

# Iowa Women’s Hall of Fame and Cristine Wilson Medal for Equality and Justice

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## Members of the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame

Among those honored as members of the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame are past legislators, political and social activists, scientists, educators, writers and spiritual and community leaders. They represent the women who have helped shape Iowa, the United States and the world. Their induction into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame enhances the visibility of their contributions to their work, communities, and the status of women. As of 2019, 180 women will have been inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame.

<b>Full Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Year Inducted</b>
Amelia Jenks Bloomer (1975)	Bloomer	1975
Carrie Chapman Catt (1975)	Catt	1975
Ola Babcock Miller (1975)	Miller	1975
Annie Wittenmyer (1975)	Wittenmyer	1975
Susan Glaspell (1976)	Glaspell	1976
Cora Bussey Hillis (1976)	Hillis	1976
Agnes Samuelson (1976)	Samuelson	1976
Ruth Baxton Sayre (1976)	Sayre	1976
Jessie Binford (1977)	Binford	1977
Jessie Field Shambaugh (1977)	Shambaugh	1977
Ida B. Wise Smith (1977)	Smith	1977
Mary Louise Smith (1977)	Smith	1977
Jacqueline Day (1978)	Day	1978
Dorothy Houghton (1978)	Houghton	1978
Carolyn Pendray (1978)	Pendray	1978
Ruth Suckow (1978)	Suckow	1978
Minnette Doderer (1979)	Doderer	1979
Mabel Lee (1979)	Lee	1979
Mary Jane Neville Odell (1979)	Odell	1979
Louise Rosenfeld (1979)	Rosenfeld	1979

Rosa Cunningham (1980)	Cunningham	1980
Mary Grefe (1980)	Grefe	1980
Arabella Mansfield (1980)	Mansfield	1980
Catherine Williams (1980)	Williams	1980
Mary Newbury Adams (1981)	Adams	1981
Roxanne Barton Conlin (1981)	Conlin	1981
Mary Garst (1981)	Garst	1981
Louise Rosenfield Noun (1981)	Noun	1981
Peg Stair Anderson (1982)	Anderson	1982
Ruth Bluford Anderson (1982)	Anderson	1982
Pearl Hogrefe (1982)	Hogrefe	1982
Dr. Jeanne Montgomery Smith (1982)	Smith	1982
Virginia Bedell (1983)	Bedell	1983
Evelyn K. Scott Davis (1983)	Davis	1983
Beverly Beth George Everett (1983)	Everett	1983
Helen LeBaron Hilton (1983)	Hilton	1983
Fannie R. Buchanan (1984)	Buchanan	1984
Mary Frances Clarke, BVM (1984)	Clarke	1984
Mary Louise Petersen (1984)	Petersen	1984
Edith Rose Murphy Sackett (1984)	Sackett	1984
Dr. Gladys B. Black (1985)	Black	1985
Edna M. Griffin (1985)	Griffin	1985
Anna B. Lawther (1985)	Lawther	1985
Alice Van Wert Murray (1985)	Murray	1985
Marguerite Esters Cothorn (1986)	Cothorn	1986
Willie Stevenson Glanton (1986)	Glanton	1986
Jessie M. Parker (1986)	Parker	1986
Dorothy Schramm (1986)	Schramm	1986

