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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

APPROVAL SOUGHT TO AWARD DEGREES

CHARLESTON, IL.--Eastern Illinois University President Stan Rives will ask for Board of Governors approval to award honorary Doctor of Public Service degrees to Congressman Terry L. Bruce (D-Olney) and Hazel Watson of Charleston at its Oct. 19 meeting at Eastern.

Bruce and Watson were recommended to receive the honorary Doctors of Public Service degree at Eastern's December Commencement by members of the 1988-89 Faculty Honorary Degree Committee, who sought nominations from faculty, students, staff, and other friends of the University. The Committee, after receiving nominations, submitted the candidates' names to Rives last April.

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Eligible for consideration for honorary degrees are persons with a record of major distinction in education, public service, research, humanities, business or the professions.

Bruce, who graduated from the University of Illinois with a B.S. degree in 1966 and a J.D. degree in 1969, was elected to the United States Congress as a Democrat in 1984, and soon became Whip of his class of entering Congressmen.

Since 1987, has served as Majority Whip at Large of the United States Congress. He has served on the Science and Technology, Education and Labor, Agriculture, and Energy and Commerce Committees of the House of Representatives.

An active supporter of education and economic development, Bruce has met with several Eastern classes and has accepted numerous invitations to speak to various campus groups.

Mrs. Watson, who has been active in politics since the age of 20, has served as president of the Illinois Federation of Republican Women and as a State Central Committeewoman for 36 years.

In 1961, she served as a delegate to the Republican National Convention and attended every inaugural from President Hoover in 1932 to President Nixon in 1973.

Her positions have included president of the Charleston Woman's Club, charter member of the Coles County Historical Society, member of the Board of the former Charleston Hospital, the Elks Auxiliary and the Coles County U.S.O.

Watson was State of Illinois Chairwoman of the United States Vietnam Memorial Fund.