

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

September 9, 2014

As the local governing body of the vast majority of the unincorporated Santa Monica Mountains, including Peak 2049 (34° 4' 19" N, 118° 43' 22" W), the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors should strongly and enthusiastically urge the U.S. Board on Geographic Names to name Peak 2049 as "McAuley Peak" in honor of author, conservationist, and trailblazer Milt McAuley.

McAuley was a singular leader in the effort to preserve the Santa Mountains and make this spectacular region readily accessible to hundreds of thousands of members of the public every year. Of particular note, McAuley was one of a small group of hikers who helped plot the route of the Backbone Trail, a 60-mile ridgeline path that allows travelers to hike or ride from the western end of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to Will Rogers State Historic Park in the east. Beyond his work in planning this flagship Santa Monica Mountains trail, McAuley invited thousands of visitors to enjoy the entirety of the region through his groundbreaking guidebooks, which include *Hiking Trails of the Santa Monica Mountains*, *Wildflowers of the Santa Monica Mountains*, and *Guide to the Backbone Trail*.

McAuley's books and literal trailblazing did more than simply invite visitors to the Santa Monica Mountains. McAuley helped further a public movement to protect the

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Santa Monica Mountains that culminated in the formation of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area and the permanent preservation of tens of thousands of acres of public open space. Without the public appreciation of these Mountains that was generated by the efforts of McAuley and others like him, the public would not have been willing to fight for, and invest in, the public acquisition and protection of this portion of the Santa Monica Mountains. In short, McAuley's contributions to the preservation of the environs including Peak 2049 should be recognized and honored by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names.

Moreover, Peak 2049, which is located along the Backbone Trail, is a particularly appropriate place to be named in McAuley's honor. The sandstone rock at the top of Peak 2049 makes this geographic landmark identifiable from many miles away, and it acts as a prominent destination for hikers of a variety of ages and abilities. In addition, McAuley personally visited Peak 2049 and specifically described a hike to its summit in *Hiking Trails of the Santa Monica Mountains*. As a result, Peak 2049 is commonly called McAuley Peak by notable hiking authorities including peakbagger.com and the Sierra Club's Lower Peaks Committee.

In honor of his extraordinary contributions to the public's appreciation of the great outdoors and to the conservation of the Santa Monica Mountains, as well as Milt McAuley's personal connection to Peak 2049, the U.S. Board on Geographic Names should name Peak 2049 as "McAuley Peak."

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors send a 5-signature letter urging the U.S. Board on Geographic Names to honor Milt McAuley by formally naming Santa Monica Mountains Peak 2049 (34° 4' 19" N, 118° 43' 22" W) as "McAuley Peak."