



AWARDS



NATIONAL USA WEEK

Celebrating the Lives and Contributions of **U**nmarried and **S**ingle **A**mericans



## Congratulations and Thank You to the Thirteen Recipients of the 2003 National **USA** Week Awards.

**E**ach year, Unmarried America confers awards as part of our commemoration of National Unmarried and Single Americans Week.

The awards are our way of thanking individuals and organizations who have helped Unmarried and Single Americans in some significant way.

By publicizing these awards, we can encourage others to follow the lead established by these role models.

This year, we are honoring seven Elected Officials for outstanding political leadership; two Employers for creating more fairness in the workplace; two Scholars for excellence in research about unmarried individuals, couples, and families; and two of our own Members for contributing their time and talents to help our organization.

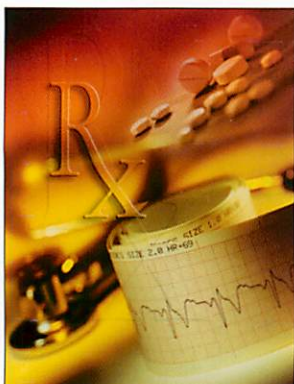
We are announcing the awards at a dinner reception in Washington D.C., and are sending out press releases about them to local media in the areas in which the recipients live.

For more information about these awards please visit our special website at [www.nationalusaweek.org](http://www.nationalusaweek.org). If you would like to share your thoughts or feelings with these awards recipients, please e-mail us at [mail@unmarriedamerica.org](mailto:mail@unmarriedamerica.org), and we will pass your message on to them.



## Workplace Awards

Two awards are being given to employers who have taken significant steps to create more fairness for unmarried workers in the area of employee benefits. One public employer and one private sector employer have been chosen.



**Eli Lilly**  
(Indianapolis, Indiana)

Eli Lilly Company recently expanded its employee benefits program to provide health benefits to the domestic partners (and their children) of its employees. The new plan includes same-sex and opposite-sex partners. Lilly also includes

"marital status" in its diversity policy, and provides a wide array of benefits which are helpful to employees regardless of their marital status or household composition.

Eli Lilly joins the ranks of the previous corporate recipients of our Workplace Excellence Award: Cendant, Xerox, Fifth Third Bancorp, First Union Bank, Kellogg Company, and Viacom.



**State of Iowa**  
(Governor Thomas Vilsack)

Through a new collective bargaining agreement with the largest state employee union, AFSCME, the State of Iowa will be offering health benefits to the same-sex and opposite-sex domestic partners of state employees.

Since the new program would not have been possible without the consent of his administration, the award is being given to Governor Thomas Vilsack as Chief Executive of the State of Iowa in its capacity as a public employer.

## Leadership Awards

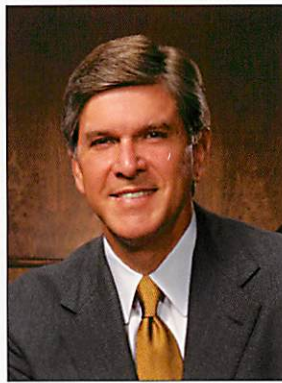
Seven awards are being given to federal, state, and local government officials for outstanding political leadership. These awards are nonpartisan in nature and recipients include Democrats and Republicans.



**United States  
Congressman  
Jim McDermott**  
(D-Washington)

Congressman Jim McDermott introduced a bill into the House of Representatives to stop the taxation of health benefits to household members of employees.

Under current law, benefits for spouses and dependent children are exempt from federal income taxation. However, most employees who receive benefits for a domestic partner or other adult household member must pay income taxes on this benefit. McDermott's bill, which is co-sponsored by 57 Democrats and Republicans in the House, would remove this tax burden on household benefits.



**United States  
Senator  
Gordon Smith**  
(R-Oregon)

Senator Gordon Smith has announced plans to co-sponsor legislation in the Senate which mirrors the McDermott bill.

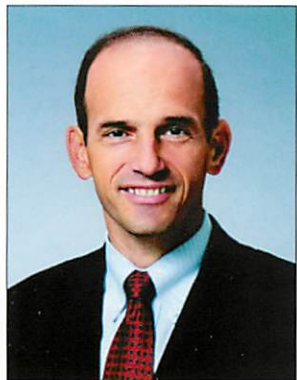
He recently sent a letter to all of his colleagues in the Senate seeking other co-sponsors for the bill.

Smith will introduce the bill in September.

Smith serves on five major Senate committees: Commerce, Science, and Transportation, Energy and Natural Resources, Rules, Indian Affairs, and the powerful Finance Committee.



## Leadership Awards, continued



**Gov. John Baldacci**  
(D-Maine)

John Baldacci, Governor of Maine, proposed and successfully won passage through the Legislature of a universal health care plan which will provide health coverage for all adults and children in Maine.

This new plan will have a beneficial impact on thousands of single people in Maine, especially since unmarried adults are uninsured at twice the rate of married adults.

It will also help children in single parent families since such children are more likely to lack insurance than children in married couple families.



