



### **ARAM KALAYDJIAN 1936-1995**

Aram Kalaydjian was born in Larnaca on the 3rd of October 1936. He graduated from the American Academy in Larnaca and continued his studies in the field of Business Administration in Manchester.

He joined the family business of textiles trade in 1958 which was set up by his father Roupen who had come to Cyprus as a refugee from Asia Minor in 1920.

In the following decades - together with his brother Bedros - they expanded the business by diversifying into the real estate and tourism sectors while maintaining a charitable side to their endeavors. ([www.kalaydjiangroup.com](http://www.kalaydjiangroup.com))

In 1966 he married Peggy Zartarian from Manchester with whom he had two children, a son Roupen and a daughter Carla.

From 1960-1970 he was a member of the Armenian School Committee.

From 1968-1976 he was the Chairman of the Board of the Armenian General Benevolent Union(A.G.B.U.) in Larnaca.

From 1976 until his untimely death in 1995, he was the Chairman of the Board of the Melkonian Educational Institute.

Aram Kalaydjian served as Armenian Representative in the House of Representatives from March 1982 until his death in September 1995. He was elected for three consecutive terms - in 1982 (by securing 58% of the votes), in 1986 (64% of the votes) and again in 1991 (67% of the votes).

Throughout his years as Representative he donated his entire Parliamentary salary to the needs of the community,

Through his efforts, the Cyprus House of Representatives unanimously passed a resolution on the 29th of April 1982 condemning the Armenian Genocide of 1915 and adopting 24th of April as an official day of remembrance of the Genocide.

In 1988 together with his brother Bedros, they founded the Kalaydjian Rest Home for the elderly in memory of their late parents Roupen and Marie. ([www.kalaydjianfoundation.com](http://www.kalaydjianfoundation.com)) The Interior Minister Mr. Christodoulos Veniamin opened the Rest Home on the 8th of March 1988, in the presence of Catholicos Karekin II of Cilicia and a large crowd of officials and Armenian Cypriots. In 1995, the Sourp Armenapergitch church was built by the Kalaydjian brothers on the premises of the Rest Home.

Aram was made an Honorary citizen of Beirut in recognition of his help and assistance to Lebanese refugees who sought refuge in Cyprus after the civil war in Lebanon. He was presented with the Key of the city of Bourj-Hammood in Lebanon by the Mayor Tzolag Tutelian in 1986.

Aram was also honoured by:

- The Cyprus House of Representatives for services offered as Armenian Representative.
- The President of the A.G.B.U. Alex Manoogian ( in 1976) and also by the Larnaca Chapter of the A.G.B.U.
- The American Armenian International College La Herne California - in 1983 - for outstanding service and contributions to the Armenian Community of Cyprus.
- The Cyprus Tennis Federation -in 1988 - as Aram won several PanCyprian tennis tournaments in the 1960`s and 1970`s and was a Member of the Cyprus National Tennis squad.

Due to Aram`s efforts, the new building of the Nareg elementary school in Larnaca was built and completed in 1995 with state funds.

It was also due to his relentless efforts that the Cyprus Government granted ownership to the Armenian Prelacy of Cyprus ,by way of title deed in the land Registry ,of the premises on which the Nareg, the Armenian Prelacy and the Sourp Asdvadzadzin are built in Nicosia. This land was initially donated IN TRUST by the Cyprus Government to the Armenian Community after the Turkish invasion of 1974.

In 1988 during the devastating earthquake in Soviet Armenia, he immediately co-ordinated the relief work efforts in close collaboration with the Cypriot Authorities, the Armenian Prelacy of Cyprus and all the organizations of the Armenian Community of Cyprus ,for the supply of humanitarian aid through chartered flights to Armenia. The response of the Cyprus public was emotional as donations in excess of 500,000 U.S Dollars were granted to the All-Armenia Relief Fund.

He had also organised for the supply of medical aid - donated by the Cyprus Government - as well as foodstuff and other necessities for the struggling people of Nagorno-Karabagh.

Aram was the first Parliamentarian of the Armenian Diaspora to address the Armenian Parliament in 1992 and he played a significant role in enhancing relations between Cyprus and Armenia in all fields.

In 1990 he was appointed Honorary Consul-General of the People`s Republic of Bangladesh in Cyprus, After his death in 1995, his son Roupen was appointed as Honorary Consul of Bangladesh in Larnaca, and his wife Peggy Honorary Consul-General for Cyprus.

Following Aram`s death on the 10th of September 1995, the Municipal Authorities in Larnaca unanimously adopted the Mayor`s suggestion to name a street in Larnaca after Aram Kalaydjian.

At Aram`s funeral service on the 13th of September 1995, the Armenian church of St. Stephanos in Larnaca was packed to capacity and a large crowd filled the yards of the church and school, and the streets adjoining the church. The President of the Republic and Mrs. Clerides, House President Alexis Ghalanos, former Presidents Spyros Kyprianou

and George Vassiliou, the Foreign Minister and the Ministers of Commerce and Industry, Defence, Education, Finance and Health, all Political Party Leaders, the Attorney-General and a number of Ambassadors and foreign dignitaries bid farewell to Aram.

In the Interim elections which took place one month later - as Aram`s third consecutive term as Representative was due to expire in Spring 1996 - the Armenians of Cyprus elected his brother, Bedros.