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# The Facts

Covering Brazoria County - Where Texas Began

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## Kenemore selected for Labor Hall of Fame

By CARLOS ARMINTOR

The Facts

O.D. Kenemore, a long-time union official and advocate for workers' rights, will be inducted into the Texas Labor Hall of Fame at a banquet sponsored by the AFL-CIO in Austin Monday night.

Kenemore, 71, said he was elated when he heard of the honor. "I'm amazed," he said.

"I know I don't deserve it, but I appreciate it anyway."

Ed Sills, a spokesman for the AFL-CIO, said Kenemore was being honored for long and substantial service in the labor movement.

"Mr. Kenemore is being honored for a number of reasons," Sills said. "The main reason is he has been a forceful advocate for injured workers. O.D. Kenemore has been a champion

for injured workers in Texas and their right to receive workers compensation."

In 1990, after almost 40 years in organized labor, Kenemore became a member of the Texas Worker's Compensation Commission, serving two terms, including a stint as chairman.

During his time on the commission he helped write the rules of how to administer the worker's compensation act.

Kenemore said he dedicated his time to fighting for worker's compensation because he had "always been for the underdog."

"I took care of all of my members' claims and a lot of people who weren't associated with the labor union. If they needed help, I helped them."

Kenemore, a Lake Jackson resident, began his career in organized labor in 1950 when,

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working as a pipefitter in Port Arthur, he joined a local union. A year later he moved to Clute and joined Local 390. He was the union's

business manager from 1962 to 1990.

Kenemore also has been president of the Freeport Metal Trades Council, president and trustee of the Texas AFL-CIO and president of the Tideland Labor Council.

Kenemore has also served

in other areas of the community.

He helped to establish the Brazoria County Youth Home in 1967 and has served on the board of the Brazoria County United Way and Brazoria County Nurses Association.