

2011

Induction Ceremony

Presentation of honoree plaque

Maryland Women's Hall of Fame

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2011
Maryland Women's Hall of Fame

HONOREES

Lucy Diggs Slowe (posthumously)

Nominated by Angela Gibson, President, Alpha-Epsilon Omega Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Carol W. Greider, Ph.D.

Nominated by Edward D. Miller, M.D., Dean, School of Medicine Johns Hopkins Medicine;
Chief Executive Office Johns Hopkins Medicine

Barbara Holdridge

Nominated by Christine Moulton, Executive Director, National Women's Hall of Fame

Dr. Ligia Peralta, M.D., F.A.A.P., F.S.A.H.M.

Nominated by E. Albert Reece, M.d., Ph.D., MBA,
Dean University of Maryland School of Medicine; Vice President for Medical Affairs

Gertrude L. Poe

Nominated by Jennifer Hafner, Director, Maryland Newspaper Project
Maryland State Archives

June A. Willenz

Nominated by Denise Scotto, Esq. Global Legal Strategies



MARYLAND COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

The Maryland Commission for Women (MCW) was created in 1965 and established as an independent agency by an act of the Maryland General Assembly in 1971. It is a 25 member diverse group of citizens appointed by the Governor, President of the Senate, and Speaker of the House. The Commission's membership represents the geographical regions and diversity of the state. Members are appointed for terms of four years. The Commission is housed in the Maryland Department of Human Resources.

MISSION

The MCW advises government, advances solutions, and serves as a statewide resource to expand social, political, and economic opportunities for all women.

VISION

All Maryland women will have full social, political, and economic equality.

COMMISSIONERS

Honorable Susan Elgin, Chair

Honorable Patricia Cornish, Vice-Chair

Dr. Kimberly Brown

Helen Holton

Lynn Fitrell

Susan Genn

Erum Malik

Anita Riley

Debbie Risper

Elissa Sachs-Kohen

Roseanna Vogt

Dr. Kathleen White

A. Diane Williams

Women Legislators of the Maryland General Assembly, Inc.

Women Legislators of the Maryland General Assembly, Inc., better known as the Women's Caucus, was established in 1972 to foster cooperation among women holding state legislative office and to increase the participation of women in politics. Key to the organization's success is its framework, wherein issues can be debated and policies refined, without losing sight of the overall mission: **to improve public policy that affects women's lives and increase the number of women elected and appointed to public office in Maryland.**

The mandate of the Women Legislators of the Maryland General Assembly is: **to research and develop legislation assisting women; to encourage the greater participation of women in Maryland government; and to communicate and cooperate with other women's organizations.**

We are currently **58 members strong**, comprising **31% of the General Assembly**. We were the **first Women's Caucus in the Nation**. Please log on to our Website: womenlegislatorsmd.org to learn more about our organization and our foundation.

Delegate Kathy Afzali
Delegate Susan L.M. Aumann
Delegate Pamela Beidle
Delegate Liz Bobo
Delegate Jill P. Carter
Delegate Bonnie Cullison
Delegate Addie Eckardt
Delegate Barbara A. Frush
Senator Lisa A. Gladden
Delegate Melony Griffith
Delegate Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio
Delegate Anne Healey
Delegate Carolyn J.B. Howard
Senator Nancy Jacobs
Delegate Sally Jameson
Senator Verna Jones-Rodwell
Senator Delores G. Kelley
Senator Nancy J. King
Delegate Susan W. Krebs
Delegate Mary Ann Love
Delegate Maggie McIntosh
Delegate Heather R. Mizeur
Delegate Shirley Nathan-Pulliam
Delegate Shane Pendergrass
Delegate Barbara Robinson
Delegate Donna Stifler
Delegate Kathy Szeliga
Delegate Kris Valderrama
Delegate Cathy Vitale

Delegate Tiffany Alston
Delegate Gail H. Bates
Senator Joanne Benson
Delegate Aisha N. Braveboy
Senator Joan Carter Conway
Delegate Kathleen M. Dumais
Senator Jennie Forehand
Delegate Tawanna P. Gaines
Delegate Cheryl Glenn
Delegate Ana Sol Gutierrez
Delegate Hattie Harrison
Delegate Sheila E. Hixson
Delegate Jolene Ivey
Delegate Mary-Dulany James
Delegate Adrienne A. Jones
Delegate Anne Kaiser
Delegate Ariana Kelly
Senator Katherine Klausmeier
Delegate Susan C. Lee
Delegate Susan K. McComas
Delegate Aruna Miller
Senator Karen S. Montgomery
Delegate Joseline Peña-Melnyk
Senator Catherine E. Pugh
Delegate Kelly Schulz
Delegate Nancy Reter Stocksdale
Delegate Veronica Turner
Delegate Geraldine Valentino-Smith
Delegate Mary Washington