Jolly Ann Horton Davidson (1987)	Davidson	1987
Gwendolyn Wilson Fowler (1987)	Fowler	1987
Lou Henry Hoover (1987)	Hoover	1987
Nellie Verne Walker (1987)	Walker	1987
A. Lillian Edmunds (1988)	Edmunds	1988
Twila Parker Lummer (1988)	Lummer	1988
Marilyn O. Murphy (1988)	Murphy	1988
Sister Patricia Clare Sullivan (1988)	Sullivan	1988
Dr. Nancy Maria Hill (1989)	Hill	1989
Georgia Rogers Sievers (1989)	Sievers	1989
Ruth Wildman Swenson (1989)	Swenson	1989
Cristine Swanson Wilson (1989)	Wilson	1989
Mary Jane Coggeshall (1990)	Coggeshall	1990
Merle Wilna Fleming (1990)	Fleming	1990
Betty Jean Furgerson (1990)	Furgerson	1990
Glenda Gates Riley (1990)	Riley	1990
Mabel Lossing Jones (1991)	Jones	1991
Mary Louisa Duncan Putnam (1991)	Putnam	1991
Marilyn E. Staples (1991)	Staples	1991
Lois Hattery Tiffany (1991)	Tiffany	1991
Virginia Harper (1992)	Harper	1992
Helen Brown Henderson (1992)	Henderson	1992
Eve Schmoll Rubenstein (1992)	Rubenstein	1992
Mary Beaumont Welch (1992)	Welch	1992
Julia Faltinson Anderson (1993)	Anderson	1993
Mamie Doud Eisenhower (1993)	Eisenhower	1993
Phebe W. Sudlow (1993)	Sudlow	1993
Jean Adeline Morgan Wanatee (1993)	Wanatee	1993

Mildred Wirt Benson (1994)	Benson	1994
Lois Eichacker (1994)	Eichacker	1994
Gertrude Durden Rush (1994)	Rush	1994
Evelyne Jobe Villines (1994)	Villines	1994
Sue M. Wilson Brown (1995)	Brown	1995
Mary E. Domingues Campos (1995)	Campos	1995
Gertrude Dieken (1995)	Dieken	1995
Rowena Edson Stevens (1995)	Stevens	1995
Joan Liffing-Zug Bourret (1996)	Bourret	1996
Meridel Le Sueur (1996)	Le Sueur	1996
Janette Stevenson Murray (1996)	Murray	1996
Mary E. Wood (1996)	Wood	1996
Charlotte Hughes Bruner (1997)	Bruner	1997
Margaret "Peg" Mullen (1997)	Mullen	1997
Annie Nowlin Savery (1997)	Savery	1997
Beulah E. Webb (1997)	Webb	1997
Bess Streeter Aldrich (1998)	Aldrich	1998
Janice Ann Beran (1998)	Beran	1998
Lynn Germain Cutler (1998)	Cutler	1998
Maude Esther White (1998)	White	1998
Professor Mary Jaylene Berg (1999)	Berg	1999
Rosa Maria Escudé de Findlay (1999)	de Findlay	1999
Helen Navran Stein (1999)	Stein	1999
Elaine Eisfelder Szymoniak (1999)	Szymoniak	1999
Betty Jean "Beje" Walker Clark (2000)	Clark	2000
Denise O'Brien (2000)	O'Brien	2000
Adeline Morrison Swain (2000)	Swain	2000
Margaret Boeye Swanson (2000)	Swanson	2000

Dr. Ursula Delworth (2001)	Delworth	2001
Lt. Colonel (Retired) Phyllis L. Propp Fowle (2001)	Fowle	2001
Phyllis Josephine Hughes, JD (2001)	Hughes	2001
Ann Dearing Holtgren Pellegreno (2001)	Pellegreno	2001
Bonnie Campbell (2002)	Campbell	2002
Sue Ellen Follon (2002)	Follon	2002
Alice Yost Jordan (2002)	Jordan	2002
Shirley Ruedy (2002)	Ruedy	2002
Diana "Di" L. Findley (2003)	Findley	2003
May E. Francis, Ph.D. (2003)	Francis	2003
Jean Hall Lloyd-Jones (2003)	Lloyd-Jones	2003
Margaret Mary Toomey (2003)	Toomey	2003
Joy Cole Corning (2004)	Corning	2004
Mary Ann Evans (2004)	Evans	2004
Ruth Cole Nash (2004)	Nash	2004
Sally J. Pederson (2004)	Pederson	2004
Johnie Wright Hammond (2005)	Hammond	2005
Brenda LaBlanc (2005)	LaBlanc	2005
Susan Schechter (2005)	Schechter	2005
Jo Ann McIntosh Zimmerman (2005)	Zimmerman	2005
Jeannette Eyerly (2006)	Eyerly	2006
Christine H. B. Grant (2006)	Grant	2006
Dorothy Marion Bouleris Paul (2006)	Paul	2006
Margaret Wragg Sloss (2006)	Sloss	2006
Ruth Ann Gaines (2007)	Gaines	2007
Emma J. Harvat (2007)	Harvat	2007
Dr. Ada Hayden (2007)	Hayden	2007
Connie Wimer (2007)	Wimer	2007

