



**KIWANIS CLUB OF MADISON (TN)**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CONGRESSMAN JIM COOPER AND DAVIDSON COUNTY PLUS STATE OF TENNESSEE ELECTED OFFICIALS ARE HONORED BY KIWANIS CLUB OF MADISON TN AT SEPTEMBER LUNCHEON**

MADISON, SEPTEMBER 9, 2009: Saying, "So often, no one ever stops to say 'thank you' to the men and women we elect to office to help us maintain a healthy, growing community," Kiwanis Club of Madison TN president, Carson W. "Bill" Beck officially welcomed what he laughingly called "the whole downtown Nashville courthouse" to a special luncheon at Skyline Medical Center's conference area.

Featuring Congressman Cooper as the keynote speaker, the 'event' drew a large body of invited elected officials, including (in no certain order): Steve North, former judge for Davidson County; Jo Ann North, former Assessor of Property; Mark North, member of Metro Nashville Public School(s) board; George Rooker, Assessor of Property; Judge Betty Adams Green; Richard Rooker, Circuit Court Clerk; John Arriola, Davidson County Clerk; Jim Forkum, Metro Councilman; Charlie Cardwell, Metro Trustee; Judge Phillip Smith; Dawn Deaner, Public Defender; Ronnie Steine, Metro Councilman at Large; Judge Muriel Robinson; Vic Lineweaver, Juvenile Court Clerk; Chancellor Carol McCoy; Tim Garrett, Metro Councilman at Large; Sheriff Daron Hall; David Torrence, Criminal Court Clerk; and Judge Mark Fishburn. Also in attendance were Mark Fisher, Assistant Administrator, and Steve Otto, CEO, both of Skyline Medical Center, as well as committed members of the Kiwanis Club of Madison TN and the Madison-Inglewood-Rivergate community.

In fact, as Cooper stepped to the front of the room to begin his presentation, he quipped, "This is probably the greatest gathering of top officials I have ever been around. I almost wish historians were here with us today to gather all the wisdom in this one room."

As Cooper continued, he put the focus on "what it will take to keep the United States remaining the greatest country in the world." He listed an overhaul of health care as the number one priority, admitting that it has become the "first major debate of the information age." While Cooper firmly admitted that a health plan would have to be bi-partisan in order to be successful, he enumerated the major points of contention between opposing parties as affordability of care, access to care, and quality of care. "I believe the problems we are facing in piecing together a workable plan have to do with over-learned lessons from past years and prior presidencies. The citizens of the US have been jerked around to the point that they distrust anyone at the federal level. What we have to do as elected officials is to earn that trust again."

Cooper talked about the fact that a Democratic Congress does not necessarily mean that a plan will be structured to exactly meet President Obama's guidelines. "If you will remember," he said, "our

president made only one direct request of his House of Representative and Senate early on, and that was to establish an independent advisory committee to pave the way for the establishment of a health care 'map.' Well, that did not happen, and now President Obama cannot afford to pick a fight with Congress. Former President Jimmy Carter did that, and he lost that fight in a big way. President Obama knows that he has to tread carefully, so as to encourage the best solution for the people of the United States, and that means making his way gingerly through a 'minefield.'"

Cooper drew laughs from the crowd when he pointed out that one of the main players in Congress who is influencing the health care debate in the 'middle of the minefield' is Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi. "Pelosi drew up a list of ten people that she dislikes the most. I'm number five on that list. I actually thought I was too boring to be that popular." He continued to say that he operates in a quiet but persistent mode, putting the focus on clear communication. "Rather than hold town hall meetings, I want to have a conversation where we can sit down and talk about what matters to you and what I can do to make your voice heard, through me, in Congress. I trust your judgment, and I really want to hear from you about what you feel I need to be doing as your representative."

Cooper ended his address by saying, "I am proud to be your congressman, deeply honored to serve you."

*The Kiwanis Club of Madison meets each Wednesday, 11:45AM, at Skyline Medical Center. If you are interested in becoming a member of an organization committed to community services, or if you would like more information regarding upcoming events, please call 719-1668.-You may also check out our news and calendar listings via our web site at [www.kiwanisclubofmadison.org](http://www.kiwanisclubofmadison.org).*

Pix included as jpegs:



*From Left: Judge Muriel Robinson, Sheriff Daron Hall, Kiwanis President Bill Beck*



*From Left: Congressman Jim Cooper and Skyline Medical Center CEO Steve Otto*



Congressman Jim Cooper



*From Left:* Bill Beck, Circuit Court Clerk Richard Rooker, Kiwanian David Sturdivant



*From Left:* Bill Beck, Kiwanian Jo Ann North, Congressman Jim Cooper, Kiwanian Nancy Potts



*From Left:* Davidson County Clerk John Arriola, Kiwanian Lonnie Jones, Metro Councilman at Large Ronnie Steine, Metro Councilman Jim Forkum and Bill Beck