

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Thompson Woodworth, Patricia L. Senator _____

Represented Polk County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 17 Sept 1927 Grant, Iowa

2. Marriage (s) date place
(1) Berg, W. Thompson, Jr. 1947

(2) Mrs. Woodworth

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business She received the Best Business Women Chamber of Commerce
Citizenship Award in 1974; Best Business Community School Board of Directors

B. Civic responsibilities P.E.O.; Chamber of Commerce; United Way;
Best Business Women Club

C. Profession Banking

4. Church membership Methodist

5. Sessions served 67th, 68th General Assembly 1977-1978, 1979-1980

6. Public Offices

A. Local _____

B. State Assistant Majority Leader in the 67th General Assembly; District
Director of Iowa Association of School Boards

C. National _____

7. Death _____

8. Children Mary; Jerry; Michael; Mark; Paul

9. Names of parents Guy and Grace Lathen

Hompson - Woodworth, Patricia L.

10. Education *She graduated from Elliott High School in 1945*

11. Degrees *AA from University of Nebraska, 1947*

12. Other applicable information *Republican*

In December 2006 she was given the Outstanding Citizens Leadership Award by the National Community Education Association because of her work in the Hot Air Moines Shelter, Hot Air Moines, Iowa.

Source: Iowa Territorial and State Legislators Collection compiled by volunteers and staff at the State Historical Society of Iowa Library, Des Moines, Iowa.



GARY FANDEL/REGISTER PHOTO

Patricia Thompson-Woodworth of West Des Moines was given the Outstanding Citizen Leadership Award by the National Community Education Association.

WDM woman takes national honor

Patricia Thompson-Woodworth was guiding light in building school district community education program.

By MICHOLYN FAJEN
REGISTER CORRESPONDENT

Patricia Thompson-Woodworth believes local schools are an important part of the community.

She brought that concept with her to the West Des Moines School District more than 30 years ago when she joined an advisory committee. Last week she was recognized for her contributions when the National Community Education Association honored her with their Outstanding Citizen Leadership Award at a national conference in Reno, Nev.

Thompson-Woodworth, 79, retired from banking in 1993 but still resides in West Des Moines. She was active in the school district and Iowa legislature for over a decade during the late 1960s and well into the 1970s.

In 1969 she joined a West Des Moines community advisory committee to research the Lighted Schoolhouse concept. She embraced the theory that a school's doors should not close at the end of a school day; instead, the buildings should remain lit and open to the community for extended learning and

other activities.

One of her goals was strengthening the West Des Moines district's Community Education program. It now serves up to 4,000 adults and youths and offers a variety of programs. More than 700 students throughout the year attend before- and after-school programs at local elementary school sites.

"I recently received a booklet from Community Education telling about all the programs being offered. It's amazing," Thompson-Woodworth said.

She's modest about her contributions and influence, sharing the success of community education with other district leaders. "It's nice to

know people see value in that concept," she said.

Linda Sanda, current director of West Des Moines Community Education, said Thompson-Woodworth's work continues to benefit the district.

"She was part of a group of people who really saw the philosophy of community education having powerful potential in our community — that the schools belong to the community and that everyone is a learner for a lifetime," Sanda said.

Thompson-Woodworth's initial involvement with the advisory committee grew into more active roles as a mem-

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Amazing to eat.

Mariks
noodle café

zee-mare-icks

-noun

1. a noodle cafe serving noodle and rice bowls from around the globe (all under \$6)
2. a place for the ultimate noodle lover

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open it once they use it, she explained. "But you know in your heart that you helped someone."

Rodemyer said when donors stick to the list of needed items, it actually saves the pantry money. Despite donations,

thru Sunday of every month. But during November, the church made an even bigger push. Several years ago, church leaders decided to make the November food drive a challenge, Associate Minister Susan Guy said.

location. A total of 58 riders donated the 580 items to the Food Bank of Iowa.

The Food Bank is not connected to the DMARC food pantry. The Food Bank is a food broker that provides food to pantries and charita-

Thompson-Woodworth claims honor

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ber of the school board in the early 1970s.

"She was a silent leader," said former West Des Moines Associate Superintendent Doug Buchanan, who worked alongside Thompson-Woodworth as their advisory committee took small steps toward opening up the schools to the community.

They first welcomed small groups such as local Boy Scout troops, offering school facilities as meeting sites. But soon the invitation grew to bigger entities.

"The first partner was the West Suburban YMCA, now known as the Walnut Creek YMCA. At that time they didn't have a facility in the western suburbs so they began to use elementary school gymnasiums for organized sports," Buchanan said.

Thompson-Woodworth also served a four-year tenure as an Iowa state legislator. She sponsored and authored the 1978 Iowa Community Education Act, the first state legislation of its kind that created a stream of financial support for the programs, encouraged strong resident involvement and gave community education a permanent position at the Iowa Department of Education.

"She made it possible for the school districts to have the financial support they needed, she was so significant statewide," said Buchanan, who was then principal of Clegg Park Elementary.

"She was more influential

and active behind the scenes," Buchanan said of Thompson-Woodworth. "She got things done and knew how to relate

to people to help her do good things for the people of West Des Moines. That was always her focus, to do good."



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