



The United States Conference of Mayors

1620 Eye Street, N.W. • Washington, D.C. 20006
Phone (202) 293-7330 • Fax (202) 293-2352
E-mail: info@usmayors.org URL: usmayors.org

For Immediate Release
March 3, 2003

Contact: Andy Solomon
(202) 861-6766

DENVER MAYOR WEBB TO RECEIVE AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVICE FROM NATION'S MAYORS

WASHINGTON, DC – The nation's mayors will award Denver Mayor Wellington E. Webb their highest honor, the Mayors Award for Distinguished Public Service, when he hosts the 72nd annual meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) in Denver in June, Boston Mayor and Conference President Thomas Menino announced today. The award is voted and approved by USCM's Executive Committee, which represents mayors from all regions of the country.

President Harry Truman presented the first U.S. Conference of Mayors Award for Distinguished Public Service to General George C. Marshall at the White House on November 25, 1949. The award, given to individuals for "outstanding and meritorious public service" to the nation's cities, has only been presented to 17 people.

Mayor Webb served as President of the U.S. Conference of Mayors from 1999-2000. He currently serves on USCM's Executive Committee, as Chair of the Conference's International Affairs Committee, and as President of the National Conference of Democratic Mayors. He is also a past President of the National Conference of Black Mayors.

"Mayor Webb is a mayor's mayor," said Mayor Menino, who will present the award in Denver in June. "Mayor Webb has shown other mayors across America some of the most creative and effective ideas for developing a city's potential, growing a metropolitan economy, and addressing the critical challenges facing residents and businesses. Under his leadership, Denver has become one of America's premier cities."

In addition to his successes in Denver, Mayor Webb led the collective efforts of the nation's mayors to enact new federal legislation to fight crime and establish common sense gun laws. He has also encouraged mayors around the world to exchange ideas and information to combat shared challenges. He was the first mayor and only the third American to speak before the German Parliament in their new unified parliamentary building. As Chair of USCM's International Affairs Committee, he spearheaded the 1st

International Conference of Mayors in New York City last year and he will host the 2nd such conference in Denver in June.

“Mayor Webb’s vision of mayors as leaders of metropolitan area economies and players on the world stage was ahead of his time,” said J. Thomas Cochran, Conference Executive Director. “As a political strategist, his energy and creativity rank high among America’s leaders.”

Past recipients of the award include Pittsburgh Mayor David Lawrence, Chicago Mayor Richard J. Daley, New Haven Mayor Richard C. Lee, Trenton Mayor Art Holland, Senator Hubert H. Humphrey, Lawrence Spivak, producer of NBC’s Meet the Press, and John J. Gunther, former Conference Executive Director, Louisville Mayor Jerry Abramson, President William Jefferson Clinton, and, most recently, Knoxville Mayor Victor Ashe.

Mayor Webb is serving his third and final term as Mayor of the City and County of Denver. His distinguished public service career began in 1972 when he was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives, representing his boyhood neighborhood of northeast Denver. In 1977, State Representative Webb was selected by President Jimmy Carter to serve as Regional Director of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare. In 1981, Colorado Governor Richard Lamm appointed Webb to his cabinet as Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies. In 1987, Webb was elected as the Denver City Auditor.

###

The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of the nation’s 1,183 cities with populations of 30,000 or more. Each city is represented in the Conference by its chief elected official, the mayor. The primary roles of the Conference of Mayors are to promote the development of effective national urban/suburban policy; strengthen federal-city relationships; ensure that federal policy meets urban needs; provide mayors with leadership and management tools; and create a forum in which mayors can share ideas and information.