



City of Chicago



R2013-952

Office of the City Clerk

Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date:	10/16/2013
Sponsor(s):	Sposato (36)
Type:	Resolution
Title:	Honors extended to Helen Kherdian Paloian, courageous survivor of the Armenian Genocide and oldest parishioner of St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church
Committee(s) Assignment:	

RESOLUTION HONORING
HELEN KHERDIAN PALOIAN,
COURAGEOUS SURVIVOR OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE
AND OLDEST PARISHIONER OF
ST. GREGORY THE ILLUMINATOR ARMENIAN CHURCH

WHEREAS, Helen was born in May of 1906 to Krikor and Mariam Kherdian in the village of Khulakugh in the western Armenian province of Kharpert; and

WHEREAS, Helen, whose Armenian name is Yeghinar, had three brothers, Khachadur, Khosrov and Ghazar, who treasured their sister; and

WHEREAS, Helen was orphaned at an early age and taken in by a kind lady and put in an orphanage where she lived until the end of World War I; and

WHEREAS, after WWI, Helen was entrusted to the care of Maria Jacobsen, a compassionate Danish missionary nurse who saved the lives of countless orphans of Kharpert; and

WHEREAS, Helen then began an arduous and amazing journey, making her way through Syria, Lebanon, Greece, Cuba and then on to America in 1926; and

WHEREAS, Helen was brought to America by her cousin Jacob Hardy (Kherdian), who had arrived in America in 1913 and when convalescing from war wounds had a dream leading him to his cousin Helen, "the Rose"; and

WHEREAS, Jacob was instrumental in bringing Helen to America, after telling the authorities that she was his sister, and she is surely the sister of his heart; and

WHEREAS, Helen, whose arranged marriage to Zadig Paloian allowed her to come to America, then found true love with this wonderful man whom she married in Racine, Wisconsin on January 9, 1927; and

WHEREAS, Helen and Zadig raised a loving family of four children: Sia Lillian, Mariam, Lucille and Matthew; and

WHEREAS, Helen survived immeasurable heartache and grief, losing her brothers Khachadur and Khosrov in the Genocide, yet going on to become a source of strength and admiration for so many; and

WHEREAS, Helen will be honored on October 20, 2013, as a courageous survivor of the Great Crime and the oldest parishioner of St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church; and

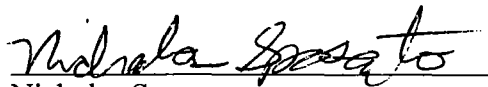
WHEREAS, Helen is to be commended for her courage and fortitude, and for reminding us that we can never forget; and

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WHEREAS, Helen is wished many happy times with her surviving children: Lucille Ajemian and Matthew Paloian; six grandchildren: Geri Lyn, Marianne, John and Robert Ajemian, Michelle Rudden and Jennifer Anderson; and her four great-grandchildren: Catherine and Nicholas Rudden and Julia and Matthew Anderson.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Mayor and members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, gathered here this 16th day of October, 2013, A.D., do hereby express our deepest respect and admiration to Helen Kherdian Paloian; and extend our very best wishes for continuing happiness and fulfillment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to Helen Kherdian Paloian.


Nicholas Sposato
Alderman, 36th Ward