

## **MEALS ON WHEELS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA HONORS SEN. HARKIN (D-IA) AND REP. PETRI (R-WI) AS SENIOR HUNGER CHAMPIONS**

*Association Recognizes Congressional Leaders for Decades of Service, Leadership and Unwavering Support for Seniors*

**Alexandria, VA, September 16, 2014** – The Meals On Wheels Association of America honored Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) and Congressman Tom Petri (R-WI) last evening at a reception recognizing their decades of service, leadership and unwavering support for the more than 5,000 Meals on Wheels programs and the millions of seniors they serve.

“Over the years, Senator Harkin and Congressman Petri have stood by our nation’s most vulnerable citizens,” said Ellie Hollander, President and CEO of the Meals On Wheels Association of America. “It is imperative that we honor these steadfast champions who join us in the belief that no senior should go hungry or be forgotten.”

Senator Harkin has served the people of Iowa for nearly four decades in the U.S. Congress. Throughout his career, he has been a tireless advocate for the federal infrastructure and programs that support the elderly, disabled, and hungry. These include numerous legislative achievements, such as the Americans with Disabilities Act, and his Chairmanship of two pivotal Senate Committees that have direct impact on Meals on Wheels.

“Meals on Wheels programs in Iowa and across the country provide critical nutrition to help ensure that after a lifetime of hard work, no senior in America goes hungry,” said Senator Tom Harkin. “These programs also play a critical role as part of our nation’s safety net for the people who need it most, providing the comfort of both meals and company. I am honored and humbled to be named this year’s Senior Hunger Champion and proud of the accomplishments of the Meals On Wheels Association of America.”

Congressman Petri has served the people of Wisconsin’s 6th Congressional District for nearly four decades. During his tenure on the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, he has been a committed advocate for the Older Americans Act, which supports senior nutrition programs including Meals on Wheels. He has also been a champion of improvements to the tax code to benefit all of our nation’s charities, and specifically to treat volunteer drivers for Meals on Wheels programs more equitably.

“I’m honored to receive this award, and it has been a pleasure working with Meals on Wheels volunteers in my district and across the country,” said Congressman Tom Petri. “Earlier this year, I had the opportunity to participate in a ride-along in my district and see first-hand the positive attitude of the staff and volunteers and the relationships they had developed with the seniors who benefited from home delivery. There are still important issues that need to be addressed at the federal level, such as fair treatment for volunteer drivers, so we need to keep up the fight.”

Congressman Petri and a representative from Senator Harkin’s staff were joined by Congressional staff and leaders of nonprofit organizations and businesses who are actively engaged in addressing the issue of senior hunger in America.

[\[Download event photos.\]](#)

**About Meals On Wheels Association of America**

*The Meals On Wheels Association of America is the only national organization and network dedicated solely to ending senior hunger in America. The Association is the oldest and largest organization composed of and representing local, community-based Senior Nutrition Programs in all 50 states and U.S. territories. More than 5,000 local Meals on Wheels Programs leverage a dedicated army of two million volunteers who day-in and day-out create an efficient and caring way to help America's seniors stay independent, healthy and able to live in their own homes. For more information, or to locate a local Meals on Wheels program, visit [mowaa.org](http://mowaa.org).*

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