

Tribute to Adele Hall: 2000 Woman of the Year

Rep. Karen McCarthy

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Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exceptional leader and friend to our Kansas City community and our country. Adele Hall is being honored as the 2000 Woman of the Year by the Central Exchange, an organization of which she is a founding member. Adele Hall has an extensive history of helping children and families in Kansas City and across our Nation. She has shown outstanding dedication as a philanthropist and representative of gender concerns for equality in the workplace and society. Adele Hall is considered by many in Kansas City as a lifelong friend to our community. Her civic pursuits have led her to hold positions in an outstanding number of Kansas City and national philanthropic organizations. She has served as Chair of many boards including Children's Mercy Hospital, the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation, the Partnership for Children, and the former Crippled Children's Nursery School, now Children's Therapeutic Learning Center. Nationally, she has served as a board member for the Trust Fund of the Library of Congress, the George Bush Presidential Library Center, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Salvation Army. Currently, she is serving as Co-Chairman of a \$175 million capital campaign for the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. She is the Vice-Chairman of the United Negro College Fund and the Youth Corps of America. As a founding member of one of Kansas City's most reputable women's organizations, the Central Exchange, she has worked tirelessly to promote the advancement of women in all sectors of society. For the past 20 years the Central Exchange has worked to bring people of diverse backgrounds together to encourage the personal and professional growth of women. Today the Central Exchange boasts nearly 900 members from all over the Kansas City metropolitan area. The astounding membership can be attributed to what members of the Central Exchange value the most, creating opportunities to meet and learn from other women. This is an extremely difficult goal when many women are busy with work and family responsibilities. Adele Hall's various roles and achievements throughout the history of the Central Exchange have demonstrated that she has succeeded in fulfilling her dream of increasing the visibility and effectiveness of Kansas City's women. Adele Hall's personal and professional record exhibits her spirit of commitment to others. Her entire life has exemplified the core values that we all strive for: commitment to the community, to family and to the innate desire to truly make a difference in the lives of others. Her devotion is an example to us all. I am honored to acknowledge Adele Hall for her successful efforts to promote equity and opportunity for women and children. I know that she is joined in receiving this award by her husband, Don, and their entire family. Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Central Exchange 2000 Woman of the Year, Adele Hall.