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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 112<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

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## *House of Representatives*

### VISCLOSKY HONORS NORTHWEST INDIANA FEDERATION OF LABOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

**Mr. Speaker:** It is my distinct honor to congratulate some of the most devoted and proficient workers in Northwest Indiana. The Northwest Indiana Federation of Labor, American Federation of Labor - Congress of Industrial Organizations, recognized several individuals for their dedication during the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Labor Awards Reception, which was held at Wicker Memorial Park in Highland, Indiana, on January 31, 2012. These individuals, in addition to the other Northwest Indiana Federation of Labor members who have served Northwest Indiana so diligently for such a long period of time, are the epitome of the ideal American worker: loyal, dedicated, and hardworking.

At this year's event, several individuals and organizations received special recognition. Ray Kasmark, Business Manager, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 697, was this year's recipient of the President's Award. Mr. Kasmark was honored for his many years of service and his exceptional contributions to the well-being of workers throughout Northwest Indiana.

The Democratic Members of the Indiana House and Senate received the Service to Labor Award for their tireless efforts to assist organized labor with improving the quality of life for workers in Northwest Indiana.

Randy Palmateer, Business Manager, Northwestern Indiana Building and Construction Trades Council, was presented with this year's Union Label Award for his unselfish devotion to the Labor Movement through social, civic, educational, and political endeavors.

United Steelworkers Local 6787 accepted the Community Services Award for its members' exemplary service to the community and the enhancement of the quality of life for people in Northwest Indiana, as demonstrated by their countless hours of volunteerism and charity work.

For his outstanding leadership skills and dedication to assist working Americans through trying times, Rich Trumka, President, American Federation of Labor - Congress of Industrial Organizations, received the Leadership Award.

Roger Jachna, Jr., of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 697, and William Beck, of Pipefitters Local 597, received the George Meany Award, an honor bestowed upon them by the Boy Scouts of America.

Mike Summers, former Business Manager of Ironworkers Local 395 and former President of the Northwestern Indiana Building and Construction Trades Council, was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award. The exceptional service he has so generously provided to the community deserves our admiration and respect. His dedication and commitment are representative of the values we cherish in Northwest Indiana.

Northwest Indiana has a rich history of excellence in its craftsmanship and loyalty by its tradesmen. These individuals are all outstanding examples of these qualities. They have demonstrated their loyalty to both the union and the community through their hard work and self-sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating these dedicated, honorable, and exemplary citizens, as well as all of the hardworking union men and women in America. They have shown commitment and courage toward their pursuits, and I am proud to represent them in Washington, D.C.