

Omaha - In celebration of Black History Month Rep. Lee Terry today honored Gene Haynes and Lewis "Luigi" Waites (posthumously) for their efforts to shape Omaha and our nation.

**"Both of these men - and their accomplishments - truly represent what is best in the Omaha community. Their efforts demonstrate how an individual can make a difference and should serve as an inspiration to us all," Terry said.**

Haynes and Waites were chosen by submissions from a committee of community representatives. The 2011 committee consisted of Freddie Gray, Margarita Washington, Preston Love Jr. and Rudy Smith. This is the fourth year of the award.

Haynes, Principal of Omaha North High School, is known for being a hands-on and motivational educator who has contributed greatly to the school's development. He is also active in the North Omaha Project Impact, Urban League of Nebraska, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, National Association of Secondary School Principals, and the Pacesetter Scholarship Committee.

Waites, who passed away in April of 2010, was an internationally known jazz musician who shared the stage with such greats as Ella Fitzgerald, Dizzy Gillespie, Lionel Hapton, and Sarah Vaughan. He was named the Nebraska Art Council's artist of the year and was inducted into the Omaha Black Music Hall of Fame in 2005.

Terry will submit remarks on the floor of Congress honoring Haynes and Waites next week.

Previous honorees have included: Frank Hayes, Phyllis Hicks, Mary Clinkscale, Herbert Rhodes, Margarita Washington, Rudy Smith, Paul Adams, Harrison Tull, Charles Lane, Marlon Briscoe, Ernie Chambers, Judy Pearl Lee, and Ben Gray.

