

Bereavements and Recognitions

Policy on Expressions of Sympathy and Recognitions of Achievements¹

Section 1. Bereavements

(a) In the event that the Montgomery County Democratic Headquarters learns of the death of any current

- Precinct Chair
- Precinct Vice Chair
- Area Coordinator
- Member of the Central Committee (voting or non-voting)
- elected Democratic public official representing at least part of Montgomery County
- Trustee
- Committee Chair or Vice Chair appointed by the Chair of the Central Committee
- employee hired by the Central Committee
- Legal Counsel of the County Democratic Party
- Editor of the County Democratic Party's web site
- Member of the Executive Committee of the Maryland Democratic Party who is a resident of Montgomery County
- President of any Democratic organization chartered by the Central Committee
- Democratic member of the Montgomery County Board of Elections; or
- Member of Plowman/Fisherman or the Democratic Forum;

or of any former long-term member of the Precinct Organization;

(i) a letter (or card) of sympathy from the Chair and Vice Chair of the Central Committee, on behalf [o]f the Party and the Central Committee, will be sent to the decedent's family,

(ii) notices will be published in *The Montgomery Democrat* and on the Party's web site, and

(iii) the decedent's name will be published in the "In Memoriam" section of the Spring Ball booklet.

¹ The October 13, 2003 minutes of the Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee note that "In response to a question from the Chair of the Central Committee, the Chair of the Rules Committee stated that the gifts policy ('Policy on Expressions of Sympathy and Recognitions of Achievements', adopted by the Central Committee September 14, 1999) only applies to gifts made on behalf of the Central Committee and does not govern gifts made by individual members of the Committee on their own behalf."

(b) In the event that (after the Secretary has compiled a list of the winners of the following awards²) the Montgomery County Democratic Headquarters learns of the death of any or of any current or former winner of the

- Jack Dean-Helen Peacock Precinct Official Award (or the Jack Dean Precinct Official Award)
- Rita Morgan-Bruce Jerney Community Service Award
- Democrat of the Year Award
- Rosalie Reilly Lifetime Service Award
- Kelsey Cooke Volunteer of the Year Award (or the Volunteer of the Year Award)
- Lucille Maurer Award for Continuing Service by a Former Elected Official
- Reginald Zalles Award (Most Improved Precinct in a Dollars Drive)
- Col. Ward W. Caddington Award (Highest Percentage of Quota Raised by a Precinct in a Dollars Drive)
- Esther and Odell Kominers Award (Highest Amount of Money Raised by a Precinct in a Dollars Drive)

(i) a letter (or card) of sympathy from the Chair and Vice Chair of the Central Committee, on behalf [o]f the Party and the Central Committee, will be sent to the decedent's family,

(ii) notices will be published in *The Montgomery Democrat* and on the Party's web site, and

(iii) the decedent's name will be published in the "In Memoriam" section of the Spring Ball booklet.

(c) In the event that the Montgomery County Democratic Headquarters learns of the death of a

- parent
- grandparent
- sibling
- spouse (or significant other)
- in-law
- child, or
- grandchild

of any of the persons listed in section 1(a) or (b):

² The November 9, 1999 minutes of the Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee state that the Secretary presented the list required by this section at that meeting of the Central Committee.

(i) a letter (or card) of sympathy from the Chair and Vice Chair of the Central Committee, on behalf of the Party and the Central Committee, will be sent to the decedent's family, and

(ii) notices will be published in *The Montgomery Democrat* and on the Party's web site.

(d) In the event that the Montgomery County Democratic Headquarters learns of the serious illness of the persons listed in section 1(a), (b), or (c):

(i) a letter (or card) of sympathy from the Chair and Vice Chair of the Central Committee, on behalf of the Party and the Central Committee, will be sent to the person, and

(ii) notices will be published in *The Montgomery Democrat* and on the Party's web site.

Section 2. Congratulations

(a) In the event that the Montgomery County Democratic Headquarters learns that any person listed in section 1(a), (b), or (c) has given birth, gotten married, or received a degree, notices will be published in *The Montgomery Democrat* and on the Party's web site.

(b) In the event that the Montgomery County Democratic Headquarters learns that any person listed in section 1(a) or (b) has received a significant award, notices will be published in *The Montgomery Democrat* and on the Party's web site.

Section 3. Retirements

In the event that any person listed in section 1(a) retires from their political office:

(i) a letter from the Chair and Vice Chair of the Central Committee, on behalf of the Party and the Central Committee, expressing thanks for services rendered will be sent to the retiree, and

(ii) notices will be published in *The Montgomery Democrat* and on the Party's web site.

Section 4. Extraordinary cases

Expressions of sympathy and recognitions of achievements, not otherwise authorized by this policy, requiring the expenditure of funds, may be made on behalf of

- the Montgomery County Democratic Party,
- the Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee, or
- any officer of the Central Committee acting in their capacity as an officer of the Central Committee

only if specifically authorized by the Central Committee. The Central Committee will consider proposals authorizing expressions of sympathy and recognitions of achievements, not otherwise authorized by this policy, only if they are submitted at a

regular meeting of the Central Committee and acted upon at the next meeting of the Central Committee.

Section 6³. Sunshine Committee

The Chair of the Central Committee shall appoint a Sunshine Committee. The Sunshine Committee will (a) monitor local newspapers and other publications to attempt to identify individuals and events that should be recognized under this policy and (b) otherwise assist in the administration of this policy.

Section 7. Previous Policies

This policy supersedes the bereavements/memorials policies adopted by the Central Committee on January 5, 1972, and on April 14, 1982.⁴

Adopted by the Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee, September 14, 1999

³ There is no § 5.

⁴ The policy of January 5, 1972 provided that "A contribution or a similar token of sympathy shall be made as an expression of sympathy during bereavement when the deceased was an active member of the Democratic Party." The policy of April 14, 1982 provided that "There is to be an "in memoriam" page in the Spring Ball booklet to honor party activities."