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Heywood Waga Honored with NCRA 2018 Distinguished Service Award *Retired Court Reporter from Montclair, N.J., Becomes 57th to Earn National Award*

RESTON, Va., Aug. 3, 2018—The National Court Reporters Association (NCRA), the country's leading organization representing stenographic court reporters, captioners, and legal videographers, today bestowed its highest honor, the 2018 Distinguished Service Award (DSA), on Heywood Waga, a retired court reporter from Montclair, N.J. Waga was honored at a special awards ceremony held at NCRA's annual Convention & Expo taking place Aug. 2-5, in New Orleans, La..

The NCRA DSA recognizes the distinguished work and service by an individual member for the benefit of the court reporting profession, including service to NCRA as a member, a committee member, a director, or an officer of the association. Other displays of distinguished work include contributing to the *JCR*, or service at the state or local court reporters association, or in the field of public relations or public affairs. Award winners are nominated by their peers and are recognized at NCRA's Convention & Expo.

Waga, who holds the nationally recognized professional certifications of Registered Merit Reporter (RMR) and Certified Realtime Reporter (CRR), is also a Fellow of the Academy of Professional Reporters (FAPR).

From 1967 to 1998, Waga was a principal partner of Waga and Spinelli with offices in North New Jersey and New York. From 1973 to 1987, he served as the official court reporter to the International Energy Agency in Paris, France.

Among Waga's most notable reporting assignments have been covering a full cabinet meeting with former U.S. President Gerald R. Ford, the Curtis-Wright v. General Electric four-year nuclear submarine case, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission station applications in Indian Point, N.Y., and annual stockholder meetings for Exxon, Mobil, Texaco, ITT, and CBS. He has also provided realtime for the Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf, the Lexington School for the Deaf, the New Jersey Governor's Advisory Council on Deafness, and many other organizations and groups. He also served as a vice president of Veritext Corp, a national court reporting company.

Over the course of his reporting career, Waga has held assignments in 40 U.S. states, as well as in Australia, Canada, England, France, Germany, Greece, Holland, Italy, Japan, Puerto Rico, and St. Croix.



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He is also author of the “Gear Principle” about a unique speed-building concept, and serves as a director of Camp Snowflake-Camp Sunshine, a year-round camp for multiply disabled children.

Active at the national level, Waga is a past president of NCRA and has served on a number of the Association’s committees including the Professional Ethics, Legislative Task Force, Editorial, Nominating, Resolutions for the National Committee on State Associations, Membership, Executive Director Search, Headquarters Library Construction, Speed, and many more. He also served on NCRA’s Board of Directors from 1978 to 1981 and again from 1988 to 1989.

At the state level, Waga is a past president of the Certified Shorthand Reporters Association of New Jersey (CSRA) and served in every leadership position. He also served as editor of the Association’s state publication and served on numerous committees charged with fighting electronic recording in the New Jersey court system. He has also presented numerous times at the state convention, and is a recipient of CSRA’s Man of the Year Award.

While actively reporting, he also placed high in a number of national and state speed contests which are graded on speed and accuracy of reporting and transcribing spoken materials, including earning first place in the Garden State Speed Contest, second place in the New Jersey Open Competition, and placing in 10 NCRA annual speed contests.

Waga has been married to his wife, Marilyn, since 1963. They have two daughters and four grandchildren.

Career information about the court reporting profession—one of the leading career options that do not require a traditional four-year degree—can be found at NCRA.org. To learn more about the court reporting and captioning professions, read fun facts, see videos, and find out about educational opportunities, visit NCRA DiscoverSteno.org.

About NCRA

The National Court Reporters Association (NCRA) is internationally recognized for promoting excellence among those who capture and convert the spoken word to text for more than 100 years. NCRA is committed to supporting its more than 15,000 members in achieving the highest level of professional expertise with educational opportunities and industry-recognized court reporting, educator and videographer certification programs. NCRA impacts legislative issues and the global marketplace through its actively involved membership. Forbes has named court reporting as one of the best career options that do not require a traditional four-year degree and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that the court reporting field is expected to grow by 14 percent through the year 2020. For more information, visit NCRA.org.