Maryland Women's Hall of Fame Honorees

The Maryland Women's Hall of Fame was established in 1985 through the efforts of the Maryland Commission for Women and the Women Legislators of Maryland. The purpose of the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame is to honor Maryland women who have made unique and lasting contributions to the economic, political, cultural and social life of the state and to provide role models of achievement for our future women leaders. The annual ceremony acts to enhance the visibility of women's contributions to the communities they serve, the state of Maryland and to the wider world.

Each year the Maryland Commission for Women and Women Legislators recognize women of achievement through the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame. The selected honorees' contributions have made significant and lasting impressions in all areas of achievement, including areas such as the environment, science and technology, education, the arts, social justice, civil rights, the armed services, and religion. Through the creation of the Maryland Women's Heritage Center, the Hall of Fame has a home. The exhibit will provide a face and access for all Marylanders to get to know the Maryland Women who have contributed so much to society and the world.

1985

Margaret Brent *
Rachel Carson*
Rita C. Davidson *
Gladys Noon Spellman
Harriet Ross Tubman*

1986

Lillie Carroll Jackson *
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton*
Henrietta Szold*
Jeannette Rosner Wolman
H. Margret Zassenhaus, MD

1987

Clara Barton*
Frances Ellen Watkins Harper*
Juanita Jackson Mitchell
Mary Shaw Shorb, PhD
Helen Brooke Taussig, MD*

1988

Barbara Ann Mikulski
Sadie Kneller Miller *
Mary Eliza Risteau *
Martha Carey Thomas *
Verda Freeman Welcome

1989

Bertha Sheppard Adkins *
Eugenie Clark, PhD.
Lavinia Margaret Engle*
Lena King Lee
Estelle R. Ramey, PhD.

1990

Lucille Maurer
Enolia Pettigen McMillan

Pauli Murray*
Adele Hagner Stamp *
Mary Lemist Titcomb*

1991

Rita R. Colwell, PhD
Mary Elizabeth Lange*
Claire McCardell*
Bessie Moses, MD*
Alta Schrock, PhD

1992

Annie Armstrong*
Anna Ella Carroll*
Rose Kushner
Margaret Collins Schweinhaut
Carmen Delgado Votaw

1993

Rosalyn Blake Bell
Lucille Clifton
Elizabeth King Ellicott*
Jean Spencer*
Martha Ellicott Tyson*

1994

Rosalie Silber Abrams
Mary Elizabeth Banning*
Harriet Elizabeth Brown
Constance A. Morella
Mary Adelaide Nutting*

1995

Jill Moss Greenberg
Mary L. Nock*
Amanda Taylor Norris, MD*
Nettie Barcroft Taylor
Euphemia M Goldsborough Wilson*

1996

Madeleine L. Ellicott*
Ethel Llewellyn Ennis
Mary Digges Lee*
Brigid G. Leventhal, MD*
Barbara Robinson

1997

Diane L. Adams, MD
Sol del Ande Mendez Eaton
Catherine R. Gira, PhD
Helen L. Koss
Rosa Ponselle*

1998

Constance Ross Beims
Mary Katherine Goddard*
Elaine Ryan Hedges*
Mary Carter Smith

1999

Florence Rieffle Bahr*
Lillian C. Compton*
Edith Houghton Hooker*
Elizabeth Fran Johnson
Bernice Smith White

2000

Constance Uriolo Battle, MD
Lois Green Carr
Sonia Pressman Fuentes
Josephine Jacobsen
Rosetta Stith, PhD

2001

Kathleen Feeley, SSND.
Misbah Khan, MD.
Charmaine Krohe, SSND.
Eunice Kennedy Shriver

2002

Mabel Houze Hubbard
Florence P. Kendall
Mary Young Pickersgill*
Lorraine Sheehan

2003

Virginia Walcott Beauchamp
Edith Clarke*
Kathryn J. DuFour
Ruth L. Kirschstein, MD
Etta H. Maddox*
Deborah A. Yow

