a Plumbing Inspector in 1978 and while working, she enrolled at California State University, Long Beach where she received a Bachelor's Degree and a special Master's Degree in Business Administration, and went on to receive a Doctorate Degree in Public Administration from the University of La Verne. She became a teacher at University of La Verne, specializing in Conflict Management and Organizational Change and Research Methods, while her career with the City continued to progress from Assistant Inspector, to Plumbing Inspector, Senior, Principal, Chief Plumbing Inspector, and finally Chief of the Code Enforcement Bureau. Dr. Harper is a member of many trade organizations and is a past president of the Los Angeles Professional Manager's Association; and

WHEREAS, in 2010 Dr. Harper began overseeing the inspection and enforcement of solid waste and recycling facilities in the City, and was appointed Chairperson of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Local Enforcement Agency Board of Directors, which is responsible to the City and County to manage regulatory aspects of the landfill under a Joint Powers Authority Agreement, the first of its type in the state. In this role, she has worked to protect the environment and the health and safety of the community surrounding the landfill; and

WHEREAS, in addition to earning immeasurable professional trust and respect, Dr. Harper has also gained the friendship of her colleagues, her superiors and her employees:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Los Angeles City Council does hereby thank Dr. Grace Harper for 34 years of dedicated and skilled service to the City of Los Angeles, and does congratulate her on her retirement, and wish her health and happiness in all of her future endeavors.

Adopted: July 24, 2012

PRESENTED BY:   
MITCHELL ENGLANDER & JAN PERRY

SECONDED BY:   
ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS

**ADOPTED**

JUL 24 2012

**LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL**

ORIGINAL

CITY OF LOS ANGELES



RESOLUTION

**THEATRE WEST**  
50<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles joins in celebration of Theatre West as they commemorate its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, September 13, 2012 at the Taglyan Center in Hollywood with a Gala honoring Beau Bridges with the Betty Garrett Lifetime Artistic Achievement Award, and

Whereas, Theatre West is Los Angeles' oldest, continually operating theatre company, and

Whereas, Theatre West has an international reach, having had plays move to Broadway, Off-Broadway, film, Edinburgh and Dublin, and

Whereas, Theatre West has demonstrated a consistent commitment to quality theatre, winning Tony, Obie, Grammy, BBC Scotland, Ovation, LA Drama Critics Circle, Dramalogue and NAACP Image Awards, and

Whereas, Theatre West has been honored by the Los Angeles City Council, Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, the Mayor of Los Angeles, California State Assembly, California State Senate, U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives, and

Whereas, Theatre West has been home to some of the greatest artists in the American theatre including Philip Abbott, Charles Aidman, Bill Blinn, Ray Bradbury, Beau Bridges, Jeff Bridges, Richard Dreyfuss, Sally Field, Betty Garrett, Harold Gould, Bridget Hanley, Martin Landau, Lee Meriwether, Jack Nicholson, Carroll O'Connor, Chazz Palminteri, and Tom Skerritt, among others, and

Whereas, Theatre West has hosted more than 10,000 workshops in Acting, Writing, Musical Comedy, Shakespeare and Associates program, and

Whereas, Theatre West has been home to Storybook Theatre for children aged 3 to 9 for 27 years, and

Whereas, Theatre West has had more than 100,000 children attend Storybook Theatre's interactive non-threatening musicals with a message, and

Whereas, Theatre West has presented arts education in local schools for over two decades, and

Whereas, Theatre West continues to 'support artists and impact community' by presenting quality work for audiences developed through its workshops:

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that by the adoption of this resolution the City Council of the City of Los Angeles does hereby recognize the contributions to the people of Los Angeles and congratulate Theatre West upon their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and extend sincere best wishes for continued success.

July 24, 2012

PRESENTED BY:   
COUNCILMEMBER ERIC GARCETTI  
SECONDED BY:   
ALL COUNCIL

**ADOPTED**  
JUL 24 2012  
LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL

ORIGINAL

CITY OF LOS ANGELES



RESOLUTION

**COLLEGE LINK OUTREACH PROGRAM**  
University of California  
Santa Barbara

Whereas, The College Link Outreach Program was established April 6, 1999 at the University of California Santa Barbara by Hermanos Unidos Inc; and

Whereas, The College Link Outreach Program which is a three-day, two-night outreach event that highlights and teaches its participants about financial aid, the A through G requirements, and the value of a college education; and

Whereas, In 2012 the College Link Outreach Program will celebrate their Fourteenth Anniversary and will host over 120 students from thirteen Los Angeles area High Schools; and

Whereas, The College Link Outreach along with its Coordinators, and an outstanding dedicated staff have worked diligently to bring this amazing experience to high school students all over the City of Los Angeles; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that by the adoption of this resolution City Council of the City of Los Angeles, the Mayor, City Attorney, and City Controller does hereby applaud THE COLLEGE LINK OUTREACH PROGRAM for its success and commend its observance to the people of this great city.

July 24, 2012

PRESENTED BY: Eric Garcetti  
COUNCILMEMBER ERIC GARCETTI

SECONDED BY: Joe Busca  
ALL ELECTED OFFICIALS

**ADOPTED**  
JUL 24 2012  
**LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL**

**ORIGINAL**

