

JOHN HOPLAMAZIAN, THE PREMIER

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LEADER AND SERVANT OF

THE PHILADELPHIA ARMENIAN COMMUNITY

John Hoplamazian was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. His parents had seven sons and a daughter (who died at birth). His brothers are Sam, Joe, Harry, Eddie, Jack and Albert. (Sam and Harry are deceased.) John has thirteen nieces and nephews and twelve great nieces and nephews. His extended family includes his faithful and loyal business employees.

John attended grade school in Haverford and graduated from Overbrook High School. Thereafter, he entered the Army and became Sergeant Major at a medical hospital. Following his service in the Armed Forces, John returned home to Philadelphia. He established a successful flower shop in Rockledge and has continually made Philadelphia his home.

John's business, known as 'Blake Florists and Decorators,' is operated in a unique fashion. At all times, there is a personal touch. A pot of coffee or lunch is always available to anyone who walks through the doors of his establishment. He enjoys being a florist and serving his customers but at the same time, he unselfishly serves his friends, community, family and extended family.

John's kindness, compassion and generosity are his trademarks. He is always available for anyone in need. These attributes did not show up only when he became successful in his business. They were evident early in his life and have continued throughout his life. No person is more involved in church and community affairs nor has anyone given as generously of his time and energy as has John. His character is impeccable. He is a person of basic values, integrity and compassion.

As Philadelphia's premier community leader and servant, John has served countless Armenian organization in the Philadelphia area and beyond. He has assumed leadership positions in virtually all of his organizational work. He became Executive Officer of the Armenian Scouting Association, Group 761, Valley Forge Council, Boy Scouts of America, upon the passing of his brother Harry in 1977. He has been First Vice-Chairman of the AGBU Central Committee. He has been for many years a member of the Board of Directors of the Armenian Sisters Academy and currently serves as its President. He served as Chairman of the Thank You America Banquet in 1976. He continues to be a member of the Coalition Committee for Church Unity.

John supports the KNAR Choral Concert. He served as Chairman of the Armenian Bicentennial Commemoration Committee. He is Chairman of the Festival of Armenian Schools. He is a member of Ardashad Lodge, Knights of Vartan. He served as General Chairman of the 25th Anniversary Celebration of the Cathedral in New York. He has served as Chair of a number of testimonial dinners at the Diocese. He is Honorary Chair of the Armenian American Armenian Society. He served the Armenian Mission House of the United Nations. He is currently Chairman of PAND, the nonprofit organization which sponsors New Years Eve activities for the youth of the greater Philadelphia area. John is the Chairman of the Committee for the Creation of an Eternal Wall to be erected on the Plaza at the Cathedral in New York. This wall will perpetrate the names of all Armenians, Past and Present and their History.

Everyone joins in saluting John on the occasion of the tribute which he receives today and prays for God's blessing as he continues in his service to the Philadelphia Armenian community.



THE ENCYCLICAL OF THE CATHOLICOS OF  
ALL ARMENIANS ON THE PRESENTATION OF THE  
'SAINT NERSES THE GRACEFUL' MEDAL TO  
JOHN HOPLAMAZIAN.

VAZKEN, SERVANT OF JESUS CHRIST, BY THE MERCY OF  
GOD AND THE WILL OF OUR NATION, CHIEF BISHOP AND  
CATHOLICOS OF ALL ARMENIAN, SUPREME PATRIARCH OF  
THE PRE-EMINENT SEE OF THE ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC  
MOTHER CHURCH THE MOST HOLY ETCHMIADZIN.

MR. JOHN HOPLAMAZIAN, TRUE SON OF THE MOTHER SEE  
HOLY ETCHMIADZIN, PATERNAL GREETINGS AND  
PATRIARCHAL BLESSINGS:

By the Lord's mercy, our apostolic Holy Church  
continues her mission for the spiritual  
edification of our children amongst our faithful  
people, be they in Armenia or in the diaspora,  
while always enjoying the moral and financial  
support of our nation's devoted children.  
You also are amongst the number of these our  
faithful children, most honorable Mr.  
Hoplamazian, serving as chairman for numerous  
committees, Chairman of the 25th Anniversary of  
consecration of St. Vartan Cathedral, member of  
AGBU Central Committee. Always bringing your  
moral and financial support to our religious and  
compatriotic organizations.  
With this Encyclical we warmly commend Your  
dedication and constant endeavors for the benefit  
of the Armenian Church and devotion to Her.  
Therefore, by request of His Eminence, Archbishop  
Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Eastern Dioceses  
of the United States, and with this Encyclical  
the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin confers upon  
you Our praise and Pontifical blessings by  
granting you the SAINT NERSES THE GRACEFUL MEDAL.  
May the Lord grant you a long life, peace, good  
health, joy with your family and renew Your  
spititually edifying endeavors.

VAZKEN I  
Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos  
of all Armenians

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