Joan Urenn Axel (2008)	Axel	2008
Barbara Moorman Boatwright (2008)	Boatwright	2008
Hualing Nieh Engle (2008)	Engle	2008
Marilyn A. Russell (2008)	Russell	2008
Linda K Kerber (2009)	Kerber	2009
Mary E. Kramer (2009)	Kramer	2009
Adeline Lavonne McCormick-Ohnemus, D.O. (2009)	McCormick-Ohnemus	2009
Lyn Stinson (2009)	Stinson	2009
Julia Addington (2010)	Addington	2010
Mary Lundby (2010)	Lundby	2010
Ruby Sutton (2010)	Sutton	2010
Charese Yanney (2010)	Yanney	2010
Nancy A. Dunkel (2011)	Dunkel	2011
Jacqueline Easley McGhee (2011)	McGhee	2011
Charlotte Bowers Nelson (2011)	Nelson	2011
Dr. Mildred Hope Fisher Wood (2011)	Wood	2011
Dr. Judith Conlin (2012)	Conlin	2012
Terry Hernandez (2012)	Hernandez	2012
Mary Parks Stier (2012)	Stier	2012
Dr. Dorothy Hubbard Schwieder (2012)	Schwieder	2012
Dr. Mary Louise Sconiers Chapman (2013)	Chapman	2013
Patty Jean Poole Judge (2013)	Judge	2013
Barbara Marie Mack (2013)	Mack	2013
Dr. Deborah Ann Turner (2013)	Turner	2013
Renee Hardman (2014)	Hardman	2014
Mary Agnes O'Keefe (2014)	O'Keefe	2014
Margaret 'Maggie' Tinsman (2014)	Tinsman	2014
Christie Vilsack (2014)	Vilsack	2014

Joyce Boone Chapman (2015)	Chapman	2015
Lt. General Michelle D. Johnson (2015)	Johnson	2015
The Honorable Linda K. Neuman (2015)	Neuman	2015
The Honorable Marsha K. Ternus (2015)	Ternus	2015
Grace Amemiya (2016)	Amemiya	2016
Angela Connolly (2016)	Connolly	2016
Dr. Michele Devlin (2016)	Devlin	2016
Viola Gibson (2016)	Gibson	2016
Jane Boyd (2017)	Boyd	2017
U.S. Senator Joni K. Ernst (2017)	Ernst	2017
Councilwoman Christine Hensley (2017)	Hensley	2017
Governor Kimberly K. Reynolds (2017)	Reynolds	2017
Dianne G. Bystrom, PhD (2018)	Bystrom	2018
Ruth R. Harkin, JD (2018)	Harkin	2018
Jean Y. Jew, MD (2018)	Jew	2018
Peggy A. Whitson, PhD (2018)	Whitson	2018
The Honorable Ruth B. Klotz (2019)	Klotz	2019
Mona Kadel Martin (2019)	Martin	2019
Ione Genevieve Shadduck, PhD (2019)	Shadduck	2019
Florine Mary Schulte Swanson (2019)	Swanson	2019
Betty Jean Dillavou Durden (2020)	Durden	2020
Ann Fry Jorgenson (2020)	Jorgenson	2020
Helen Naomi Miller (2020)	Miller	2020
Mary Elizabeth Young Bear (2020)	Young Bear	2020
Cornelia Clarke (2021)	Clarke	2021
Jan Mitchell (2021)	Mitchell	2021

Donna Reed (2021)	Reed	2021
Dr. Roxann Marie Ryan, Ph.D. (2021)	Ryan	2021
Elizabeth Bates Cowles (2022)	Cowles	2022
Mary Elaine Richards (2022)	Richards	2022
Laurie Schipper (2022)	Schipper	2022
Mary Swander (2022)	Swander	2022
Honorable Romonda D. Belcher	Belcher	2023
Honorable Paula S. Dierenfeld	Dierenfeld	2023
Bridget D. Reed	Reed	2023



1975

## Amelia Jenks Bloomer (1818-1894)

"She seems to be the only woman in Iowa to publicly espouse Women's rights in the years before the Civil War."

