

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Audrey L. Simmons Pillar of Service Award to Honor Legacy of Community Service

Owings Mills, MD — October 19, 2025 — The Hubert V. Simmons Museum of Negro Leagues Baseball, Inc. (SMNLB) is proud to announce the **Inaugural Audrey L. Simmons Pillar of Service Award**, an honor recognizing outstanding community leadership and service. The event will be held on **Sunday, October 19, 2025, from 1:30 PM – 4:30 PM** at the **Marriott Owings Mills Metro Centre, 10101 Grand Central Avenue, Owings Mills, MD 21117**.

This year's award will be presented **posthumously to Mrs. Audrey Lorraine Simmons (October 19, 1931 – January 21, 2025)**, one of the museum's beloved founders. Audrey Simmons, who passed away earlier this year at the age of 93, will be celebrated for her lifelong service to the community and her enduring contributions to preserving African American history and culture.

The program will feature an **elegant luncheon, distinguished speakers, heartfelt presentations, and live musical entertainment**. Mrs. Simmons' love of jazz will be honored with a special performance by **Jumpstreet**, with additional entertainment and an emcee to be announced.

A Legacy of Vision and Service

The **Hubert V. Simmons Museum of Negro Leagues Baseball (SMNLB)** was founded on **June 28, 2008**, when former Negro Leagues player **Hubert V. "Bert" Simmons**, his wife **Audrey L. Simmons**, and their friend **Rayner "Ray" Banks** gathered to begin building what would become a living tribute to the Negro Leagues and their players.

In **November 2013**, Baltimore County Executive **Kevin Kamenetz** announced that the Museum would have a permanent home at the **Owings Mills Metro Centre Complex**, alongside the Baltimore County Public Library and the Community College of Baltimore County. A grand opening followed in Spring 2014, cementing the Museum as a vital cultural and educational institution.

The Simmons Museum continues to collect, preserve, and display artifacts, photographs, oral histories, and memorabilia, ensuring that the legacy of the Negro Leagues lives on for future generations. Its programs emphasize **youth engagement, character development, and the principles of good sportsmanship**—values embodied by both Hubert and Audrey Simmons.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Hubert V. Simmons Museum of Negro Leagues Baseball is to create, highlight, and maintain space that preserves and perpetuates the legacies of African American baseball players as they pursued their rightful place in the realm of sports despite social barriers.

Vision Statement

The vision of the Simmons Museum is to educate and enhance understanding of the richness of African American history through the examples set by Negro Leagues baseball players, instilling self-discipline, high moral standards, and a love of the game for generations to come.

Event Details

Event: Inaugural Audrey L. Simmons Pillar of Service Award and Elegant Luncheon

Date & Time: Sunday, October 19, 2025 | 1:30 PM – 4:30 PM (doors open at 1:15 PM)

Location: Marriott Owings Mills Metro Centre, 10101 Grand Central Avenue, Owings Mills, MD 21117

Tickets: \$80 per person

Entertainment: Jumpstreet (jazz ensemble) | Emcee to be announced

Call to Action

Community members, historians, and supporters are invited to join this meaningful celebration, honoring the remarkable life and legacy of **Audrey L. Simmons** while recognizing the importance of preserving African American sports history.

For tickets, sponsorship opportunities, or additional information, please contact the Simmons Museum of Negro Leagues Baseball:

EventsTours@smnlbinc.org | www.smnlbnc.org/Events

Event Contact:

Ms. Iva Ambush

SMNLB Award Event Coordinator

Hubert V. Simmons Museum of Negro Leagues Baseball, Inc.

(301)-222-3956 | EventsTours@smnlbinc.org | www.smnlbnc.org/Events