

**Women's Action for New Directions
Women Legislators' Lobby**

National Office: 691 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
781 643 6740 * Fax: 781 643 6744 * info@wand.org

December 10, 2005
For Immediate Release

Contact: Nan Grogan Orrock, 404 660 9698
Email: norrock@gowebway.com
Or: Mary Babic, WAND, 781 643 6740

**Honoring a lifetime of activism, PIRG
presents Nan Grogan Orrock with Citizen
Achievement award.**

**Grogan Orrock, now a GA legislator and President of WiLL, has spent
her life in pursuit of justice, civil rights, and peace.
December 2005, she accepted the 2005 John O'Connor Citizen
Achievement Award in Denver, CO.**

ARLINGTON, MA - At a moving ceremony in Denver, CO in early December, the coalition of state PIRGs (Public Interest Research Groups) presented the John O'Connor Citizen Achievement Award to GA State Representative Nan Grogan Orrock.

The award is presented each year to a person who consistently reflects the spirit and dedication of John O'Connor, a longtime advocate for clean energy, social justice, and health care for all. A founder of the National Campaign Against Toxic Hazards and an organizer for Massachusetts Fair Share, O'Connor died suddenly in 2001 at the age of 46.

"John was an inspiration to all of us who knew him," said Grogan Orrock upon hearing of the award. "It means a great deal for me to be honored in his name. We shared many of the same values – justice, health care for all, clean energy. – and I look forward to continuing my efforts to advance these values."

Rep. Grogan Orrock has served in the Georgia General Assembly since 1987. She is Vice Chair of the Rules Committee, and serves on the Appropriations, Ways and Means, Industrial Relations, and Ethics committees.

She is a founder of the Georgia Legislative Women's Caucus, and is the president of the national Women Legislators' Lobby (WiLL), a national multi-partisan network of women legislators working to change federal spending priorities (which is a program of WAND, Women's Action for New Directions).

“Nan is one of the most dedicated and fierce women activists I’ve known,” said Susan Shaer, executive director of WAND. “Plus, she’s a lively and literate presence everywhere she goes. Since she’s been inspiring all of us for years now, we can understand why the PIRGs would honor her in this way. She’s made a difference, and she continues to do so.”

Grogan Orrock’s successful policy initiatives include passage of unemployment insurance reform, family and medical leave policy, health coverage for contraceptives and chlamydia screening, comprehensive AIDS policy, solid waste management, and hate crimes legislation. She is Vice- Chair of the Labor-Workforce Committee of the National Conference of State Legislators and executive committee member of the National Labor Caucus of State Legislators.

Grogan Orrock's lifelong activism began as a young college student who stepped onto the streets with the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. She worked with SNCC in Atlanta and Mississippi in 1964 and led a student community civil rights project in the Black Belt counties of her home state of Virginia in 1965-67. Her work experience spans the fields of philanthropy, civil rights, labor, and community organizing, including more than a dozen years of shop floor activism as a member of the Bakery, Confectionery, and Tobacco Workers Union.

Previous recipients of the O’Connor award include Craig Williams, director of the Chemical Weapons Working Group (CWWG); Terri Swearingen, honored for her leadership in the citizens’ campaign against the WTI incinerator in East Liverpool, OH.

Women’s Action for New Directions

WAND empowers women to act politically to reduce violence and militarism, and redirect excessive military resources toward unmet human and environmental needs.

The national office is located in Arlington, MA.

www.wand.org

Women Legislators’ Lobby

A program of WAND, WiLL is a national non-partisan network of women state legislators who work together to influence federal policy and budget priorities.

WiLL is a powerful voice with members in all 50 states, who represent millions of constituents.

WiLL seeks to:

- Persuade Congress to redirect excessive military spending toward unmet human and environmental needs;
- Address women's health issues;
- Eliminate violence against women;
- Curb the proliferation of weapons.

PIRG

The PIRGs coalition consists of 28 state organizations, each independent and locally-based. These groups work cooperatively on regional and national issues such as preserving the environment, conserving energy and natural resources, protecting consumers, advocating social justice and protecting public health.

www.pirg.org/