

Washington -

Congressman Lee Terry and the Omaha Riverfront Jazz & Blues Festival will honor the late percussionist/vibraphonist Lewis "Luigi" Waites on the evening of Saturday, July 9, at 7:00 p.m.

Over his long career, Luigi shared the stage with such jazz legends as Ella Fitzgerald, Dizzy Gillespie, Lionel Hampton, and Sarah Vaughan. He helped found the Omaha Summer Arts Festival, was the Nebraska Arts Council's artist of the year in 1996, and is an inductee of the Omaha Black Music Hall of Fame. The Omaha native died in April of 2010 at the age of 82.

Earlier this year, Terry honored Waites for his effort to shape Omaha in remarks printed in the Congressional Record. A framed copy of this speech will be presented to Waites' children and will become part of the permanent collection of the Love's Jazz and Arts Center.

The Festival, which begins tomorrow and runs through Saturday, will take place at the Orpheum Theater this year due to flooding at the original location.

**"Luigi's legacy as an artist and teacher deserves our thanks. He truly represented the best of the Omaha community and his family and friends should be proud of his lasting influence," Terry said.**