



**Smithsonian Institution**

*National Museum of African American History and Culture*

## **Delegate Magazine 1981**

Extracted on Mar-29-2024 04:46:15

**The Smithsonian Institution thanks all digital volunteers that transcribed and reviewed this material. Your work enriches Smithsonian collections, making them available to anyone with an interest in using them.**

The Smithsonian Institution (the "Smithsonian") provides the content on this website ([transcription.si.edu](https://transcription.si.edu)), other Smithsonian websites, and third-party sites on which it maintains a presence ("SI Websites") in support of its mission for the "increase and diffusion of knowledge." The Smithsonian invites visitors to use its online content for personal, educational and other non-commercial purposes. By using this website, you accept and agree to abide by the [following terms](#).

- If sharing the material in personal and educational contexts, please cite the National Museum of African American History and Culture as source of the content and the project title as provided at the top of the document. Include the accession number or collection name; when possible, link to the National Museum of African American History and Culture website.
- If you wish to use this material in a for-profit publication, exhibition, or online project, please contact National Museum of African American History and Culture or [transcribe@si.edu](mailto:transcribe@si.edu)

For more information on this project and related material, contact the National Museum of African American History and Culture. [See this project](#) and other collections in the Smithsonian Transcription Center.

## 24th ANNUAL EQUAL OPPORTUNITY DAY DINNER

They came from all over to welcome Vernon Jordan and to honor Eleanor Holmes Norton and Irving S. Shapiro

Symbolically, the selection of the two individuals to receive the National Urban League's 1980 Equal Opportunity Day Award has much to say about the different routes that must be traversed if equality of opportunity is to be finally achieved in our country. The awards went to Irving S. Shapiro, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of one of the nation's largest industrial giants employing thousands of workers, and Eleanor Holmes Norton, Chair of the government agency charged with enforcing Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act which prohibits job discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin.

Each was honored for a longstanding commitment toward equal opportunity exhibited over a period of years, and for their effectiveness in implementing that commitment. Mr. Shapiro accomplished this through the leadership he has given to equal opportunity efforts within his own company, E.I. duPont de Nemours & Co., and through his spirited advocacy of the principle of equal opportunity in the public arena. Ms. Norton accomplished this through her life-long dedication to the Civil Rights Movement and more recently through the vigorous and imaginative leadership she provided an almost moribund agency, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

For the National Urban League, the Equal Opportunity Day Award is the highest mark of esteem it can present to an individual. The Award was created for the purpose of calling the nation's attention to the positive benefits that flow from equal opportunity, while at the same time reminding it that total equality of opportunity has not yet been achieved. At the same time, the Award traditionally pays homage to two individuals who stand in the front ranks of those who strive for equal opportunity.

The presentation of the Award to Mr. Shapiro and Ms. Norton took place on the evening of November 20th, at the 24th Annual Equal Opportunity Day Dinner, attended by some 2,500 persons.

[[image]]  
[[caption]] Vernon Jordan, Eleanor Holmes Norton, Irving S. Shapiro  
[[/caption]]

343



Delegate Magazine 1981  
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers  
Extracted Mar-29-2024 04:46:15



## Smithsonian Institution

*National Museum of African American History and Culture*

The mission of the Smithsonian is the increase and diffusion of knowledge - shaping the future by preserving our heritage, discovering new knowledge, and sharing our resources with the world. Founded in 1846, the Smithsonian is the world's largest museum and research complex, consisting of 19 museums and galleries, the National Zoological Park, and nine research facilities. Become an active part of our mission through the Transcription Center. Together, we are discovering secrets hidden deep inside our collections that illuminate our history and our world.

Join us!

The Transcription Center: <https://transcription.si.edu>

On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SmithsonianTranscriptionCenter>

On Twitter: [@TranscribeSI](https://twitter.com/TranscribeSI)

Connect with the Smithsonian

Smithsonian Institution: [www.si.edu](http://www.si.edu)

On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Smithsonian>

On Twitter: [@smithsonian](https://twitter.com/smithsonian)