

IN RECOGNITION OF REGINALD
SIMMS

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 17, 2017

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend my constituent, Reginald "Reggie" Simms, on his exhibit in the Purcellville Art Council's Black History Month Celebration, located at the historic Purcellville Train Station. Mr. Simms, now retired, dedicated his career to the arts, while also maintaining a deep love for African American history, and is deserving of this unique recognition.

As a child and teenager, Mr. Simms attended Carver Elementary School in Arlington, Virginia and Douglas High School in Leesburg, Virginia, both historic African American schools in Northern Virginia. During his youth, segregation prevented him from using public libraries and local resources, but he was able to obtain copies of National Geographic magazines. These magazines created a new lens through which Mr. Simms understood and viewed the world around him and also sparked his interest in art—specifically photo realism.

After attending the National Art School in Washington, D.C., he entered the Air Force at the age of 21 where he was stationed in Korea. After his time in the Air Force, Mr. Simms moved to New York where he took classes at Newark Fine Industrial Arts and also worked for a slew of graphic design and silkscreen companies. Finally, it was a position in the graphics department of the Washington Metro that brought Mr. Simms and his wife, Marion, back to Loudoun County, and he has lived at his home in Purcellville, Virginia ever since.

It is important to note that throughout his illustrious career, Mr. Simms never lost sight of his love for art or appreciation for history. At his home, his finished basement, which doubles as his studio, is filled with water color paintings, oil paintings, sculptures, refurbished toys, and more, which he has painted, sculpted, and collected for years. Last month's exhibit was a compilation of his artistic works, books, and memorabilia which he and his brother, Larry, have obtained over the years. To this day, Mr. Simms enjoys painting his favorite National Geographic covers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding Reginald Simms for his impressive career, dedication to the African American community, and his most recent exhibit in Purcellville, Virginia. I wish him, his wife, Marion, and their family the best in all of their future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF STANLEY
WALESKI, RECIPIENT OF THE
GREATER PITTSTON FRIENDLY
SONS OF SAINT PATRICK 2017
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 17, 2017

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Stanley Waleski, who will re-

ceive the 2017 Achievement Award from the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick. Stan will be honored by the Friendly Sons during the 103rd annual dinner on March 17.

Stan is a former educator in the Pittston Area School District. He served as a teacher, coach, and principal for over 35 years, retiring in 2012. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from East Stroudsburg University with a teaching certification in Health and Physical Education. Stan received a Masters of Arts degree from Marywood University with certifications in Elementary Education, Elementary and Secondary School Administration, and a Superintendent's Letter of Intent. While attending Scranton Preparatory School, Stan was an outstanding athlete and a member of the 1973 PCIAA state champion basketball team.

For 51 years, Stan has been an active member of the Avoca Jolly Boys, a civic and community service organization, serving on its board of directors and at one time as president. The organization provides the community with athletic programs for youth and adults, as well as social events and picnics. The Jolly Boys sponsor the popular Avoca Basketball League, which Stan has served as the director of for the past 22 years. The league plays annually with over 450 players and 75 coaching volunteers.

It is an honor to recognize Stanley Waleski for his lifelong service to the Pittston community, and I congratulate him for receiving the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick Achievement Award. I am grateful for his contributions to his community, and I wish him continued success in the future.

RUTH WATERS, IN RECOGNITION
OF 40 YEARS OF SERVICE TO
THE ARTS IN SAN MATEO COUN-
TY

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 17, 2017

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ruth Waters, a remarkable artist and arts activist who has been sculpting for six decades and supporting the arts on the San Francisco Peninsula for four decades. This week, Ruth will be honored by her peers and the institution that she leads will celebrate its fourth year at its present location in Burlingame, offering art and artist studies to the community.

I first met Ruth in the 1980s when I served on the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors and when Ruth was the founder and director of the Twin Pines Art Center in Belmont. Her passion for the arts and promoting public art in particular, led me to create a County Arts Task Force. Ruth's passion continues to this very day. She is a prolific artist and has exhibited solo in at least 25 exhibits and at dozens of regional and national juried shows.

In addition to being a talented sculptor and arts advocate, Ruth is an amazing administrator and organizer. She founded the Peninsula Museum of Art in 2004 and serves as its Executive Director. The museum moved to its current location in Burlingame in 2013. The museum's mission is to enhance the region and enrich lives through art and education. It offers five exhibition galleries, an art reference

library, gift shop, and working studios for 30 professional-level artists. The inclusion of the artist studios in the space is a deliberate effort to bridge the gap between the creative community, professional artists and the community at large.

The current museum grew from the Twin Pines Art Center, which operated from 1977 to 1985 in Belmont. During this time, Ruth was also the co-founder and president of the Peninsula Sculptors' Guild, and she co-founded and served on the board of the Peninsula Arts Council from 1992 to 2008.

The accomplishments of Ruth Waters have been recognized on many occasions, including but not limited to the President's Award from the National Conference of the Women's Caucus for Art, and through her listings in the Dictionary of International Biography, Who's Who in Art, Architecture and Design, and the International Who's Who of Professional & Business Women.

Mr. Speaker, it is a rare person who personifies a profession that itself lends beauty to this world. Ruth personifies the world of art and sculpting, and we are fortunate to have the beauty that she continues to create around us. We should all be grateful for her leadership in promoting the arts and art appreciation. Beauty can neither be denied nor muzzled, and in Ruth Water's work we see beauty abound while a passionate voice for the arts proclaims its presence in service to us all.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF
PHILIP T. KALAYIL

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 17, 2017

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and many accomplishments of Philip T. Kalayil, a leader in Chicago and in the Indian-American community.

Mr. Kalayil lived a life of purpose, spent enriching the lives of those he met and those he served. We in Chicago are indeed fortunate that he settled here, coming from his state of Kerala in India to pursue his studies at Loyola University and staying to promote diversity, opportunity and understanding.

Philip Kalayil was always a scholar, earning a double master's in sociology and industrial relations and receiving the Heart of Asian American Community Award from the Association for Asian American Studies in 2008. His research helped him understand the disparities and discrimination facing members of the Asian American community, and it led him to a lifetime of work to tear down barriers so others could also succeed. He was a scholar with a vision and he put that vision to use to improve our entire community.

His career was multifaceted. He was a social worker for Catholic Charities. He served as Assistant Director of Emergency Services at the Department of Human Services.

Mr. Kalayil was also an outstanding and passionate advocate. Among the many organizations he helped build and foster are the Indian Catholic Association of America, the Asian Forum, and the Indo-American Democratic Organization (IADO). Each was designed to help members of the Indian-American and the greater Asian-American community not just thrive individually but become active participants in the broader society.