

NEWS RELEASE

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SEN. SHERAN AND REP. HUNTLEY TO RECEIVE MMA SOVA AWARD

MINNEAPOLIS- The Minnesota Medical Association will present the 2007 James H. Sova Memorial award to Sen. Kathy Sheran, DFL-Mankato, and Rep. Thomas Huntley, DFL-Duluth. These lawmakers were leaders in the successful effort to pass Minnesota's Freedom to Breathe Act, the statewide law banning smoking in all workplaces including bars and restaurants.

The Sova Award is given to a person outside the medical profession who has made a significant contribution to the advancement of medical science, medical education, medical care, or the socio-economics of medical practice.

Sen. Kathy Sheran, in her first term as state senator from Mankato, was the chief Senate author of the Freedom to Breathe Act. As a clinical nurse specialist and a professor of nursing at Minnesota State University in Mankato, Sen. Sheran understands how dangerous secondhand smoke can be. She was a persuasive advocate for the Freedom to Breathe Act in the Senate. Sen. Sheran serves on the Health and Human Services Budget Division in the Senate and is a former member of the Mankato City Council.

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Rep. Thomas Huntley, who is in his eighth term in the House of Representatives, is a biochemist and a professor at the University of Minnesota School of Medicine in Duluth. Rep. Huntley was the chief House author of the Freedom to Breathe Act and a strong supporter in the House of Representatives. Rep. Huntley is the Chair of the Health Care and Human Services Finance Division in the House and was the chief House author of the Healthy Minnesota health care reform bill.

This award is bestowed in memory of James H. Sova, the chief lobbyist for the Minnesota Medical Association from 1968 until the time of his death at the American Medical Association meeting in December 1981.