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# KENTUCKY

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## Romano L. Mazzoli to Receive the 2009 Hellard Award

**NOTE:** An electronic version of this press release is available at the Center's Web site:  
[www.kltprc.net/pressreleases/pr\\_2009hellardawardwinner.htm](http://www.kltprc.net/pressreleases/pr_2009hellardawardwinner.htm)

**FRANKFORT, KY** (September 24, 2009) — The Board of Directors of the Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center has chosen The Honorable Romano L. Mazzoli as the recipient of the 13th annual Vic Hellard Jr. Award for public service. The award will be presented at the Center's annual conference on October 15, 2009, in Louisville, Kentucky.

Romano "Ron" Mazzoli served 24 years as Kentucky's Third Congressional District Representative, from 1971 to his retirement in 1995. Mazzoli served 12 congresses under six presidents, from Richard Nixon to Bill Clinton. While in Congress, Mr. Mazzoli served on the House Judiciary Committee on which he chaired the Immigration, International Law and Refugees Subcommittee. As chair of this subcommittee, Congressman Mazzoli and Senator Alan Simpson of Wyoming wrote the landmark 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act (the Simpson-Mazzoli Bill)—the last major immigration legislation enacted into U.S. law. Congressman Mazzoli also served on the House Education, Labor, Small Business and Intelligence Committees.

His public service also includes active duty in the United States Army (1954-1956) and the Kentucky State Senate (1968-1970). In his Hellard Award nominating letter, Dr. Ronald Kahn, with the Harvard Medical School, writes that "Mazzoli has devoted his life to public service and provides a remarkable example of how an individual can rise to provide leadership that has helped move Kentucky and the entire nation forward."

Born in Louisville, the Honorable Romano L. Mazzoli is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame, where he graduated Magna Cum Laude in 1954, and the University of Louisville Law School, where, in 1960, he graduated first in his class. Moreover, demonstrating the humility that characterized his career as a public servant, he and his wife Helen moved into a student dorm at the age of 70, when he decided to attend Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government in 2002. He received his Masters in Public Administration from Harvard in 2004.

Congressman Mazzoli is a member of the Kentucky and the Louisville Bar Associations. He currently serves on the Board of Overseers of the University of Louisville and on the Board of Directors of Father Maloney's Boys' Haven. Additionally, he served a four-year term on the Kentucky Legislative Ethics Commission from May 2005 to April 2009. Congressman Mazzoli has received honorary degrees from the University of Notre Dame, Spalding University, Sullivan University, Centre College, and Bellarmine University.

Congressman Mazzoli is married to the former Helen Dillon of Louisville, and they have two children and four grandchildren.

Given in recognition of service in the interest of Kentucky's future, the annual award is made in memory and honor of Mr. Hellard's long and distinguished career of public service. As Director of the Legislative Research Commission (LRC), Mr. Hellard was a tireless champion of legislative independence, considered by many to be the cornerstone of modern governance in Kentucky. He is also

widely credited as the principal architect of the Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center. At the time of his death on September 17, 1996, Mr. Hellard, who had retired from his LRC post, was still serving as a member of the Center's Board, contributing substantially to its guidance and to its efforts to shape a vision for the future of the state and a system for evaluating progress toward its realization.

Previous winners are Judge Anthony M. Wilhoit, retired Chief Judge of the Kentucky Court of Appeals and now Executive Director of the Kentucky Legislative Ethics Commission; Joseph W. Kelly, who served as chairman of the Kentucky Board of Education from 1991 until April of 1998, a period of far-reaching change for education in Kentucky; Mary Helen Miller, a retired state government executive whose career began in the classroom and went on to include high-level posts in both the legislative and executive branches under two governors; veteran journalist Al Smith, a former newspaper publisher, editor, and reporter, and one of the state's most engaging and enduring media personalities; renowned State Historian for Life, the late Dr. Thomas D. Clark, author of over 20 books, recipient of countless awards, and the founder of the Thomas D. Clark Foundation, a private, nonprofit foundation that provides financial support for the University Press of Kentucky; Virginia G. Fox, long-time Executive Director of Kentucky Educational Television and former Kentucky Education Cabinet Secretary; Walter A. Baker, a Glasgow attorney with a reputation for public service that has extended to the international stage; Robert M. "Mike" Duncan, an Inez banker with a national reputation for public service; William H. Hintze, Jr., a dedicated public servant for 33 years who held the position of Deputy State Budget Director for five Kentucky governors; Sylvia Lovely, President of the NewCities Institute and long-time Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Kentucky League of Cities; John R. Hall, civic leader, philanthropist, and former CEO of Ashland Inc; and Sally Brown, a renowned philanthropist, artist, environmentalist, and civic activist.

Information about the Center's upcoming conference is available online at [http://www.kltprc.net/events/2009\\_conference/2009conference.htm](http://www.kltprc.net/events/2009_conference/2009conference.htm).

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