

ALABAMA REGISTRY OF INTERPRETERS FOR THE DEAF



June 9, 2006

Mrs. Judith M. Gilliam
1002 Tomahawk Drive
Talladega, AL 35160

Dear Judith,

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Vice-President
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It is my honor and pleasure to inform you that you have been selected as the 2006 recipient of the Mary Lou Bingham award. This award is presented biennially during the ALRID General Meeting to an outstanding Alabama Interpreter in recognition of their long-term service and contributions to ALRID's growth, interpreting programs and administrative junctions.

As President of the Alabama Association of the Deaf, you have constantly worked along side the Alabama Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf to improve the quality of interpreting provided to the citizens of Alabama. Your work on the development and implementation of the National Association of the Deaf Interpreter Certification Testing, the Alabama Licensure of Interpreters and Transliterators and as co-chair of the NAD-RID National Council on Interpreting has had a very positive effect on the type of Interpreters working in the state of Alabama. Your work on the successful passage of American Sign Language as a foreign language in Alabama High Schools will allow Deaf students an opportunity for an advanced diploma and will spark an interest in young hearing students to become interpreters for our future.

Judith, you are a mentor, motivator, and model for interpreters, not only in this state, but through out the nation. In closing I would like to leave you with this quote from Nancy Bloch, Chief Executive officer of the National Association of the Deaf, "There are not many leaders in our community who truly take to heart the significance of building linkages between deaf consumers and sign language interpreters on all levels—local, state, and national. Ms. Gilliam is a rare gem in this regard—she has accomplished this, and so much more."

With great appreciation for a lifetime of commitment and work, it is a privilege to bestow this award to you.

Sincerely,

Melvin A. Walker
Mary Lou Bingham Award Chairperson

Karen McLean
ALRID Vice-President