2004

Emily Edmonson*
Nancy Grasmick, PhD.
Esther McCready
Margaret Byrd Rawson
Vivian V. Simpson*

2005

Shoshana S. Cardin
B. Olive Cole*
Susan R. Panny, MD.
Edyth H. Schoenrich, MD, MPH

2006

Susan P. Baker
Liebe Sokol Diamond, MD
Bea Gaddy*
Marilyn Hughes Gaston, MD
Rebecca Alban Hoffberger
Grace Snively*

2007

Colonel Annette M. Deener
Sally T. Grant
Prasanna Nair, MD., MPH.
Karen H. Rothenberg, JD., MPA
Audrey E. Scott

2008

Eleanora Fagan, "Billie Holiday" *
Ramona McCarthy Hawkins, RPh.
Ellen Moses Heller
Pauline Menes
Toby Barbara Orenstein
Emily Wilson Walker, MD*

2009

Ilia Feher*
Diane Griffin, MD., PhD
Harriet Legum
Allyson Solomon
Anne St. Clair Wright*

2010

Claire M. Fraser-Leggett, PhD
Anne Catherine Hoof Green*
Irene Morgan Kirkaldy*
Dr. Bernice R. Sandler
*Denotes Posthumously Inducted



Maryland Commission for Women
2011 Maryland Women's Hall of Fame
March 29, 2011
5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Welcome & Introductions

Susan Elgin, Chair
Maryland Commission for Women

Welcome & Presentation of Women's History Month Proclamation

Ted Dallas, Interim Secretary
Department of Human Resources

Greetings

The Honorable Susan Lee, President
Women Legislators of the Maryland General Assembly, Inc.

Message from U.S. Senators Ben Cardin and Barbara Mikulski

Joyce Leviton, Assistant to Senator Ben Cardin
Kristen Soper, Assistant to Senator Barbara Mikulski

Introduction of the 2011 Women's Hall of Fame Selection Committee

Patricia Cornish, Co-Chair
2011 Maryland Women's Hall of Fame

Introduction of Honorees & Presenters

Honoree

Lucy Diggs Slowe (Posthumous)
Carol W. Greider, Ph.D.
Barbara Holdridge
Ligia Peralta, M.D.
Gertrude L. Poe
June A. Willenz

Presenter

Angela Gibson
Cynthia Wolberger, Ph.D.
Christine Moulton
E. Albert Reese
Jennifer Hafner
Denise Scotto, Esq.

Presentation & Acceptance of Plaque to Maryland State Law Library

The Honorable Susan Lee
Katherine Baer, Research/State Publications Librarian
Maryland State Law Library

Closing Remarks

Susan Elgin, Chair

Honoree Reception at Government House

Hosted by:
Governor Martin O'Malley
First Lady, Judge Katie O'Malley

LUCY DIGGS SLOWE (1885-1936)



Lucy Diggs Slowe lost both of her parents by the age of six and went to live with her Aunt Martha Price. She soon moved from Lexington Virginia to Baltimore, Maryland seeking greater life opportunity. At the age of thirteen, she entered the Baltimore segregated public school system.

Proving to be an exemplary student, Slowe graduated from the Baltimore Colored School in 1904, becoming the first female graduate and the first scholarship recipient of the school to enter Howard University in Washington, D.C.

Slowe graduated as class valedictorian from Howard University in 1908 and accepted a teaching position at Douglass High School in Baltimore. In 1911, she began studies at Columbia University's Graduate School of Arts and Science in New York. After completing a M.A. in 1915, continued with student personnel classes at Columbia's Teachers College.

While attending Howard University and continuing through the years, she excelled at tennis. In 1917, Slowe became the first African American to win a national title in any sport by winning the first women's title at the American Tennis Association's (ATA) national tournament in Baltimore.

Slowe's professional career included teaching assignments in Baltimore and later in the Washington D.C. school system. In 1919, the first Black Junior High School was established in the Washington D.C. school system with Slowe as principal. She organized the school, developed curriculums, designed and planned an in-service training system for teachers, and educated Columbia University to offer an extension course in education attended by black teachers and white junior high staff. In 1922, Slowe was hired by Howard University as the Dean of Women, a first!

During Slowe's undergraduate years, she observed administrative practices and policies of student governance, noting the opportunities for positively improving the conditions for women in higher education at all levels. This led to her idea that the dean of women should be a specialist position in women's education. Slowe embraced the female deanship position at Howard, promoting it to prominence as a model for other African American Universities. She garnered acclaim and recognition in the advancement of higher education.

