

Toni Harp

Senator Toni N. Harp was elected last fall to her seventh consecutive term representing the residents of the 10th Senatorial District including western New Haven and northern West Haven. She was reappointed to lead the budget-writing Appropriations Committee for a second consecutive term as Senate chair. Senator Harp will also serve on the influential Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee and on the legislature's Select Committee on Children.

Senator Harp was also appointed Deputy President Pro Tempore to underscore her leadership role in the Senate Chamber.

Senator Harp was recently appointed the Chairperson of the National Conference of State Legislatures' standing committee on Health with responsibility for reviewing policy, coordinating lobbying strategies, and presiding over programs throughout the United States. Her national standing was mirrored closer to home when the American Lung Association of Connecticut presented her with its 2003 Breath of Life Award.

In 2002, Senator Harp was recognized by End Hunger Connecticut! for her effort to redistribute food and get it onto the plates of those who struggle to afford it, and she also received the 2002 Legislative Award from the Connecticut Psychological Association for her leading role in maintaining access to mental/behavioral health services for state residents.

Senator Harp was named Legislator of the Year for 2001 by the American Lung Association of Connecticut for her leadership in the areas of public health and lung health. She is leading the fight against Big Tobacco as an outspoken proponent of an initiative to allow individual municipalities to adopt local smoking ordinances. She also helped start Connecticut's Asthma Action Plan, through which health officials will be able to track asthma in Connecticut's public schools beginning in 2003. She was also recognized by the Connecticut Local Administrators of Social Services (CLASS) for her contributions in that area.

In 2000, Senator Harp received the Distinguished Citizen Award from the Connecticut Psychiatrists Society. She has also been selected by the New Haven County Silver Shields to receive the Dedicated Service Award. The Connecticut Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics presented her with its annual award. She has been named the Woman of the Year Award from the African-American Affairs Commission. She was also named 2000 Family Legislator of the Year by the Connecticut Council of Family Service Agencies for her extraordinary efforts to strengthen families in our state. She received the Clarence Daniel Advocacy Award from the Connecticut AIDS Residents Coalition. Senator Harp received the Women's Advocacy Award from the Connecticut Women's Consortium. And, she was honored by Children in Placement--CT/CASA (CIP) for her contribution to a better life for Connecticut's abused and neglected children.

In 1999, the Connecticut Chapter of the NAACP selected Senator Harp to receive its Clarence Mitchell Political Action Award. In 1999, Senator Harp received the Phoebe Bennett Award from the Connecticut Association of Mental Health Clinics for Children.

In 1998, she was selected by the Council of State Governments for its prestigious Toll Fellowship Program. In 1997, Senator Harp was named Legislator of the Year by the Connecticut

Psychological Association for her work on managed care legislation. In 1996, many groups honored her, including her peers in the Connecticut State Senate in a bi-annual recognition ceremony at the Old State House when she was named "the conscience of the Senate." She was also honored by the U.S. Congress as the 1996 Woman of the Year from Connecticut's Third Congressional District for "her achievements and contributions in public service and the advancement of women's issues."

Senator Harp has twice been honored by the Connecticut State Medical Society, first for her "advocacy on behalf of patients," and most recently with their Legislative Service Award for her record of preserving and enhancing quality medical care.

In 1995, she was awarded citations by the National Association of Social Workers, the Connecticut Association for Human Services, New Haven Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and the New Haven Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Incorporated. She was also honored as one of New Haven Business' 20 Noteworthy Women. Senator Harp received her Bachelor of Arts in English from Roosevelt University in Chicago, Illinois, and a Master of Environmental Design from Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut.

For five years Toni Harp served as the Alderwoman for the Second Ward in New Haven. During her term, she served as President Pro Tempore, Vice Chairwoman of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee, Chairwoman of the Select Committee on Homelessness, a member of the Human Resources Subcommittee on Discrimination and Harmony, and the Public Service and Substance Abuse Committee. On behalf of the Board of Alderman, she also served on the Affirmative Action Commission. She is a member of Links, Inc., the New Haven Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, Incorporated, a public service sorority, and The Coalition of 100 Black Women.