

MOTION

PUBLIC WORKS

Theodore Bikel was born in Vienna, Austria in 1924. He is best remembered for creating the role of Captain von Trapp in the original Broadway production of Sound of Music in which he introduced the song Edelweiss. He also starred as Tevye in Fiddler on the Roof more than any other actor to date. He eventually moved to Los Angeles and appeared numerous films and television shows including: the Defiant Ones, for which he was nominated for an Academy Award; The African Queen; Moulin Rouge; My Fair Lady; The Russians are Coming, the Russians are Coming; Star Trek, the Next Generation; LA LAW; and JAG.

Bikel was a popular folk singer and composer. He was able to sing in 21 different languages, including Yiddish, Hebrew, German, Russian, Hungarian, Romanian, French, medieval Spanish, Zulu, and English. He inspired and performed with singers such as Pete Seeger, Bob Dylan, Judy Collins, Joan Baez as well as Peter, Paul and Mary.

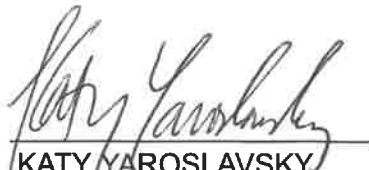
Throughout his lifetime, Bikel was a civil and human rights activist and union leader. He co-founded the Actors Federal Credit Union, was president of Actors' Equity and the Associated Actors and Artistes of America which is comprised of several guilds including: Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA,) Actors' Equity (AEA,) American Guild of Musical Artists (AGMA,) and The American Guild of Variety Artists (AGVA.) In 1977, President Jimmy Carter appointed him to serve on the National Council for the Arts.

In Los Angeles, there is strong support to rename the intersection of Wilshire Boulevard and South Curson Avenue to honor Theodore Bikel's legacy as a union organizer, civil rights activist and artist.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City of Los Angeles recognize Theodore Bikel's enormous contribution to the stage, film, television and music industries as well as his groundbreaking work to establish strong representation and financial security for performing artists by naming the intersection of Wilshire Boulevard and South Curson Avenue in his memory.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Department of Transportation, with the assistance of other City departments, as needed, and in consultation with Council District Five, be directed to design and install the appropriate sign(s) at this location to implement the above action.


PRESENTED BY:


KATY YAROSLAVSKY
Councilwoman, 5th District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL


MAR 15 2024