

Newburgh, NY -- In recognition of his nearly four decade long career in public office, Safe Harbors of the Hudson (Safe Harbors) and the Orange County Democratic Women (OCDW) will separately honor Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) tomorrow night, Saturday, June 9, 2012. Safe Harbors focused its award on Hinchey's longtime commitment to the revitalization of the City of Newburgh and the historic Ritz Theater. OCDW's honor recognizes his dedication to public service and inspiration of others to serve in public office.

"I am humbled and honored to be recognized by Safe Harbors of the Hudson and the Orange County Democratic Women," Hinchey said. "It's been my honor to serve in Congress and the State Assembly for a total of 38 years and help fight for the values we all care about -- an economy that works for all Americans, not just the elite; equality for all Americans regardless of race, gender or background; the revitalization and redevelopment of our struggling urban communities; and our overall commitment to ensuring increased opportunities and a better life for each generation that follows us."

Safe Harbors of the Hudson is honoring Hinchey at its 6th Annual Safe Harbors of the Hudson Gala Celebration. Founded in 2000, the group is a non-profit organization that is committed to revitalizing the City of Newburgh through housing and the arts. The organization purchased the former Hotel Newburgh in December 2002 and completed extensive renovations by 2006. Hinchey, who has worked tirelessly in Congress to help create jobs and improve the quality of life for city residents, worked to secure \$400,000 in federal funding to complete the first phase of renovations at the Ritz Theater. The Ritz Theater, which played host to many top performers, including Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz, is the last remaining historic theater in the City of Newburgh. Neglect, fire and urban redevelopment efforts claimed the others that previously existed.

The Orange County Democratic Women organization, which is celebrating its tenth anniversary, will present Hinchey with the Geraldine Ferraro Public Service Award. Hinchey is a leading progressive Democratic voice in Congress and has earned a reputation as a hard-working and effective advocate for the middle class and poor. Now serving his tenth term in Congress, Hinchey represents New York's 22nd Congressional District, which spans eight counties from the Hudson Valley to the Finger Lakes region. Hinchey is a senior member of the House Appropriations Committee, which allocates funds in the federal budget. On that panel, he serves on the Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies and the Subcommittee on Defense. He is also one of only 10 House members on the bicameral Joint Economic Committee. Before coming to Congress in January 1993, Hinchey served 18 years in the New York State Assembly beginning in 1975. He was the first Democrat elected to the state legislature from Ulster County since 1912, and only the second since the Civil War. He became

Chairman of the Environmental Conservation Committee in 1979.

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