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Raleigh

North Carolina Awards 1977

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Fourteenth North Carolina Awards

Dinner and Awards Presentation

Raleigh Civic Center

November 28, 1977 7:00 PM

Overture	North Carolina Symphony Brass Ensemble
Welcome	The Honorable Sara W. Hodgkins, <i>Secretary, North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources</i>
Entertainment	Toscana Vocal Quartet
Remarks	Mary D. B. T. Semans, <i>Chairman North Carolina Awards Committee</i>
Presentation of Awards	The Honorable James B. Hunt, Jr. <i>Governor, State of North Carolina</i>

The costumed pages are provided by Theater in the Park.

Following dinner, Governor and Mrs. Hunt will receive at the Executive Mansion.

Elizabeth Duncan Koontz

Elizabeth Duncan Koontz receives the North Carolina Award for Public Service for her national leadership in the field of education and women's affairs. As recently as June of this year, Dr. Koontz served as chairwoman of the International Women's Year Coordinating Committee for North Carolina. She was also recently appointed to the North Carolina Council on the Status of Women. In October of 1976, Dr. Koontz was honored by the College Entrance Examination Board at their 75th anniversary ceremony in New York where she was presented the Board's Medal for Distinguished Service to Education. The medal is awarded to a select few only once every 25 years.



Prior to her present position as Assistant Superintendent in the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, she served as Special Assistant for Coordination of Nutrition Programs in the N. C. Department of Human Resources, after which she took leave to serve on the U. S. Department of State Selection Board for Performance Evaluation of Foreign Service Officers. Her active teaching career led to her election as first black President of the National Education Association. In January 1969, President Nixon appointed her to direct the Women's Bureau at the U. S. Department of Labor during which time she became the U. S. Delegate to the United Nation's Commission on the Status of Women which drafted the resolution on International Women's Year Observance in 1975.

Dr. Koontz was educated in the public schools and Livingstone College of Salisbury where she received her B. A. degree in secondary school English and mathematics and elementary education. She received an M. A. degree from Atlanta University and did further study in Special Education at Columbia University, Indiana University and North Carolina College (now N.C.C.U.).

Her participation in civic, religious and educational organizations has been long and rewarding and follows a family tradition of public service. She is an active member of numerous organizations and has been recognized for her outstanding service by honorary memberships in such groups as the American Home Economics Association and Phi Delta Kappa. She has received honorary degrees from more than two dozen colleges and universities.

Dr. Koontz has traveled throughout the world representing both government and private organizations. Her humanitarian interest in people of all ages, races and socio-economic conditions has been widely recognized by private and public groups.

She is married to Harry L. Koontz. They make their home in Salisbury, North Carolina, where Dr. Koontz was born.