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## League to honor 3 with Lavinia awards

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March 24, 1999

The League of Women Voters of Montgomery County will present Lavinia awards to Helen Koss, Neal Potter and Community Ministry of Montgomery County at a luncheon on Friday at the Bethesda Marriott.

*Guest speaker will be Patricia Schroeder, former member of the U.S. House of Representatives.*

The Lavinia recipients will be honored for their contributions to making democracy work in Montgomery County and Maryland. The awards are named for Lavinia M. Engle, suffragist, founder of the Montgomery County League of Women Voters, and the first woman to be elected to the Maryland legislature from Montgomery County.

Helen Koss, a Silver Spring resident, was a member of the Maryland House of Delegates from 1971 to 1987 and was the first woman to chair a legislative committee in Maryland.

She now serves as chair of the Maryland State Board of Elections. Some of her achievements have been in the areas of election law, expansion of suffrage, consumer protection laws, ethics, and elimination of sex discrimination in credit, insurance, housing and salaries.

Koss was inducted into the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame in 1997.

Neal Potter of Chevy Chase recently retired after 20 years on the Montgomery County Council, interrupted only by a term as county executive from 1990 to 1994.

He played a leading role in council actions on controlling development, fiscal affairs, tax legislation, sewage and transportation issues, and assessment inequities.

For 26 years Community Ministry of Montgomery County has pursued social justice by leading faith communities in service, education and advocacy for the poor.

Not only has it worked to identify the needs of the poor and to provide services directly to them, it has served as an advocate for laws and policies that promote peace and justice and enhance human life.

*The public is invited to the luncheon, set for noon on Friday at the Bethesda Marriott Hotel,*

*5151 Pooks Hill Road, Bethesda. The cost is \$40 per person. For reservations or further information on the event, call 301-984-9585 or send an e-mail message to [hwvmc@erols.com](mailto:hwvmc@erols.com).*

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