

NEW ENGLAND IN BRIEF

Kerry to speak at UMass commencement

April 3, 2009

BOSTON

Senator John F. Kerry will speak at the University of Massachusetts at Boston's commencement May 29, school officials announced yesterday. **Kerry will be joined by honorary degree recipients Joseph P. Kennedy II, former US representative and founder of Citizens Energy; Sister Margaret Leonard, founder of Project Hope; and Edwin Moses, a former Olympian and motivational speaker.** In a statement, Kerry said he looked forward to "sharing in this extraordinary milestone for so many students and their families who supported them every step of the way."

MEMORANDUM from the Chancellor of the University of Massachusetts, Boston

2009 Commencement Honorees

It gives me great pleasure to inform you that U.S. Senator John Kerry, a decorated war veteran who has represented Massachusetts for 25 years in the U.S. Senate, will deliver the principal address at our 41st commencement ceremonies on Friday, May 29, 2009. He will also receive the Chancellor's Medal and will be joined by our distinguished honorary degree recipients: Joseph Kennedy, Sister Margaret Leonard, and Edwin Moses.

U.S. Senator John Kerry is a decorated veteran and a tireless advocate of the extension of veterans' benefits. In 1984, Kerry was elected senator from Massachusetts and since then has distinguished himself as one of our nation's most respected voices on national security and international affairs. He has been a tremendous leader in American politics on a full range of policy issues both domestic and foreign. We are honored to present Senator Kerry with the Chancellor's Medal.

Joseph Kennedy, who represented the Eighth Congressional District of Massachusetts in the U.S. House for 12 years, devised creative and innovative approaches to help communities achieve economic growth and prosperity by tapping into the private sector. He is the founder of Citizens Energy Corporation, which has been helping to heat the homes of the elderly and the poor for the past 20 years, and an alumnus of UMass Boston. Joe Kennedy will be presented with the degree doctor of laws, *honoris causa*, for his leadership and service to the community.

Sister Margaret Leonard will be presented with the degree of doctor of humane letters, *honoris causa*, for her considerable neighborhood-development work as the leader of Project Hope since 1985. Since then, Leonard has helped transform the Little Sisters of the Assumption's convent into a vibrant multi-service center offering homelessness prevention, educational, and economic empowerment programs serving Boston's Dorchester and Roxbury neighborhoods. A catalyst in forging strategic alliances, partnerships, and collaborations at local, city, and state levels to support low-income families in moving from crisis to stability, Leonard is the former co-chair of the City of Boston's Homeless Planning Committee and cofounded two innovative and highly effective organizations: Homes for Families and One Family Scholars.

Edwin Moses will receive the degree of doctor of science, *honoris causa*, for his outstanding contributions as a three-time Olympic track and field medalist, champion of drug-free athletics,

motivational speaker, and chairman of the Laureus World Sports Academy, an organization that promotes sporting activities for youth worldwide for the purpose of social change. In addition to his work with Salomon Smith Barney Group as a financial consultant, he also participates in a wide range of philanthropic activities as well as sharing his story of academic and athletic triumph.

This year's commencement honorees are an extraordinary group of leaders in quite disparate fields, all of whom have made major contributions to the well-being of their fellow citizens, near and far. Please join me in warmly welcoming them to the UMass Boston campus on May 29.