

Director,

I recommend that Dr. Edward Keonjian be included in the *Notable Armenian Americans* wing of the Museum.

Dr. Keonjian was born in 1909 in Tiflis. Keonjian studied at the Leningrad Electrotechnical Institute, where he obtained his degree in electrical engineering and graduated in 1933. He would teach in Leningrad during WW2. The Keonjian family was forced into a Nazi labor camp when the city was taken. After the war, Keonjian and his family would migrate to the US. Edward joined General Electric and began his groundbreaking work in low-power electronics and microelectronics. Later, Keonjian worked as an electronics specialist for the United Nations. Edward Keonjian died on September 6th, 1999

The exhibit's paramount goal is to emphasize the substantial work Dr.Keonjian did while facing such calamity in his life. For example, Keonjian's development of the first solar-powered pocket-sized radio transmitter in 1954 shouldn't be forgotten. Along the same lines, we should also accentuate how microelectronics, the field that Keonjian pioneered, has become the dominant industrial technology. Dr. Keonjian's work was essential for the prosperity that microelectronics has brought us. When speaking about microelectronics, the exhibit must provide a certain focus to the bigger picture. Microelectronics are responsible for our safer cars, more advanced medical diagnostics, energy efficiency, and even the internet, to name a few achievements.

Another noteworthy aspect of Keonjian's life is his work with NASA where he oversaw the Apollo 11 project as chief of failure analysis. He was sure to contribute to one of humanity's most important achievements. In his later years, Edward would work in India and Egypt as a UN electronics expert. Along with that, Keonjian would spend more than a decade as a US representative on NATO's Aerospace Research and Development (AGARD) team. In the end, Dr.Keonjian would publish more than 100 papers in the US, receive 27 patents, and co-author 2 and edit 4 books. His achievements are understandably difficult to quantify, Keonjian's significant contributions often earned him recognition and rewards. Edward never stopped contributing to the world, even in his twilight years he would make a million-dollar donation through which the Edward Keonjian grant is allocated to experts in the US or other countries for research towards microelectronics.

Meanwhile, a section going into the intriguing details of Keonjian's life is also vastly important. One example is how Keonjian had to live through the oppressive Communist regime in his homeland. What's notable here is how Edward had to endure starvation, cold, and warfare while still teaching at the Leningrad Institute. Edward's situation was so dire that he was mistaken for dead and buried alive. Despite surviving the assault on Leningrad, Edward's family was brought to a Nazi camp where his whole family was almost gunned down. all of this, coupled with the fact that he didn't even know English when he

migrated to the US, showcases that Edward had a rare resilience that must be celebrated along with his innovative mind.

Edward's generosity must not be forgotten in this exhibit. To brush aside how much he suffered would be a massive disrespect to the man. In addition, his work in microelectronics is the foundation for many of the luxuries we can afford today. Ultimately, in a world that took so much from him, Edward Keonjian made the conscious effort to make it a better place anyway. As presidential candidate Ross Perot once said, "[Dr.Keonjian] was penniless when he arrived in America, unable to speak English, and became one of the greatest inventors and scientists in our country." Edward Keonjian wasn't just notable, he's the paragon for what an exceptional human being is.

I recommend Keonjian because his story connects to me and he achieved things that I aspire to as well. He has left an unforgettable mark on the world and a beautiful legacy. Personally, I aspire to follow a career in Electrical engineering as well, and Keonjian's achievements are inspiration for that path in life. It's a prime example of how I can make the world a better place through engineering. In addition, Keonjian did this while starting from rock bottom. He came here with nothing, and through passion, hard work, and willpower, Keonjian still lead a life with magnificent purpose.

In essence, Edward Keonjian's life highlights the human condition's ability to endure and prosper in the face of insurmountable odds. Despite being forced to endure years of pain and subjugation, one can still be an incredible force of good in the world