



## ***NEWS RELEASE***

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### **National Association of Secretaries of State to Honor Ruby Duncan as 2008 Margaret Chase Smith Award Recipient**

*State Officials to Recognize Nevada Advocate for Women, Children & the Poor*

Grand Rapids, MI—The National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS), currently holding its annual summer meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan, today announced that its members have selected Ruby Duncan as the recipient of its 2008 Margaret Chase Smith Award for acts of political courage. Duncan has dedicated her life to improving the lives of people living in Las Vegas' Westside by serving as an advocate for women, children and the poor.

"In establishing the Operation Life Community Development Corporation in 1972, she set in motion a force that would in subsequent years address issues of hunger, literacy, healthcare, voting rights, and more," wrote Nevada Secretary of State Ross Miller, who nominated Duncan for the award. "Ruby is an outstanding example of how one person has the ability to positively impact uncountable members of future generations, and it is little wonder that she is the subject of the book titled, *Storming Caesars Palace*."

NASS established the Margaret Chase Smith American Democracy Award in tribute to the former U.S. Senator from Maine, who jeopardized her career by speaking out against the red-baiting tactics of Senator Joseph P. McCarthy. Recipients of the award are recognized for similar acts of political courage, uncommon character, and selfless action in the realm of public service.

Past recipients include: John J. Sirica, the chief judge who presided over the Watergate scandal; Morris Dees and Joseph Levin, Jr., co-founders of the Southern Poverty Law Center; former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani; and former U.S. Senator Bob Dole of Kansas.

"Ruby Duncan's achievements embody the spirit of the Margaret Chase Smith American Democracy Award," said NASS President Todd Rokita. "We look forward to presenting this award to her next February at the NASS 2009 Winter Conference in Washington, DC."

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