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Urban League

Honors

Kat Crosby

Charlotte-Mecklenburg educator Kat Crosby has been named the first woman recipient of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Urban League's Community Service Award.

Crosby, who retires at the end of this school year after a 40-year career in education, will be presented the prestigious award at the Urban League's Fourth Annual Equal Opportunity Day Awards Dinner on January 9 at the Marriott Hotel in Uptown Charlotte.

The theme for the Awards Dinner is "Working Together to Make A Difference," and the presentation is made to persons making outstanding contributions to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg community in employment, housing, health, education, and human services. Crosby is being cited for her years of service in education.

After her graduation from Johnson C. Smith University, Crosby began teaching in the local school system. Her outstanding career included a principalship of an elementary school and concludes with the post of Area Superintendent for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools.

"Kat's selection for this award ironically comes at the same time that the Urban League has its first woman as its chairman of the Board of directors and has its first woman as its president and chief executive officer," notes Bettye Harris, the board chairman. "But regardless of those facts, Kat Crosby deserves the recognition for her years of service and I am proud to be a part of the effort to honor her," adds Harris.

The League recently named Nadine Falls as its president and CEO, making her the first woman to hold that post in the League's seven-year history.

Previous recipients of the Community Service Award were:

-The late Senator Fred D. Alexander (1983), a political and civil rights leader; first black elected to Charlotte City Council and to the State Senate in this century.

-John Crawford (1984), director of Youth Services for the Charlotte Housing Authority and founder of the Housing Authority Scholarship Fund to aid public housing students' pursuit of a college education.

-Rev. George E. Battle Jr. (1985), pastor of Gethsemane AME Zion Church and member of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education; founder of Youth Enrichment Program for low-income and disadvantaged children in the area around his church community.

Bob Person (1985), retired director of City Manpower and Job Training Program.

Corporations and companies are also cited for their contributions to and support of the Urban League. They have included:

-Harold Hasen for First Union National Bank and David Taylor for Celanese Corporation and Allstate Insurance Co. (1983).

-North Carolina National Bank and First Union National Bank (1984).

-IBM (1985).

The Equal Opportunity Day Award is the League's highest honor. The name of the award recipient is always kept secret until the banquet presentation.

The first two recipients of the Equal Opportunity Day Award were civil rights attorney Julius L. Chambers, formerly of Charlotte and now staff director of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund in New York, and Charlotte Mayor Harvey Gantt.

The Awards Dinner will feature nationally syndicated television talk show hostess Oprah Winfrey, who was nominated for an Oscar for Best Supporting Actress in the movie *Color Purple*.

CHRISTMAS CHEER

FROM ALL OF US
TO EACH OF YOU



Carole Ricks
Hoyle Martin

Tony Brown
James Brooks

Sherman Miller
Abu Hassan
D-G Martin
Calvin Latimore

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Confab Closes

With New Leadership

Washington, DC - The National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL) concluded its 10th Annual Conference recently with the election of a new leadership structure headed by Rep. David P. Richardson Jr. (Pa.) and a series of keynote presentations. NBCSL's retiring president, state Senator Clarence M. Mitchell III (Md.), was named executive director following seven years at the organization's helm.

Having adopted saving the black child as its conference theme, legislators further welcomed the insights of three area experts - D.C. Superintendent of Schools Floretta Dukes McKenzie, University of Maryland basketball coach Bob Wade and former Bullets basketball star Phil Chenir, now with the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Washington.

Throughout the seven-day conference, legislators from across the country, representing 26 million Americans, heard repeated calls for public and legislative expression on the issues adversely affecting black America.

With respect to unemployment, retiring U.S. Rep. Mitchell asserted that blacks have been "strangely silent." "A generation ago, we would have marched in protest of an unemployment rate that is twice the rate of whites," he said. "We have watched as millions of dollars are poured into downtown areas for their renaissance, but there is no renaissance for our children."

Congressman Rangel, who keynoted the opening ceremonies, strongly criticized the Reagan administration's drug prevention efforts which he described as a program "forged with spit and glue." "Noting a failure of such programs to address the central issues related to drug abuse, Rangel suggested that additional funding be targeted to attacks on major drug suppliers and their operatives.

As legislators focused on labor issues, William Wynn, international president of the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union, told the audience that stability of black families is intrinsically linked to the protection of black workers.

"Thousands of American jobs are being sold overseas, or they are being replaced by robots," Wynn explained. Charging that the administration is engaged in a deliberate campaign to devalue the worth of American labor he warned, "Progress

in reviving the economy won't be achieved... by exploitation."

Gov. Babbitt, a rumored presidential contender in 1988, briefs legislators on his recently announced plan for social reform, saying "hands-on involvement" is the key to limiting the dependence of the poor on welfare programs.

"We say a system that failed those who most need it. It fails to go far enough in some cases, and fails to address other problems at all," he said. Babbitt called on states to adopt "flexible" programs which jointly stress job training as well as income maintenance for the poor.

Following a week of free workshops covering a broad range of topics, Youth Congress sessions, a health symposium, a prayer breakfast led by Congressman Fauntroy, and a gala reception hosted by D.C. Mayor Barry, the NBCSL Annual Awards Banquet assumed center stage.

The organization's highest award was presented to Sen. Dan Rostenkowski (Ill.) as "outstanding legislator of the year," and the Clarence M. Mitchell Jr. Civil Rights Award was bestowed upon Randall Robinson of TransAfrica.

NBCSL's conference concluded with Nobel-Women's first annual Black Woman of Courage Brunch honoring Shirley Chisholm and civil rights attorney Juanita Jackson Mitchell. Mitchell, in an emotional acceptance speech, reminded the audience of both the sacrifices and conflicts endured by black women, noting the need for similar

strength and unity today.

Chisholm confided to a cheering audience, "You'll hear more from me in 1988," and in an inspiring address, challenged both legislators and the public to cast aside their differences and self-interests in support of a collective agenda.

TURTLE-TALK



Let us not be too particular; it is better to have old second-hand diamonds than none at all.