

## TRIBUTE TO LAURA SMART

**HON. JAY DICKEY**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 10, 1999*

Mr. DICKEY. Mr. Speaker, back in 1997 I attended a Little League event and heard an opening prayer that was remarkable. It was given by Laura Smart of Pine Bluff, Arkansas, my hometown. She and her husband, Lee, were the parents of one of the players. The prayer has become even more remarkable since so much attention has been given across the nation to schoolchildren and their relationship with their parents. I would like to share this prayer with the rest of the nation by placing it in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Dear Lord,

Shine your Heavenly Light on us here tonight at this happy event celebrating our American League players, our coaches and our parents. Guide us in learning from thoughts and memories of years passed that will be shared through our speakers in these times of laughter and sadness, excitements and disappointments, and wins or losses. Only you, Lord, can help all of us to focus and prioritize your teachings in the real games of life knowing that Love for the children must remain. Bless us as we depart this event to bring a stronger light to others and to brighten the future by learning from mistakes, celebrating the greatness of good times, but using both as a ministry to all people and in your Honor, your Glory, and in your Name. We are so blessed to be able to watch our players run with two legs, hit with two arms, catch with two eyes and hear with two ears. For God's sakes make us realize when our own priorities get away from us that not all children can be on teams to have a chance to physically and mentally play. We are so blessed Dear God—in God's name we pray.—Written by Laura Smart, 1997.

## THE CALUMET PROJECT

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 10, 1999*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to announce that the Calumet Project will be hosting its 9th Annual Job and Justice Awards Banquet on Friday, November 19, 1999, at the Social Hall of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Hammond, Indiana. The Calumet Project is a 15-year-old grassroots, labor-community-religious coalition that works for economic and social justice in Northwest Indiana. Each year, the Calumet Project honors prominent, extraordinary residents of Northwest Indiana for their tireless work to educate and organize people to fight for the betterment of all our lives. This year, four outstanding citizens from Northwest Indiana will be honored for their dedication to justice, and for their commitment to the people of Northwest Indiana.

One of this year's Calumet Community Hero Award recipients is Tom Conway. Mr. Conway is being honored for his dedication and contributions to the labor community. During the last year, he has been responsible for directing the United Steel Workers of America's (USWA) field campaign in the recent "Stand

Up for Steel" efforts aimed at the steel imports which continue to be a source of concern to the USWA.

Additionally, Carlotta King and Jose Bustos will receive the Calumet Community Hero Award for their organizing efforts in their respective communities, Hammond and East Chicago. Ms. King's passion and focus has been to improve the quality of life for children. She is the board president of the Bethany Child Care and Development Center, and president of the board of V.A.U.L.E.S., a group that mentors African-American males. Ms. King also serves as a Redevelopment Commissioner for the City of Hammond. She is a strong advocate for community participation in the redevelopment of brownfield sites. Mr. Bustos has devoted much of his life to helping the people of East Chicago. He and his wife Eva started the group, "The Youth Conqueror," which was responsible for bringing attention to how the increase in gang activity and violence was threatening the community's young people. Additionally, they started the Cesar Chavez Catholic Workers Community House. The community house has assisted many young individuals in different areas of their lives. Mr. Bustos has also been active in organizing a Christmas dinner for the needy, organizing a student walkout to protest against a toxic waste dump, and the protest against Napalm.

Reverend Michelle Cobb will also be receiving the Calumet Community Hero Award for her religious work in the community. Reverend Cobb is a native of Gary, Indiana. She has served as the pastor of the Marquette Park United Methodist Church in Gary, Indiana, and is currently senior pastor of the Merrillville United Methodist Church in Merrillville, Indiana. Cobb is a member of the NAACP, the Merrillville Kiwanis Club, and the Black Methodist for Church Renewal. She also serves on the Northwest Indiana Worker's Rights Board.

This year's Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, Reverend Dr. Robert Lowery, is one of the most dedicated citizens of Northwest Indiana. Dr. Lowery is the minister at St. Timothy Community Church in Gary, Indiana, and has spent nearly half a century providing leadership on economic and social justice issues. Dr. Lowery serves on the executive board for several organizations, including: the Northwest Indiana Urban League, the Calumet Council Boy Scouts of America, the Lake County Mental Health Association, and the Referral and Emergency Service.

State Senator Frank Mrvan will be presented with the One of Our Own Award for his support of workers' rights. Senator Mrvan has been a state legislator for more than 16 years and a member of the Hammond City Council for 10 years. He is a member and serves on the board of directors for the Hammond Chamber of Commerce, the Urban Enterprise Association, and the Hammond Development Corporation.

Christine Walters will receive the Special Recognition Award for her active role as a Calumet Project Board member and her leadership in economic and social justice actions. Walters joined the Calumet Project Board in 1994 and became a member of the Northwest Indiana Brownfield Redevelopment Project (NIBRP). NIBRP is an organization designed to promote the clean-up of polluted urban sites and to return these sites to productive use, while bringing increased tax revenue to our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating these fine individuals for their dedication to justice and for their commitment to the people of Northwest Indiana.

COMMENDING EUNICE WALLER ON RECEIVING THE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FROM THE NAACP OF CONNECTICUT

**HON. SAM GEJDENSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 10, 1999*

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Eunice Waller upon receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award from the NAACP of Connecticut. Eunice Waller is an extraordinary American who has dedicated her life to educating young people and improving race relations.

Ms. Waller has spent the better part of the past thirty years serving citizens in Waterford and New London, CT. She was a teacher at the Clark Lane Middle School for 26 years working to ensure that thousands of young people received the best possible education. She served as a member of the board of education and city council in New London as well as mayor of the city.

Eunice Waller has devoted her life to expanding opportunity for all citizens of southeastern Connecticut. She has played a guiding role in the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Trust Fund. The fund provides scholarships to help minority students to attend college. Thanks to her efforts, the gates to our nation's colleges have been opened to deserving students regardless of income.

Mr. Speaker, I have included an editorial from the New London Day which eloquently describes Eunice Waller's many contributions to improving the lives of citizens across southeastern Connecticut. I commend her for her service and join the NAACP in honoring her life's work.

[From the New London Day, Nov. 2, 1999]

EUNICE M. WALLER'S SERVICE

Eunice M. Waller, a Waterford teacher for 26 years, served on the New London Board of Education and City Council and has been mayor of the city, but her greatest achievements as an involved citizen have been her encouragement of children to improve their lives and adults to get involved in their communities. She has been especially effective working with minority citizens.

All people, young and adult, need encouragement or an exhortation to work hard and achieve goals. Those remarks remind people—often during periods that seem discouraging—to press forward and get beyond the problem of the moment.

Eunice Waller has helped countless people with those simple acts of kindness. She has also served as a conscience for people who interacted with her. Leadership by example matters because it signals others that the words coming out of a person's mouth are not rhetoric, but rather a reflection of the earnest efforts that person is making every day in life. Eunice Waller has led by example.

Her public life has served to complement her other activities, such as her 20 years of service to the Mitchell College board and her founding role in the National Council of Negro Women. Countless young people remember her best for the guidance and assertiveness she has given the Dr. Martin Luther