

The Idik Aghakhanian Memorial Scholarship

1941-2023

Idik Aghakhanian was born to Sarsel and Satenik Aghakhanian on April 4, 1941, in the city of Azna, in Iran's Arak region. Idik was the eldest son in a family of nine siblings. Growing up, he assumed a significant role as the elder brother in his family, marking his lifelong journey of responsibility, leadership, and a deep sense of care for his younger siblings.

From a young age, he showed remarkable academic promise and a thirst for knowledge. That is why he was sent to Tehran's Kooshesh Armenian School, where he graduated in 1960, then continued his academic journey, graduating with an accounting degree from Tehran's Accounting Institute, becoming the first in his family to earn a degree in higher education.

After earning his degree, he started to work as an accountant for the Coca-Cola Corporation. After a brief period, he was promoted to head of accounting.

In 1963, he met and married his wife, Haykoohi Keshishian. They had two children together: a daughter, Nora, and a son, Armond.

After the birth of his daughter Nora, Idik decided to return to school to provide a better life for his family. He was accepted into the Industrial Accounting program at Tehran University. Idik's pursuit of higher education was difficult, as he had to provide for his family by working long hours and attending school. He would drop Nora off at kindergarten and head to university. This became their daily routine until he graduated.

After graduating from Tehran University, he moved with his family to the city of Khorramshahr and worked as the Chief Financial Officer at Khorramshahr's Coca-Cola factory. He lived in Khorramshahr for eight years, becoming an active participant in the Armenian community and playing a key role in establishing the Armenian School of Khorramshahr. He was also a big supporter of Abadan Armenian School and the Armenian Church of Surp Karapet.

As the Iran-Iraq War began, Idik moved his family to Tehran. Facing the realities of war and wanting the best for his family, Idik decided to move to Germany as a refugee, joining his wife and son Armond and leaving everything he had worked so hard for. After a one-and-a-half-year stop in Germany, in 1987, Idik, Haykoohi, and Armond moved to the United States and reunited with Nora in Glendale, California. Idik continued to work hard as an accountant for Western Waste Company to support his family in the United States.

His encyclopedic knowledge wasn't just about facts and figures; it reflected his deep love for understanding the world. Whether it was business, science, literature, history, or any other subject, Idik approached each topic with a sense of wonder and a desire to explore its nuances. His intellectual pursuits enriched not only his life but also the lives of those fortunate enough to engage in discussions with him. Idik carried the lessons of his early responsibilities into his

personal and professional endeavors, demonstrating a strong work ethic, determination, and the ability to take on leadership roles gracefully and confidently. His sense of responsibility shaped him into a reliable and dependable individual within his family, friends, and community. His love extended well beyond his immediate family. His large circle of friends was a testament to his warm and welcoming personality. He had a unique ability to forge strong, lifelong bonds with people from all walks of life. His friends and family knew they could count on him for advice and unwavering support.

After a long period of illness, Idik Aghakhanian passed away on December 25, 2023, in Glendale, California. He is survived by his wife, Haykoohi, two children, and grandchildren, Monteh and Arameh.