As Dean of Women at Howard University, she studied the procedures developed by female deans at other universities and originated procedural standards specific to Howard's administration. She also secured the establishment of a "women's campus" at Howard, (three new dormitories for women) and influenced the philosophy and appointment of female deans to African American campuses throughout the country. This led to forward thinking in terms of equal rights for men and women by spearheading progress for African American Administrators on college campuses nationwide.

In 1935, she helped organize the National Council of Negro Women and became its secretary. She helped found the National Association of College Women and became its first president. She also worked with the progressive Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom organization.

As an undergraduate in 1908, she was a founding member of the first Greek letter sorority for black women, Alpha Kappa Alpha. The sorority has remained continuously active from 1908 to the present and after 103 years in existence, touts a membership of over 260,000 college educated women worldwide.

Slowe was a true pioneer in the shaping of educational reform for women of color in the state of Maryland and the country.

CAROL W. GREIDER, PH.D.

Professor- Johns Hopkins University



Dr. Carol W. Greider received a BA from the University of California at Santa Barbara in 1983 and a Ph.D. in 1987 from the University of California at Berkeley. In 1984, working together with Dr. Elizabeth Blackburn, she discovered telomerase, an enzyme that maintains telomeres, or chromosome ends. Dr. Greider first isolated and characterized telomerase from the ciliate *Tetrahymena*.

Her groundbreaking discovery is relevant in the treatment of cancer, heart disease, and premature aging syndromes.

In 1988, Dr. Greider went to Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory where, as an independent Cold Spring Harbor Fellow, she cloned and characterized the RNA component of telomerase. In 1990, Dr. Greider was appointed as an Assistant Investigator at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory followed by appointment to Investigator in 1994. She expanded the focus of her telomere research to include the role of telomere length in cell senescence, cell death and in cancer. Together with Dr. Calvin Harley, she showed that human telomeres shorten progressively in primary human cells. This work, along with work of other researchers, led to the idea that telomere maintenance and telomerase may play impor-

tant roles in cellular senescence and apoptosis. In 1997, Dr. Greider moved her laboratory to the Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics at The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

In 1999, she was appointed Professor, and in 2004, she was appointed as the Daniel Nathans Professor and Director of the Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics. At Johns Hopkins University, Dr. Greider's group continued to study the biochemistry of telomerase and determined the secondary structure of the human telomerase RNA. She also expanded her work on a mouse model of dyskeratosis congenita and stem cell failure in response to short telomeres. Dr. Greider currently directs a group of 10 scientists studying both the biochemistry of telomeres and telomerase as well as the cellular organismal consequences of short telomeres.

Dr. Greider has won a number of awards for the work on telomerase, and she shared the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine with Drs. Elizabeth Blackburn and Jack Szostak in 2009.

BARBARA HOLDRIDGE



Barbara Holdridge received an A.B., cum laude, from Hunter College, New York, in 1950, with a major in Humanities, and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. She then took graduate Humanities courses at Columbia University, but soon turned her efforts to

cofounding Caedmon Records in New York, with a similarly literary college friend. Caedmon was the pioneer in spoken-word recordings, and eventually, after much struggle, became a multi-million dollar company, recording readings by Dylan Thomas, whose *A Child's Christmas in Wales* became a beloved international favorite. Other recordings included the works of Ernest Hemingway, Marianne Moore, e.e. cummings, Colette and many others. The importance of Caedmon recordings in the history of the spoken word and contemporary culture has been widely acknowledged, and the entire thriving spoken-word industry of today owes its origins to Caedmon. Currently, Caedmon is part of HarperCollins Publishers.

After selling Caedmon in 1970, and remaining as president of the reorganized company for five years, she founded Stemmer House Publishers in 1975, and sold it upon retiring in 2003. Stemmer House was the first general book publishing company in Maryland, publishing both fiction and nonfiction. From 1987 to 1990, she taught book publishing and writing at Loyola

College as an Adjunct Professor. Her creation of Apprentice House Publishers as a hands-on learning project for her courses has been adopted as an on-going publishing entity by the Loyola Department of Communication.

Since moving to Maryland in 1959, her volunteer activities include current membership on the board of Phi Beta Kappa Alumni Association of Greater Baltimore, as well as former participation in the Parks Committee of the Citizens Planning and House Association in Baltimore, along with other activism.