— Louise R. Noun, *Strong-Minded Women*, 1969



Amelia Jenks Bloomer will always be remembered as the popularizer of bloomers, the reform dress costume worn by Women's rights advocates in the mid-1800s. Though she did not create the practical costume—a short dress and trousers—she wrote about it frequently in her Seneca Falls, New York, newspaper, *The Lily*. Born in New York in 1818, Bloomer moved to Council Bluffs, Iowa in 1855 and soon began a single-handed Women's rights campaign. She gained fame and respect throughout Iowa because of her public championship of Women's rights, a courageous step few other advocates of the cause took in the years before the Civil War. Bloomer helped found the Iowa Woman Suffrage Association and was elected president in 1871 at the first annual convention in Des Moines. She died in 1894. Bloomer was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1975.

1975

## Carrie Chapman Catt (1859-1947)

"If historians are asked who are the most significant of Iowa State University's alumni, three names surface: George Washington Carver, Henry A. Wallace, and Carrie Chapman Catt."

—Marsha Readhead, 1989



Carrie Chapman Catt, probably the most famous Iowan associated with the Women's suffrage movement, was born in 1859 and grew up near Charles City, Iowa. A feminist from her earliest school days, Catt was responsible for creating a Women's physical education program at Iowa State Agricultural College (now ISU), where she graduated in 1880. Though she did not become fully involved in the Women's movement until 1885, in 1900 she succeeded Susan B. Anthony as president of the National Woman Suffrage Association. In 1919, she helped found the National League of Women Voters. After Catt left Iowa, she continued to help women in their unsuccessful struggle to amend the Iowa Constitution to allow women to vote, long before the ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920, seeing through her efforts until finally the 19th Amendment was ratified. Catt died in 1947. Catt was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1975.

UPDATE: Catt posthumously received the Iowa Award in 1992. In 1991, the National 19th Amendment Society formed to purchase, restore, and maintain Catt's girlhood home in Charles City, Iowa. The Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics at Iowa State University began in 1992, serving as a living memorial of her leadership on feminist and political issues. The center is now located in Catt Hall, the old, renovated botany building on the ISU campus.

1975

## Ola Babcock Miller (1872-1937)

"Not only did Miller launch the Highway Patrol, she scored another triumph for women; she was Iowa's first female secretary of state."

— Walt Shotwell, *The Des Moines Register*, August 12, 1989



Ola Babcock Miller was Iowa's first female Secretary of State. Initially elected in 1932, she was reelected twice. Miller died in 1937 at age 65 while serving her third term. Born in 1872 in Washington County, Miller attended Iowa Wesleyan College. Although she was active in the late 19th-century Women's suffrage movement, Miller is best remembered as the founder of the Iowa State Patrol. While Secretary of State, she convinced the state legislature that a statewide law enforcement agency was needed, particularly to enforce highway safety laws. The patrol was created in 1935 and placed under her control, where it grew from a force of 50 men to 150 patrol officers by 1938. Miller also served as state and national president of the P.E.O. Miller was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1975.

1975

## Annie Wittenmyer (1827-1900)

"...there is one name among them all [Iowa's daughters] we will ever cherish in our hearts... a name which every true woman delights to honor; a name that shall ever live in the heart of a grateful state—the name of ANNIE WITTENMYER!"

— Mary Darwin, 1863



Annie Wittenmyer, known as Iowa's wartime hero, was living in Keokuk, Iowa when she first became concerned about sanitation for the wounded and the cleanliness of the food served to soldiers during the Civil War. She worked throughout the war to improve sanitary conditions, organizing diet kitchens for Union Army hospitals as well as serving on a hospital ship at the battle of Shiloh. Most of her time, however, was spent at the Iowa Soldiers Orphans Home that started in Farmington in 1864 and later moved to Davenport. Over the next 10 years, more than 720 children were cared for at the home and at branches in Cedar Falls and Glenwood. Born in 1827, Wittenmyer died in 1900 at age 73. The Davenport Institution was renamed the Iowa Annie Wittenmyer Home nearly 50 years after her death. Wittenmyer was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1975.

