

MOTION

Richard Gigger, Jr., a celebrated musician and educator who earned countless honors while inspiring generations to greatness, died at the age of 87. The City of San Fernando designated him a Cultural Treasure and the Los Angeles City Council adjourned in his honor upon his passing.

Mr. Gigger learned to play music while serving his country in Europe and went on to lead the United States Army Band. He entertained military leaders and civilian audiences around the world, performed in film, on television, and live with singers such as Eddie Fisher, Patti Page, and Vic Damone. He served as First Alto Saxophonist on the Ed Sullivan Show and served as Drum Major of Special Ticker Tape Parades for worldwide dignitaries. He also was assigned to help provide the fanfare preceding nuclear tests in the Nevada desert, which were attended by celebrities and the President of the United States.

After 25 years, Mr. Gigger left the Army with the rank of Master Sergeant and became only the third person to receive military certification to teach instrumental music to grades K through 12. Upon his retirement, he embarked on a career teaching music.

He brought his talent and discipline to public education and turned San Fernando High School into a national music powerhouse. Mr. Gigger and his wife of 22 years, Ellen Kaminer-Gigger, were pillars in the school's music department; he directed the band and she was a voice and piano teacher who also directed the school's drill team. During his 17 years as band director at San Fernando High School, Mr. Gigger led the band and drill teams to 13 consecutive championships and instilled the highest standards in thousands of students, many of whom are among California's business, civic, educational and musical leaders. The Los Angeles Unified School District is preparing to dedicate San Fernando High School's music building in his honor.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council name the intersection of Laurel Canyon Boulevard and Chamberlain Street as the "Richard Gigger Square," and that the Department of Transportation be directed to fabricate and install appropriate ceremonial signs to this effect at this location.

PRESENTED BY:

*Monica Rodriguez*

MONICA RODRIQUEZ  
Councilwoman, 7<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY:

*Mary Mathis*

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AUG - 1 2017

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