In addition, Barbara Holdridge is the recognized co-discoverer and researcher, with her late husband Larry Holdridge, of the 19th century American portrait painter Ammi Phillips, previously displayed in leading museums as several unknown American masters. For their important contribution to art, Barbara and Larry Holdridge were honored by New York's Museum of American Folk Art. A United States postage stamp also honors this now-famous American artist.

As the owner, for 38 years, of the 18th-century Stemmer House, a Georgian architectural gem located in Owings Mills, she has developed award-winning gardens that are included on Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage and Maryland Horticultural Society tours. She has preserved the mansion with dedication, as a unique contribution to Maryland's architectural heritage. For this continuing labor of love, she received an award from the Baltimore County Historical Trust in 2007, as well as two preservation grants to date.

LIGIA PERALTA



Ligia Peralta, M.D., F.A.A.P., F.S.A.H.M. is Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Epidemiology, Chief Division of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine, and Director of the Adolescent HIV Program of the Department of Pediatrics, University of Maryland School of Medicine.

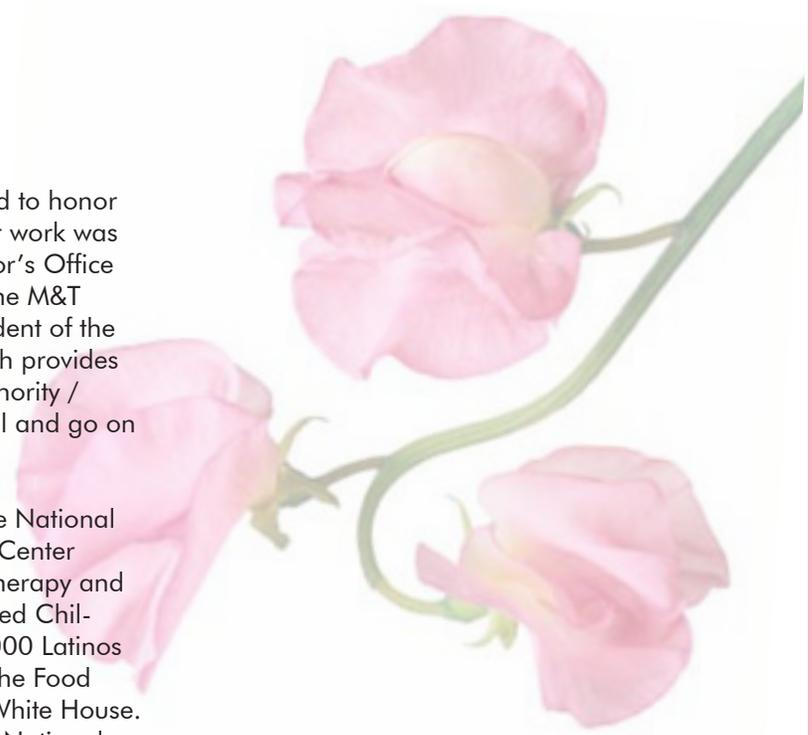
Dr. Peralta, who has successfully combined her roles as pediatrician and adolescent medicine specialist, professor, researcher, and patient and community advocate, is honored for her pioneer and indefatigable work to fight the HIV epidemic among young people in Maryland and abroad. She has addressed the health disparities of HIV-infected and vulnerable adolescents by creating innovative programs to provide them with access to primary care services and research. She has led the youth HIV movement in Maryland by developing and evaluating community-based HIV prevention, education and testing programs, clinical services, and research initiatives for behaviorally HIV-infected adolescents and at-risk youth. Dr. Peralta developed the "One Stop Shopping" model of service for adolescent and young adults, which include anonymous, confidential, and free HIV testing and counseling, specialized gynecological examinations such as colposcopy, sexual abuse counseling, substance abuse counseling and treatment, pharmacy, dental care, psychosocial, legal and human trafficking services, and research. This model of comprehensive care at a single site has been successful in engaging and retaining youth in care and has been recognized as a national and international model of care for programs seeking to provide services to adolescents.

Inspiration for her lifelong vocation came early for Dr. Peralta. Her father, Dr. Ruben Peralta, was the Head of Surgery and Director for many years at the regional hospital in the heart of the Dominican Republic. A passionate believer in universal access to health care and in preventive medicine, he used all public and private resources at his disposal to provide the best possible medical services to all regardless of their capacity to pay. His remarkable spirit of public service included the many weekends when he would take his two young children to the most remote, mountainous areas of his country to provide free screenings and vaccinations. Those early experiences with her father forged her commitment to excellence through education and medicine in the service of others.

