



Contact:

Atineh Haroutunian
(818) 388-3136
Atineh@yahoo.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 6, 2006



First-ever Glendale Friendship Games a Success!

GLENDALE, California – First-ever Glendale Friendship Games on September 23rd and 24th at Glendale High School. The games were created to foster new friendships and promote unity within Glendale’s diverse community – and they did just that! The event brought in over 500 aspiring athletes from different backgrounds, organizations in Glendale to compete in six different sports tournaments.

Diverse youths ages 10 and above and club teams took part in the soccer (including Glendale Stars, CV Club and AYSO), volleyball (Cougar Hunters, Lady panthers) , chess, tennis, table tennis and swimming competitions organized by Homenetmen Glendale Ararat Chapter. The Glendale First Responders, a soccer team comprised of members of the Glendale Police and Fire departments were also on hand to show-off their athletic skills.

During two days of the competitions, over 2000 Glendale residents enjoyed the tournaments, the live multicultural entertainment including mariachi, salsa and Armenian music, the food, carnival games and the festivities at the Glendale High School courtyard as the games were drawing to a close.

In the evening of Sunday, September 23rd, a friendly competitive basketball game was played between City of Glendale Directors, Glendale School District leaders and Ararat Chapter leaders. Glendale City Council members Rafi Manoukian and Bob Yousefian, Parks & Recreation Director George Chapjian, School Board Member Greg Krikorian and Director of Administrative Services Bob Franz competed against Ararat chapter’s former athletes.

(more)

2-2-2-2

Friendship Games Success

The closing ceremonies in the evening of September 24th brought in over 600 Glendale residents including Council members Ara Najarian, Raffi Manoukian, Glendale Chief of Police Randy Adams and City Clerk Ardy Kassakhian. The flag ceremony was performed by Ararat Chapter scouts followed by performances by Glendale High School Choir and Drill team, Ararat's rhythmic gymnastic and martial arts teams.

Armen Abrahamian, chairman of the Homenetmen Glendale Ararat Chapter in his remarks thanked the major sponsors, the Glendale City Council, Glendale Unified School District, Glendale High School, various local TV stations, the organizing committees and all the athletes and the volunteers for their participation and support. "Ararat Chapter hopes to have the continued support of the community to be able to host the Glendale Friendship Games every year to promote unity and to bring together different athletic organizations and clubs together in the spirit of friendly competition and sportsmanship," stated Abrahamian.

The closing ceremonies concluded with awarding medals to first place teams and individual athletes and by awarding recognition plaques to major sponsors (Wells Fargo Bank, Glendale News Press, Charter Communications, Xerox), participating organizations and volunteers.

For the competition results and photos, visit www.ararat.org

###

The Armenian General Athletic Union and Scouts, referred to as Homenetmen, is a non-profit organization founded in 1918. As a strong believer in the strong mind in a strong body concept, Homenetmen provides the Armenian American youth with moral, physical and social education. In addition, it exposes the youth to the wealth of the Armenian culture and heritage, prepared outstanding and law abiding Armenian American Citizens. **The Glendale Ararat Chapter** is the largest chapter in the United States, with nearly 2,300 members.