

Almighty God, we thank You for bringing together such a fine group of colleagues and friends at this annual banquet of the Armenian National Committee Western Region; individuals with attention to a common goal; to show support and encouragement of the ANC, and to reaffirm our support of and commitment to their mission, a mission we all share.

We pray for the memory of our fallen soldiers at Fort Hood. May the souls of our brave young men and women rest in peace in the heavenly sanctuary of our Lord, and may God grant strength, consolation, and healing to the families who are coping with their tragic and untimely loss.

Lord, now more than ever, we are in need of Your guidance and direction. Let us not be discouraged or disheartened, rather encourage our minds, embolden our hearts, and empower our spirits. Grant us the gifts of insight and wisdom and help us maintain our focus to serve with greater conviction for the welfare and best interests of our nation.

Lead us in the fulfillment of our ideals and responsibilities, and guide us to faithfully perform every duty which descends upon us, so that we may enjoy greater advancements in the Armenian Cause.

We pray for Your blessings to be upon the Armenian National Committee and all the volunteers who wholeheartedly work not for their individual good, but for the good of the Armenian people and the Armenian homeland. Grant them strength and perseverance to continue on their mission despite any roadblocks they may arise, and grant them hope in times of despair.

Bless this evening's honorees, all of whom share the ideals and vision of the ANC and who tirelessly lend their support to the fulfillment of the noble mission of this organization. Bless also this gathering of staunch supporters who year after year demonstrate their devotion to the ANC and our cause through their participation and contributions.

We thank You for Your blessings, Your boundless love, care, and protection, and ask You to guide and illuminate our path as we continue to work collectively for the progress of the United States of America and of the Armenian nation.

And now, let us enjoy this evening and the food which the Lord has provided for us.

Blessed be the Lord for His gifts. Amen.

Archbishop Moushegh Mardirossian  
Prelate, Western United States

November 8, 2009