Her medical education started in her country at age 15, where she was one of six medical students to graduate (summa cum laude) from an entering class of one hundred. It was her successful treatment of a 13 month-old boy dying of tuberculosis during her rotations which narrowed her choice to pediatrics. Both the patient and his mother were malnourished and she noticed how the baby ate when he saw her (she lived far away and could only visit occasionally), so Dr. Peralta started stockpiling extra food for the Mother.

Dr. Peralta is a successful investigator and for the last 16 years has been the Principal Investigator of the NIH-funded Baltimore Unit of the Adolescent Medicine HIV/AIDS Research Network and the Adolescent Medicine Trials Network for HIV/AIDS Interventions (ATN I and II), and the CDC-funded Adolescent Impact study.

Her voluntary work also honors the memory of her father who passed away in 2003. She created Casa Ruben, a not-for-profit, to continue



and expand her voluntary work and to honor her father. Casa Ruben's volunteer work was recently recognized by the Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism and the M&T Bank. She serves as the Vice President of the Susana De Moya Foundation, which provides incentives for underrepresented minority / Latino students to finish high school and go on to college.

Nationally, Dr. Peralta serves on the National Pediatric and Family HIV Resource Center Working Group on Antiretroviral Therapy and Medical Management of HIV-Infected Children. She is the recipient of the 2000 Latinos of Distinction Award conferred by the Food and Drug Administration and the White House. She is the first Latina serving in the National HIV Task Force to establish treatment guidelines for children and adolescents. She was twice elected by her peers as the Chair of the NIH-funded Adolescent Trials Network for HIV/AIDS Research. She serves on advisory and expert panels for NIH, Centers for Medicaid and Medicare, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Health Resources and Service Administration. In addition, she has consulted through the years for the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Public Health Association, Congressional Black and Hispanic Caucuses, National Black Caucus of State Legislators, National Council of La Raza, and National Hispanic Medical Association. Dr. Peralta has also testified before Congress several times, most recently in preparation for national health reform legislation.

Dr. Peralta has authored numerous articles, book chapters, and monographs on her research including the first paper ever written on adolescents' preferences for HIV testing, which lead to the use of less invasive HIV testing techniques and policy changes.

GERTRUDE L. POE



Gertrude L. Poe is known as “Maryland’s First Lady of Journalism.” It was an unusual turn of events that resulted in her not pursuing a dream of practicing law, but rather serving as editor for 41 years of The News Leader, a weekly newspaper in Laurel.

Her pioneering spirit helped pave the way for the acceptance of women in the field of journalism and many other professional and business arenas.

In 1980, at the time of her retirement, Gertrude received a tribute in the Congressional Record by the Hon. Gladys Noon Spellman. Here is an excerpt: “Poet Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote, ‘An institution is the lengthened shadow of one man.’ Had he known Gertrude Poe he would have added the words ‘or one woman.’ Throughout her 41-year association with the paper, Gertrude L. Poe was more than its editor and its publisher, she was its guiding force and spirit, and, as such, she had an unequalled unique impact on both the newspaper and the community it serves.”

Gertrude was born in 1915 in Granite, Maryland. Her family soon moved to a farm in Beltsville, where she attended a one-room school and dreamed of becoming a lawyer. She graduated at age 15 from Laurel High School during the Great Depression and was happy to find work as a legal secretary and court reporter for \$5 a week at the McCeney law office on Main Street. She decided to study law and took night classes at Washington College of Law, graduating in 1939.

Returning to the McCeney law office after a three-year leave of absence, with diploma in hand, Gertrude was greeted by G. Bowie McCeney with a copy of a small, weekly newspaper he had acquired in a business transaction. He said, “I want to see what you can do with it.” Gertrude protested with skills she had just learned, but lost her first case. At age 24, she became an editor,

a profession for which she would never train. During WWII, she not only handled The Leader, but The Bowie Register, The College Park News, The Beltsville Banner, and an insurance business. She even became a broadcaster of the local scene when radio station WLMD opened in Laurel.

