

NLC Leaders Honored for Their Commitment to Wastewater Treatment

by Carol Kocheisen

Richmond, Va., Mayor Rudy McCollum, NLC First Vice President Charlie Lyons, chair of the Board of Selectman in Arlington, Mass., and NLC Second Vice President Anthony A. Williams, mayor of Washington, D.C., received awards last week from the Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies' (AMSA) for "displaying extraordinary insight of the challenges facing wastewater treatment agencies."

McCollum was also the keynote

speaker at the luncheon ceremony at which the awards were given.

Paraphrasing Winston Churchill, McCollum told the wastewater professionals that he was "humbled to receive an award from so many who have done so much for so long."

He criticized the dwindling federal commitment to water infrastructure while describing the significant financial investment

Richmond has made in addressing its combined sewer overflow problems, including the double digit rate increases

faced by his city's residents.

Concluding his remarks, McCollum expressed his firm belief in the Water Infrastructure Network, a coalition of more than 40 diverse groups committed to revitalizing and enhancing the federal financial role in addressing the nation's water infrastructure needs.

McCollum served as NLC's Energy, Environment and Natural Resources (EENR) Committee chair in 2000.

In accepting his award, Lyons also noted his concerns with increasing federal standards and responsibilities, accom-

panied by fewer and fewer federal resources.

His goal, as well as that of his elected colleagues, he said, was to "transfer a city better than we got to our children." Lyons has also served on NLC's EENR Steering Committee.

Williams was honored at the Water Infrastructure Network's annual fund raising banquet for his many water quality initiatives in and around the nation's capitol and in conjunction with the surrounding states to enhance the Chesapeake Bay.