

# The Charlotte Observer

[www.charlotte.com](http://www.charlotte.com)

## Gen. Clark calls for bipartisan unity at Echo Awards

Tuesday, Sep. 04, 2012

Cristina Bolling  
cbolling@charlotteobserver.com

CHARLOTTE, N.C. Four-star Gen. Wesley Clark shared his message of perseverance and a call to bipartisan unity Monday during the Echo Foundation's 15th annual awards gala at the Knight Theater.



© Andy Chen

“Today, the (divide) between Democrats and Republicans ... are as deep as they’ve been in a long time,” Clark told the crowd.

“I’m just asking you this: Can’t we come together as a nation and as a society and deal with the challenges facing us today?”

The foundation honored local civic leaders Jim and Mary Lou Babb with the 2012 Echo Award Against Indifference for their service to Charlotte’s educational, cultural and philanthropic groups.

Jim Babb is the past president and CEO of Jefferson-Pilot Communications and Outlet Communications and currently heads Bahakel Communications Ltd.

Mary Lou co-founded The Woman’s Impact Fund in 2003, which “helps women reach their monetary giving potential while meeting community need.”

Kathleen Kennedy Townsend received the foundation’s Family Legacy Award honoring the Kennedy family.

A reception at the Observer featuring the opening of the Robert F. Kennedy Photojournalism Exhibit followed the awards. The exhibit is sponsored by The Echo Foundation and the Observer and features the work of Life magazine photographer Bill Eppridge, who shadowed Bobby Kennedy in 1968.