[Caffé Trieste Day - April 1, 2021]

Resolution designating April 1, 2021, as “Caffé Trieste Day” in the City and County of San Francisco, on the occasion of the beloved North Beach institution’s 65th anniversary.

WHEREAS, Giovanni Giotta (also lovingly known as “Papa Gianni”) emigrated to the United States of America from Italy in 1951, found a job through the goodwill and mutual aid of the brotherhood at Saints Peter and Paul Church and saved up enough funds as a window washer to open Caffé Trieste in 1956; and

WHEREAS, American coffee culture of the 1950’s focused on instant coffee that families brewed at home, usually with pre-ground beans lacking flavor; and

WHEREAS, Papa Gianni missed the rich flavors of the fresh espresso brewed in Trieste, Italy, as well as the artistic and social atmosphere of the café culture there, which hosted literary ex-patriots such as James Joyce and Italo Svevo, so when the opportunity came to take over Piccola Café at 601 Vallejo Street in San Francisco’s North Beach, Papa Gianni founded Caffé Trieste, which became the first espresso coffeehouse on the West Coast; and

WHEREAS, Caffé Trieste became the epicenter of the Beat movement in San Francisco’s North Beach throughout the 1950’s and 1960’s, with patrons that included Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Alan Watts, Jack Kerouac, Allen Ginsberg, Richard Brautigan, Gregory Corso and Kenneth Rexroth, to name a few; and

WHEREAS, Caffé Trieste has long hosted an array of artists as regular patrons through the present day, including San Francisco Poet Laureate, Jack Hirschman; Pulitzer
Prize winning photographer, Joe Rosenthal; Academy Award winning director, Francis Ford Coppola; Jefferson Airplane musician, Paul Kantner; and local visual artist, Jeremy Fish; and

WHEREAS, Caffé Trieste became a San Francisco Legacy Business in 2016; and

WHEREAS, Caffé Trieste continues to host the “Caffé Trieste Saturday Concert”, the longest running musical show in San Francisco and one of the oldest in the country; and

WHEREAS, Caffé Trieste has endeared itself to the broader community not just for its perfectly executed and authentic espresso drinks, but also for catering to and caring for North Beach’s eclectic cast of poets, artists, musicians, and eccentrics; and

WHEREAS, Caffé Trieste has continued to be a family-run business since its founding in 1956, and now, in its 65th year of serving the community, is a 100% woman-owned business, after being officially taken over by Papa Gianni’s granddaughter, Ida Pantaleo Zoubi, and her aunt, Adrienne Giotta; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco do hereby designate April 1, 2021 as “Caffé Trieste Day” in San Francisco, on the occasion of the beloved North Beach institution’s 65th Anniversary; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco honor Ida Pantaleo Zoubi and Adrienne Giotta during Women’s History Month, for maintaining this community treasure and ensuring it continues to bring people together over music, laughter, and a good cappuccino for decades to come.
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March 23, 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 3/23/2021 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