[Honoring Joe Vazquez]

Resolution honoring San Francisco newsman, Joe Vazquez, on the occasion of his retirement from thirty-five years in broadcast journalism, with sixteen of those years at KPIX Channel 5.

WHEREAS, Joe Vazquez announced that January 7, 2021, would be his last appearance in front of the camera as a newscaster for KPIX Channel 5, where he reported on the attempted coup d’etat of the nation’s Capitol Building in an attempt to undermine the election of President Joseph Biden Jr. as the 46th President of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Vazquez’s career in broadcast journalism has spanned thirty-five years, and while it has taken him to Houston, Philadelphia, San Antonio and Lubbock, he has made a life reporting on every major Bay Area story for KPIX Channel 5 and raising his children in San Francisco’s North Beach for the last sixteen years; and

WHEREAS, Vazquez has braved the frontlines of hurricanes, riots, earthquakes, fires and crime scenes to bring the public accurate news and humanizing stories told by and for everyday people who define the heart and soul of the San Francisco Bay Area; and

WHEREAS, In June 2018, Vazquez and his team were awarded the Regional Emmy Award for coverage of the North Bay Fires and their impact on California’s recovering communities, and in September 2010, he won the National Emmy Award for Breaking News coverage of the Oakland riots following the murder of Oscar Grant at the hands of a BART policeman, as well as earning two other Emmy awards and multiple Emmy nominations; and

WHEREAS, While backpacking in September of 2001, Vazquez was called to work for NBC News briefly as a freelance correspondent in Southern Turkey, covering military operations near Turkey’s border with Iraq; and
WHEREAS, Vazquez is a proud SAG-AFTRA union member and has advocated for better working conditions for journalists at the frontlines, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic threats to the health and well-being of frontline workers; and

WHEREAS, Vazquez has mentored and elevated other Latino journalists, even before widespread calls for the media industry to diversify representation behind and in front of the camera, including as a member of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists and as a semi-regular host of KPIX Channel 5’s Latino Heritage Month tribute over the last sixteen years, which showcases Latino culture and talent but also the struggles and issues facing the Latino population throughout the Bay Area and California; and

WHEREAS, It is rare to find a reporter who is so enamored with the craft of journalism and storytelling, but Joe Vazquez, who literally created the social media handle @joenewsman, has embodied that hunger for chasing down breaking news and bringing human stories to life, even naming his blues band “The Eyewitness Blues Band” known throughout San Francisco by their tagline “bringing you rock’n’roll on deadline;” and

WHEREAS, Joe Vazquez has been an integral piece of the public media and North Beach communities for the past sixteen years of service to the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco do hereby honor Joe Vazquez on the occasion of his retirement from thirty-five years of broadcast journalism, sixteen of those years at KPIX Channel 5 and thank him for his service.
Resolution honoring San Francisco newsman, Joe Vazquez, on the occasion of his retirement from thirty-five years in broadcast journalism, with sixteen of those years at KPIX Channel 5.

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

02/12/2021
Date