### Virginia Housing Development Authority

The Virginia Housing Development Authority voted on July 25, 2003 to

eliminate the agency's regulation requiring that persons borrowing jointly for a single residence must be "related by blood, marriage, adoption or legal custodial relationship." The vote was unanimous.

As a result, two or more unmarried individuals will be eligible to obtain a joint loan together. This will be of tremendous benefit to thousands of low-income single people in Virginia.

Commissioners demonstrated courage and leadership in eliminating the "family only" rule for low-cost loans since many politically conservative forces in Virginia were vocal in their opposition and have vowed to seek a reversal by the state Legislature.

The board of commissioners is composed of 11 members, all of whom are appointed by the Governor of Virginia. Charles L. Krum, Jr., is acting chairperson of the Commission.



**Mayor Teresa Isaac**  
(D) Lexington, Kentucky

Teresa Isaac, Mayor of Lexington, Kentucky, issued an executive order this year to provide health benefits to the same-sex and opposite-sex domestic partners of city employees.

Some members of the city council were upset with her for not bringing the matter to the council for a vote. But Isaac said that she did not want to turn a matter of basic fairness into a political issue when in fact, she had the legal authority to act on her own.



**Mayor Lewis Billings**  
(R) Provo, Utah

Lewis Billings, Mayor of Provo, Utah, vetoed a proposed ordinance to reduce the number of unrelated singles who could share a house from three to two in the city's R-1 zones, reserved for single family residences, unless one was the owner occupant. Billings said that such a law would be

overbroad.

When the council passed a similar bill placing this restriction on 13 residential areas of the city, Billings issued another veto.



**Erroll G. Williams**  
New Orleans, Louisiana

Erroll G. Williams, Tax Assessor of the Third Municipal District in New Orleans, helped to lead a protest of local assessors when the State Tax Commission tried to deny homestead tax exemptions on residential property which is co-owned by unmarried people.

"The Constitution says the recipient has to be the owner and the occupant. It doesn't say you have to be married or what percentage ownership you have to have," Williams told the Commission. "Our argument is that it's not equal protection. The law ensures equal protection."

The Tax Commission withdrew its proposal.



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## Volunteer Awards

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Two awards are being given to people who have generously volunteered their time and services to AASP over the years. The dedication and assistance of such volunteers have greatly enhanced the effectiveness of the organization.



**Perry Heath**  
Washington, DC

Perry Heath is a member of Unmarried America who lives in Washington, D.C. He has been volunteering his services to our organization for the past few years.

In 2001 and again in 2002, Heath helped deliver newsletters to all 535 members of Congress.

In 2001, he wrote two poems for us.

"Single Life" was published in our newsletter and on our website. The same year he wrote "National Singles Week Greeting," for the unmarried members of Congress, several of whom had photos taken as they received the poem from him in a greeting packet.

In 2002, Heath wrote separate poems for each of the recipients of the National USA Week Awards.



**Nora Baladerian, Ph.D.**  
Los Angeles, California

Nora Baladerian, President of Unmarried America, has been volunteering her services as a member of the Board of Directors of the organization since it was incorporated in 1987.

In addition to attending board meetings, Baladerian has provided ongoing advice and support to the Executive Director.

When she travels in connection with her other professional duties, Baladerian distributes our newsletters and brochures and encourages people who attend her seminars to join Unmarried America.

Baladerian is donating a week of her time to join us in Washington D.C. to help with National USA Week activities.

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## Research Awards

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Two awards are being given to scholars who have made outstanding contributions involving social, psychological, and demographic research and the publication of academic literature about unmarried and single people.



**Bella DePaulo, Ph.D.**  
Santa Barbara, California

Dr. Bella DePaulo is a visiting professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of California, Santa Barbara campus. For the past several years, much of DePaulo's time and energy has involved the academic study of, and teaching about, the lives of single people.

Last year, DePaulo obtained a grant from the Marchionne Foundation to further

her continuing research on single people. As a result of this grant, she was able to conduct a national survey of university professors to determine the extent to which they have been conducting research on, publishing papers on, or teaching about, single people. She also is completing a comprehensive bibliography of books and studies focusing on the lives of and issues affecting single people.

Sometime this fall, DePaulo will release *The State of Research on Singles*, which will be published in the Spectrum Institute section of the Unmarried America website.



**Larry Bumpass, Ph.D.**  
Madison, Wisconsin

Dr. Larry Bumpass is a Professor Emeritus of Sociology at the University of Wisconsin, and a member of the National Academy of Science.

Bumpass, director of the National Survey of Families and Households, is a well-known demographer whose studies of marital status and family diversity have helped portray key trends in American life.

From studies of fertility and cohabitation to the changing structure of the American family, Bumpass has helped chronicle societal trends that are among the most important and personal for millions of Americans. Bumpass has been on the UW-Madison faculty since 1970.

Over the years, Bumpass has published dozens of scholarly papers about unmarried cohabitation which have led to a better understanding of the growing segment of the population often referred to as domestic partners.

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Support equal rights. Join Unmarried America today. Call us with your pledge or make a tax-deductible donation through our website.

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