

Takeda, Michi

From: Nina Chomsky <nrchomsky@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 10:24 AM
To: Takeda, Michi
Subject: Historic Preservation Commission; Meeting 10/19/2021; Agenda Item 4A, Landmark Status -- 801 S. San Rafael Ave.

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Nina Chomsky
Pasadena, CA

Historic Preservation Commission

Re: Meeting 10/19/2021; Agenda Item 4A, Landmark Status -- 801 S. San Rafael Ave.

Chair Mueller and Commissioners,

I am writing in my individual capacity to **SUPPORT** the Staff Recommendation to approve recommending Landmark status designation to the City Council for the residence at 801 S. San Rafael Ave., the home of John Van de Kamp.

The evidence submitted to the Commission is overwhelming: The house at 801 South San Rafael Avenue meets Criterion "B" for designation as a landmark pursuant to Pasadena Municipal Code because it is associated with the life of a person who is significant in the history of the City.

Like so many others in Pasadena, I admired John Van de Kamp's political, professional and community achievements and accomplishments. Further, he achieved so much significance in the history of Pasadena while being a person of great character and quiet, effective leadership.

I was pleased to see that John Van de Kamp's efforts and support for the Memorial to Jackie Robinson and his brother Mack that sits in the gardens across from City Hall, including raising funds to complete and install the Memorial, is noted in the Record -- a Pasadena accomplishment that may not be that well known. The Memorial is a work of art that is more than just "busts" -- it is a thoughtful, historically based and complex representation of the brothers and their place in both Pasadena and American history. The Memorial is worth a first or another visit to sit and contemplate the setting and meaning of the entire installation.

The only time I ever spoke privately to John Van de Kamp was in connection with the Memorial. He spoke at a community event to raise support for preserving the setting of the Memorial from impacts of proposed large development between the YWCA and City Hall. We happened to leave at the same time and walked together to our parked cars. On the way, he further discussed with me and clarified for me his commitment to the Memorial and its meaning to him and to the City. I remember his inspirational comments that day very clearly. He died shortly thereafter.

Based on the whole Record before you, I urge you again to support the Staff Recommendation to approve recommending Landmark status designation to the City Council for the residence at 801 S. San Rafael Ave., the home of John Van de Kamp, on the basis that the house meets Criterion "B" for designation.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Nina Chomsky