EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HON. TOM LANTOS
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, Arthur Szyk is considered by many scholars to be the greatest illuminator who worked in the twentieth century in the style of sixteenth-century miniaturist painters. The Times of London described his Haggadah as "worthy to be placed among the most beautiful of books that the hand of man has produced." He is indeed one of the most remarkable and talented artists of this century. Arthur Szyk's works on George Washington and the American Revolution hung in the White House during the administration of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and these works are now on display at the Roosevelt Presidential Library at Hyde Park, New York. In recognition of his talent and commitment, the U.S. Congress presented Arthur Szyk the George Washington Bicentennial Medal in 1934.

Mr. Speaker, Arthur Szyk was not just an artist, he was an artist with a point of view, and he used his art to speak out for freedom and democratic values. He was the leading political artist in America during World War II, and he wielded his pen and his brush as a sword in the fight against Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan. During the war, his caricatures and cartoons appeared on the front covers of many of America's leading magazines—Colliers, Esquire, Time—where his graphic political editorials and brilliant parodies lampooned the Nazi and Axis leaders. His art seethed with mockery and scorn for the Fascist dictators. First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt called Szyk a "one-man army against Hitler." As Szyk himself said, "Art is not my aim, it is my means."

In addition to his art advancing the fight against Germany and Japan, he used his art to attack racism, bigotry and inhumanity at all levels. He sought to close the gaps between Blacks and Whites, between Jews and non-Jews. He defended the rights of the soldier, and he expressed sympathy and compassion for the victims and refugees of war-torn Europe.

Mr. Speaker, Arthur Szyk was born in Lodz Poland in 1894. He came to the United States in 1940 sent here by the Polish government-in-exile and by the government of Great Britain with a mission to bring the face of the war in Europe to the American public. That he did with great skill and vision. He remained in the United States, became an American citizen, and died in New York City in 1951.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to call the attention of my colleagues to an excellent exhibit of the work of Arthur Szyk which will open in just a few days. The exhibit "Arthur Szyk: Artist for Freedom" will be on display in the Swann Gallery of the Jefferson Building of the Library of Congress from December 9, 1999 through May 6, 2000. I urge my colleagues to visit this exhibit and remember the man who has left us today.

TRIBUTE TO RALPH "POP" STRICKLIN

HON. MARION BERRY
OF ARKANSAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a true friend and truly great Arkansan, Ralph "Pop" Stricklin.

Pop, who celebrated his 80th birthday last month, has helped make Jonesboro, Arkansas, the great place that it is today. When he wasn't working in the electric and refrigeration business, a career he began in 1936, Pop served his country and his community in so many ways. He served his country in the U.S. Army from 1941–46. For 36 years, he served as the Alderman of Jonesboro, working under five mayors. He also worked with the Fair Board for 15 years and was a valued and faithful employee to Arkansas State University for 20 years.

Pop is a VFW life member, DAV life member, a member of the American Legion; the Boy Scouts; Salvation Army Board; the Elks; Kiwanis, where he has had 36 years of perfect attendance; a board member of the First Methodist Church; and a member of the Jaycees "Old Rooster, after 35 age group," to name a few. He has also served on several committees including the police, street, parks, fire, cemetery, animal control, planning and inspection, electrical examining board, and other committees where he made a difference and always contributed to the city of Jonesboro and the state of Arkansas. Pop has received the key to the city of Jonesboro and has a day named after him because of his work.

He has also worked to improve the lives of young people as an active member of the male-youth organization Order of DeMolays, where he was "State DeMolay Dad," or "Pop" as we now call him.