[Honoring Michael Krasny - February 15, 2021]

Resolution honoring Michael Krasny on the occasion of his retirement from nearly three decades of award-winning journalism as the host of KQED’s Forum; and proclaiming February 15, 2021, as “Michael Krasny Day” in the City and County of San Francisco.

WHEREAS, Legendary Bay Area broadcaster and educator, Michael Krasny, is retiring as host of KQED’s Forum on February 15, 2021, the exact 28th anniversary of his tenure at the Bay Area public media station, after nearly three decades of award-winning journalism, with his last show airing on February 12, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Krasny’s storied broadcasting career began in the late 1970’s hosting at several other radio stations in the Bay Area; and

WHEREAS, Krasny joined KGO in 1983, where he hosted a night-time talk program for KGO-Radio and co-anchored the weekly KGO television show Nightfocus, later hosting Bay TV’s Take Issue, a nightly news analysis show; and

WHEREAS, Krasny joined KQED in 1993 as host of Forum, the award-winning daily call-in radio program that flooded Bay Area living rooms and morning commutes with Krasny’s calm and contemplative voice moderating discussions on local and national news, politics, arts and culture, health, public affairs, and technology;

WHEREAS, KQED Forum consistently ranks at the top of the Bay Area’s drive-time radio shows, even in a time of declining radio audience numbers, with Krasny averaging 240,000 listeners weekly, and an additional 70,000 online and podcast listeners; and

WHEREAS, Over his auspicious broadcasting career, Krasny has interviewed some of the most prominent newsmakers and thought leaders of the past half century, including Isabel...
Allende, Maya Angelou, President Jimmy Carter, Cesar Chavez, Francis Ford Coppola, Jerry Garcia, Allen Ginsberg, John McCain, Toni Morrison, President Barack Obama, Camille Paglia, Rosa Parks, Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, Salman Rushdie, Senator Bernie Sanders, Patti Smith, Wayne Thiebaud, Charlize Theron, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Gene Wilder, Carl Sagan, and so many more; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his broadcasting career, Krasny has forged a long and successful academic career, as a Professor of English at San Francisco State University, where the University’s College of Liberal & Creative Arts established The Michael Krasny Awards in English Literature in 2018, as well as also teaching at the University of San Francisco, the University of California, San Francisco, and at the Fulbright International Institutes; and releasing a twenty-four book, DVID and audio series on “Short Story Masterpieces” for The Teaching Company; and

WHEREAS, Krasny is the published author of a number of best-selling books, including “Off Mike: A Memoir of Talk Radio and Literary Life”, “Sound of Ideas” and “Let There Be Laughter”, a history and compilation of Jewish humor and jokes, as well as “Spiritual Envy”; and

WHEREAS, Krasny is the recipient of numerous awards for his broadcasting, writing and scholarship, including the S.Y. Agnon Medal for Intellectual Achievement, the Eugene Block Award for Human Rights Journalism, the James Madison Freedom of Information Award, the Excellence in Journalism Award from the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association, the Career Achievement Award from the Society of Professional Journalists, an award from the Radio and Television News Directors Association, and most recently, the Silver SPUR Lifetime Achievement Award, the most prominent award for lifetime civic achievement in San Francisco, as well as a 2020 Simpsonista Prize for enabling writers, readers and the craft of writing across generations; and
WHEREAS, Michael Krasny is widely regarded as an authentic talk show pioneer, helping to shape the style, content, and lasting impact of local talk shows through his probing interviews, emotional intelligence and patient attention to detail and his guests; and

WHEREAS, Michael Krasny, never with a signature sign-off or gimmick, has been the voice of reasonable debate and civic-minded dialogue for generations of Bay Area citizens eager to engage with thoughtful discourse, equipped with facts and access to a diversity of perspectives, and his retirement from KQED Forum leaves an immeasurable void in public journalism and the quest to narrate the human condition; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Michael Krasny has selflessly given the gift of public journalism and literary work fueled with integrity, compassion, and curiosity to generations of; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco honors Michael Krasny on the occasion of his retirement from nearly three decades of award-winning journalism as the host of KQED’s Forum on his 28th anniversary at the public media station; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco does proclaim February 15, 2021, as “Michael Krasny Day” in the City and County of San Francisco.
Resolution honoring Michael Krasny on the occasion of his retirement from nearly three decades of award-winning journalism as the host of KQED’s Forum; and proclaiming February 15, 2021, as “Michael Krasny Day” in the City and County of San Francisco.

February 02, 2021 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED
Ayes: 11 - Chan, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani and Walton

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 2/2/2021 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without her approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board