In 1958, Gertrude was elected the first woman to head the Maryland Press Association, then in its 50th year, and was reported to be the first woman in the nation to head an organized press group. In 1987 she was the first woman inducted into the now Maryland-Delaware-DC Press Association’s Hall of Fame on display at the College of Journalism, University of Maryland. In 2008, at its 100th year gala at the Newseum in Washington, she was a guest speaker and honorary chairperson. In 1976 she received the Emma C. McKinney Memorial Award from the National Newspaper Association, one of the two highest awards in community journalism. Gertrude was the first woman asked to represent the Association when it was invited to attend the 1958 Brussels World Fair to evaluate U.S. participation.

In 1972, she was invited by Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird, to participate in the 41st Joint Civilian Orientation Conference (JCOC) with some 70 civilian leaders, all men, for a first-hand view of all the home bases of our armed forces. Her invitation resulted in three other women being included. Although these were unforgettable experiences, she was just as proud to be the first woman to speak at the Laurel High School commencement or at the opening of a new elementary school. Gertrude’s dedication to community always has gone beyond her role with the newspaper.

Through 2,132 editions of The News Leader, Gertrude Poe produced a quality newspaper, and held to extreme editorial standards, while gaining local and national awards and honors. More importantly, she has shown by example what it means to make a difference with your life, in your community, while holding steadfast to the highest professional and personal values.

JUNE A. WILLENZ



Devotion to human rights and social justice for all peoples characterizes June A. Willenz's long career as a global human rights advocate. At a time when women were not in leadership positions, Ms. Willenz served as Executive Director of the American Veterans

Committee (AVC) for 40 years bringing into veterans affairs the AVC's unique perspective of "citizens first, veterans second." Forging a veteran's voice in the civil rights movement, and giving a civil rights dimension to the veterans sector, she became the first woman to head the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights Task Force on Military/Veterans Affairs. She was also the first to chair a Presidential Subcommittee on Disabled Veterans, where she was cited for "outstanding leadership." Conferences on then-divisive issues were organized by Ms. Willenz. This included a conference on the Draft, which facilitated national debate and new policy directions. She developed the first Legal Aid Project for veterans with discharge problems, and worked with Congress to create special offices for women and minorities within the Veterans Administration.

Ms. Willenz's book "Women Veterans: America's Forgotten Heroines" that documented a pattern of neglect by government agencies received broad attention resulting in congressional hearings and remedial actions. Her suggestion for an Advisory Committee to moni-

tor the ongoing status of women veterans was mandated by Congress. To bring recognition to this group, she initiated efforts to establish a national memorial. The AVC created a "Women in Military Service for America Foundation," endorsed by Congress, which led to the building of the National Women Veterans Memorial. These events prompted the World Veterans Federation (WVF) to invite Ms. Willenz to address its special session on "women in war" in 1982. In her presentation, she challenged the WVF to establish a Committee on Women to explore the situation of women caught in war and how women could contribute to the search for peace. The WVF created that Committee and chose Ms. Willenz as its Chair.

Chairperson Willenz provided leadership to the Committee for 22 years, as it influenced the Federation to champion the human rights of women, in peace as well as wartime. She became a non-government organization (NGO) representative for the World Veterans Federation at the United Nations where her activities brought the perilous status of women in armed conflict to the attention of the NGO community and United Nations' agencies. This has encouraged research and study as well as activism to mitigate the consequences of war for women. Ms. Willenz's efforts contributed to having women in armed conflict issues included in the 1995 UN Conference on Women's Platform for Action. One result has been women's increased influence in the international arena, as noted in UN Security Council Resolutions and actions that now seek to include women in peacemaking and peacekeeping activities as well as post-conflict reconstruction strategies.

Special Thanks are extended to...

Honorable Senator Thomas Middleton
Honorable Susan Lee, President Women Legislators of Maryland
Marsha Wise, Executive Director, Women Legislators of Maryland
Sen. Thomas V. Mike Miller
Sen. Thomas McLain Middleton

Program Sponsors

Maryland Commission for Women
Women Legislators of Maryland
Maryland Department of Human Resources

2011 Maryland Women's Hall of Fame Selection Committee

Pat Cornish, Co-Chair, Maryland Women's Hall of Fame
Lynn Fitrell, Co-Chair Maryland Women's Hall of Fame
Beverly Budd
Gloria Gaddis
J. Lynn Stimmel
Caren Williams

NOTES

NOTES



Maryland Department of Human Resources
Maryland Commission for Women
311 W. Saratoga Street, Suite 272
Baltimore, MD 21201



Martin O'Malley, Governor
Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor
Theodore Dallas, Interim Secretary