

***Las Amigas, Inc., Attends the 2009 Uncommon Height Gala in Washington, D. C.***  
***By Brenda C. McCaskill, Las Amigas, Inc. – National Reporter***

The Eleventh Annual Uncommon Height Gala, an invitation only event presented by the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW), was recently held in Washington, D. C. Over 2,000 guests, including representatives from Las Amigas, Inc., a national women's public service organization, attended the grand affair which celebrates the birthday of Dr. Dorothy I. Height, and pays tribute to an honoree who exemplifies the lifetime of service as embodied by Dr. Height. Oprah Winfrey was the recipient of the 2009 Uncommon Heights Award. Proceeds from the event strengthen NCNW's capacity to meet critical needs in the empowerment of women and their families.

The Honorary Chair of the 2009 Uncommon Height Gala was First Lady Michelle Obama. Honorary Committee Co-Chairs included the National President of Las Amigas, Incorporated, Joann W. Williams of Greensboro, N. C. Attending the gala event along with Las Amigas, Inc., National President Williams were Las Amigas, Inc., members Brenda Gilliam of the Forestville (Md.) Chapter; Agatha Martin-Grimes and Jodi Berry of the Greensboro (N.C.) Chapter; Roberta Epps, Mary Wren, and Lois Wysinger of the Baltimore (Md.) Chapter; and Verna Smith of the Washington-Metro (D.C.) Chapter. Said Las Amigas, Inc., National President Williams, "To be among Dr. Height, Ms. Winfrey, and the guests on this extraordinary evening is an honor, humbling, and exhilarating. This is an evening that I and my Las Amigas sisters shall never forget."

The Uncommon Height Gala, attended by notable African American politicians, organization and business leaders, entertainers, celebrities, and more, is a prominent event drawing attendees from across the nation. The event has become a signature event celebrating a living legend, Dr. Dorothy I. Height, and giving accolades to an individual or individuals who give of themselves to make a difference. Ms. Winfrey joins the ranks of Uncommon Height Award honorees - Dr. Dorothy I. Height, Sir Sidney Poitier, Cathy Hughes, Ann M. Fudge, Johnetta Betsch Cole, Nancy Wilson, Quincy Jones, Bill and Camille Cosby, Maya Angelou, Vernon Jordan, and Marian Wright Edelman - all honored for their legacy of service and achievement as exemplified in the spirit and tradition of Dr. Dorothy I. Height.

In the tradition of Dr. Height, Las Amigas, Inc., an empowered, national, women's organization committed to public service and an active affiliate member of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW), has worked tirelessly and steadfastly as servant leaders in the community. Over the past 51 years, Las Amigas, Inc., has actively engaged and supported initiatives to further the Las Amigas, Inc.'s programmatic thrusts: education, family, health, political awareness, and economic development. With chapters serving communities within the states of Maryland, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Virginia, and our nation's capitol, Las Amigas, Inc., is committed to enhancing the quality of life and promoting the general improvement of the communities it serves.

**ABOUT LAS AMIGAS, INC.**

*Las Amigas, Inc., is an African American women's public service organization founded in 1957 by the late Dora R. Mason and Mary Q. Moore. The mission of Las Amigas, Inc., is to enhance the quality of life and promote the general improvement of the communities in which Las Amigas serves and to encourage personal and professional growth and foster a closer relationship among members.*

*Las Amigas, Inc., is an affiliate of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) and has national partnerships with the Lupus Foundation of America, Inc., the National Bone Marrow Donor Program, the National Kidney Foundation, and Habitat for Humanity.*