



WOMEN'S INSTITUTE FOR A SECURE RETIREMENT

WISER Hero Honorees - 2005

The Honorable Judy Biggert

For her leadership and work on the establishment of the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus

Judy Biggert is a Republican Congresswoman from Illinois, representing the state's 13th district, which is in Chicago. Currently serving her fourth term, she is a member of four committees -- and of seven subcommittees. Earlier this year she became Founder and Co-Chair of the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus, designed to increase public awareness of poor financial literacy rates across the country and to work towards improving those rates. She was the author of a resolution that passed in the House of Representatives designating April as national Financial Literacy Month. Before her election to the U.S. House of Representatives, Ms. Biggert served three terms in the Illinois House of Representatives. Before that she ran a private law practice and raised four children. She has a law degree from Northwestern University.

The Honorable Doris Matsui

For her work on retirement issues and for the work of her late husband, Rep. Bob Matsui

Congresswoman Doris Matsui was elected to the 5th Congressional District of California in 2005, a seat previously held by her husband, the late Representative Bob Matsui. He was a true hero to advocates for the aging, disabled, women's groups, children and the poor and disadvantaged. His intellect and compassion guided him through 26 years in Congress, culminating in a leadership role on Social Security, tax and trade issues. Prior to her election to Congress, Congresswoman Matsui served as a former White House official coordinating relationships between the public and private sectors to support the Clinton Administration's economic and budget priorities. She provided strong, steady leadership and a firm voice to ensure the needs of California were heard in the halls of the White House. Today in Congress Doris Matsui is a champion on retirement issues in her own right. She continues her husband's fight to protect and strengthen Social Security for current retirees, disabled workers, survivors, and future generations of Americans.

Anna Rappaport

For her work as an actuary, mentor and women's advocate

Anna Rappaport is passionate about improving the retirement system in the United States, and particularly concerned about the many women who do not fare well at older ages. She has been a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries for over forty years, and has coauthored three books on demographics, retiree medical issues and retirement in general. She has earned numerous awards and is often quoted in the mainstream news media as an expert on the impact of change on retirement systems and workforce issues. She serves on several Boards of Directors, including the WISER Board of Directors. After 28 years, she retired from Mercer Human Resources consulting in 2004. From 1958-1976 she worked in the life insurance industry. She has an MBA from the University of Chicago and is an outstanding mentor for organizations and individuals thinking through their strategies with regard to retirement benefits.

Marta Sotomayor, Ph.D.

For her work as an expert on aging and as a community activist

Marta Sotomayor has been a leading national voice for decades for improving the lives of Hispanics, particularly elderly Hispanics. She has led national efforts to improve opportunities in the areas of financial security, aging services, housing and health care access. From 1987 to 2003, she served as the President of the National Hispanic Council on Aging, a membership organization consisting of chapters and individual members. Under her leadership, the NHC CoA completed two Section 202 housing developments for the elderly. She is presently providing leadership to the Housing Initiative of the Latino Education Project, a community based non-profit organization located in Corpus Christi, TX. She was recently appointed to the Affordable Housing Committee of the City Council of Corpus Christi, TX. She was a senior policy advisor to the Secretary's Task Force on Minority Health at the National Institutes of Health from 1984 to 1986. She was appointed by President Clinton to the White House Conference on Aging Policy Board and served for two terms as the Vice Chairperson of the State of Maryland's Governors Commission on Hispanic Affairs. She is the recipient of numerous awards in academia and public service.

Maudine R. Cooper

For her leadership as President and CEO of the Greater Washington Urban League

Maudine Cooper is a nationally recognized community activist and civil rights leader who has devoted her career to creating opportunities for those in need of a "hand up"-- in the workplace, business community, and in the areas of housing and education. In 1990, Ms. Cooper took the helm of the Greater Washington Urban League-a 65-year-old nonprofit, community service and civil rights organization. Previously, she served as Chief of Staff for DC Mayor Marion Barry in 1989 and 1990. Ms. Cooper joined the DC Government in September 1983 as Director of the Office of Human Rights. In January 1987, she was appointed to head the Office of Minority Business Opportunity. The two agencies were responsible for enforcing equal opportunity laws in the areas of employment, housing, public accommodations, education, and minority business development. Ms. Cooper received both her undergraduate degree in Business Administration in 1964 and her Juris Doctor in 1971 from Howard University. She is the recipient of numerous awards including McDonald's Black History Maker of Today, the Isaiah Award for the Pursuit of Justice from the Washington Chapter of the American Jewish Committee, the "Skirts in Power" award from the DC Chamber of Commerce's Women in Business Committee and the Sam Lacy Community Service Award from the Washington Afro-American Newspaper.