

**Press Release  
From the Office of  
State Representative  
Gale D. Candaras**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CANDARAS HONORS AREA'S UNSUNG HEROINES**

**BOSTON, MA --** Representative Gale D. Candaras (D-Wilbraham) awarded citations to and congratulated four local recipients of the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women's (MCSW) "Community Unsung Heroines" award at the State House earlier this month.

The MCSW paid tribute to two hundred forty women, representing nearly every town and city in the Commonwealth, before a capacity crowd in the Great Hall during a spirited recognition ceremony. The recipients were honored for their commitment to important issues, selfless activism and service to their communities.

Candaras looked on as Magi Bish of West Warren, Janet Masciotra of Springfield, Kathy Picard of Ludlow and Rose Marie Spada of West Springfield were commended for their civic involvement. Among those honored but not present for the event were Jane Clark of Wilbraham and Attorney Rosemary Cooper of East Longmeadow.

For the third year running the MCSW, with help from state legislators, sought to commend women who make a tremendous difference, but avoid the spotlight. Rosemary Cooper and Kathy Picard were nominated by Rep. Candaras.

"Kathy and Rosemary have made important and substantial contributions to their respective causes, and it was wonderful to have the opportunity to thank them for their efforts," Candaras said.

Unsung Heroine Masciotra, a social studies teacher at Fairview Veterans Memorial Middle School in Chicopee, was honored for her work with veterans through the Forest Park Ladies Auxiliary Veterans of Foreign Wars 7352, the Springfield Bi-Lingual Veterans Outreach Center and the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 866; Clark was commended for her work with the American Red Cross, where she was recently promoted to a national level position; and Magi Bish, who has worked tirelessly on behalf of abducted children in memory of her own daughter, Molly.

Lieutenant Governor Kerry Healy served as the event's keynote speaker and was joined in congratulating the honorees with Commission Chairwoman Kathleen Casavant; Rep. Kathleen Teahan, co-chair of the Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators; and Linda Brantley, executive director of the MCSW.

The event was a precursor to the Unsung Heroines Award Luncheon scheduled for March 22, 2006, at Boston's Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, where eight of the nominees who were selected for further recognition will be honored.