

## Takeda, Michi

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**From:** Steve Preston <steve.preston@charter.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 18, 2021 3:28 PM  
**To:** Takeda, Michi  
**Cc:** 'Andrew Salimian'; Sue Mossman  
**Subject:** AGENDA ITEM 4A - HPC CONSIDERATION OF 801 S. SAN RAFAEL AVE.

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October 18, 2021

### **Chair and Members of the Historic Preservation Commission City of Pasadena**

100 N. Garfield Avenue  
Pasadena, CA 91104  
Attention: Michi Takeda

### **NOMINATION OF THE VAN DE KAMP HOUSE FOR HISTORIC STATUS Agenda Item 4A, October 18, 2021 - 801 S. San Rafael Avenue**

Honorable Chair and Members of the Historic Preservation Commission:

I am writing in support of the staff recommendation to:

1. **Find that house at 801 South San Rafael Avenue meets Criterion "B"** for designation as a landmark pursuant to Pasadena Municipal Code (PMC) Section 17.62.040, because it is associated with the life of a person that is significant in the history of the City. It is associated with former prominent resident, John Van de Kamp; and
2. **Recommend that the City Council approve the designation** of the property at 801 South San Rafael Avenue as a landmark.

The compelling connection between this house and Van de Kamp – a leading figure in Pasadena, the County and the State -- provides more than sufficient grounds to support this nomination. I support the analysis contained in the staff report, from which these examples are noted:

- **Van de Kamp served as the 37th District Attorney** for Los Angeles County (1975-1981) and as 28th Attorney General for California (1983-1991). He also campaigned for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination in 1990.
- **He served on the Board of Governors of the State Bar** of California from 2001 to 2005, and was the President of the Board from 2004 to 2005. Other notable accomplishments from his time as a private attorney include serving as the independent reform monitor for the City of Vernon, the Getty Trust, and various cases related to environmental protection.

- **Aside from his professional accomplishments**, John Van de Kamp was also involved the Norton Simon Museum, Pasadena Education Foundation, St. Andrews Church, and helped fundraise for the Jackie and Mack Robinson memorial located in front of City Hall.
- **John Van de Kamp was an extraordinary leader and local hero**, part of a family with significant historical ties to the city and region. Mr. Van de Kamp was so well respected that the City Council renamed the La Loma Bridge in his honor in 2017.

Pasadena Heritage has nominated the house as a landmark because he and his family lived there during the most productive time in his long career of public service. Criterion B of the Historic Preservation Ordinance is designed to promote landmarking of places associated with important people. Though the house has been altered, it still conveys its significance as the home of John and Andrea Van de Kamp.

**We hope that the Historic Preservation Commission will find it important to recognize this home as the residence of a most important figure in Pasadena history as well and the region and the State of California. Thank you for your consideration of this request.**

Yours truly,

**STEVEN A. PRESTON, FAICP**

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