

MOTION

Esther Aagaard Tapelband was a lively Danish emigre who moved to the Silver Lake community in 1957. At the close of WWII, she married Jules Tapelband, a Belgian Holocaust survivor. Once in Los Angeles, the Tapelban's engaged the services of David Hyun to build one of the first houses on the hill on Lucille Avenue in Silver Lake. Mrs. Tapelband was a strong presence on the neighborhood, befriending young and old alike, creating a sense of community.

She raised three children in Silver Lake organizing outings for neighborhood children to the beach or movies in Hollywood. She was continually engaged in the community, participating in the PTAs of Micheltorena Elementary School, Thomas Starr King Middle School and Marshall High. She was also a Girl Scout leader, an active member of the Silverlake Democratic Club, and was an election day poll worker.

Esther was an avid pedestrian and did not drive during her early years in Silver Lake. In the 1970s and 1980s she became a runner, winning races in her age group. Esther loved to walk in the hills almost every evening, chatting with neighbors along the way. She particularly liked walking up the stairs at the top of Lana Street to visit friends. Esther continued walking into her 90s.


Of all things she enjoyed from life, badminton was her first love, starting the oldest Badminton Club still in existence in Denmark. Esther and her husband played badminton at City College and all her children played on the Marshall High badminton team.


Often her Danish language students would be compelled to walk the hills with her after lessons. Esther was active at the Griffith Park Adult Community Center and was a member of the Regency Bridge Club, attaining a master status.

Esther Aagaard Tapelband was simply and forever, the "Queen of Silver Lake."

I THEREFORE MOVE that in recognition of her life-long dedication to family and community, the public stairway located in the Silver Lake community connecting Landa Street from Lucile Avenue to Maltman Avenue be designated as "Esther's Steps."

I FURTHER MOVE that the Department of Transportation be instructed to work with Council District 4 in the development and installation of an appropriate commemorative plaque to be funded by Council District 4.

PRESENTED BY: 
TOM LABONGE
Councilmember, 4th District

SECONDED BY: 

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STAMP