1976

## Susan Glaspell (1882-1948)

"Quietly and with keen psychological insight, Miss Glaspell probes into these minds [of her characters] with a physician's care to cure rather than to wound."

— Harry Warfel, *American Novelists of Today*, 1951



Susan Glaspell, Davenport, Iowa native, was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1930 for *Allison's House*, a play based on the life of poet Emily Dickinson. Born in 1882, she began her writing career at the turn of the century as a political reporter for the *Des Moines Daily Capital*. Glaspell soon moved back to Davenport to concentrate on fiction writing. She later journeyed to Provincetown, Massachusetts and, with her husband, founded the Provincetown Playhouse where playwright Eugene O'Neill's plays were produced. In addition to her plays, Glaspell wrote several novels that probe the psychology of women reacting to the ordinary problems of life. Her last novel was *Judd Rankin's Daughter*, published three years before her death in 1948 at age 66. Glaspell was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1976.

1976

## **Cora Bussey Hillis (1858-1924)**

"Cora's sensitivities were acute and her visions reached beyond her own life and beyond Des Moines, Iowa to a regeneration of the race through enlightened parenthood."

— Ginalie Swaim, *Palimpsest*, Vol. 60, 1979



Cora Bussey Hillis is most famous for her long and effective campaigns to improve child welfare. The Iowa Child Welfare Association, which she organized in 1914, successfully pushed for legislation establishing the child welfare research station at the University of Iowa in 1917. The research station was the first in the United States to be incorporated in a state university and became the roots of The University of Iowa's complex for research and the study of child development and behavior. Hillis also organized the first Parent Teacher's Association branch in Iowa and served as president of the organization for six years. Born in Bloomfield in 1858, she died in 1924 at age 66. Hillis Elementary School in Des Moines is named for this children's advocate. Hillis was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1976.

1976

## **Agnes Samuelson (1887-1963)**

"Perhaps no Iowa woman has had more impact on education and the teaching profession than has Agnes Samuelson."

— Iowa State Education Association, 1976



Agnes Samuelson, an influential force in Iowa education for over 30 years, was born in Shenandoah in 1887. She served as state Superintendent of Public Instruction—then an elective office—from 1927 to 1939 and was also president of the National Education Association and executive secretary of the Iowa State Education Association. As Page County Superintendent of Schools, Samuelson gained national recognition as an authority on providing services to rural schools and the need for school consolidation. She urged adoption of the current school-aid formula that provides equal education for all Iowa children regardless of the property wealth in their home district. A Des Moines elementary school was named for Samuelson after her death in 1963 at age 76. Samuelson was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1976.

1976

## Ruth Baxton Sayre (1896-1980)

Tribute to Mrs. Sayre (Tune: "It's a Grand Old Flag"):

She's a grand old gal, She's a wonderful gal...

She's for Farm Bureau too And we're with her in thought and in prayer.

She's our shining star Adored, near and far, Our beloved Mrs. Sayre.



Ruth Baxton Sayre was once Iowa's premier farm spokeswoman. As the only women member appointed by President Eisenhower to his national agricultural advisory commission, she received national recognition for her knowledge of agricultural problems and her many years of service to farm people. Sayre's best-known efforts on behalf of rural Americans were through the Farm Bureau and the organization she helped found—Associated Country Women of the World. She also served on the advisory committee to the United States Secretary of Labor and the National Safety Council, and was appointed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to the National Civilian Defense Committee. In addition, she held posts in two United Nations organizations. Sayre was born in Indianola in 1896. She died in 1980 at age 84. Sayre was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1976.

UPDATE: Sayre died in 1980 at the age of 84.



1977

## Jessie Binford (1876-1966)

"In her six decades as a social worker, Miss Binford battled with local and state politicians in what she called a crusade aimed at the delinquency of adults against children."

— The Des Moines Register, July 11, 1966



Jessie Binford, once known as "the conscience of Chicago," was a longtime associate of Jane Adams, founder of Chicago's Hull House. She was born in Marshalltown in 1876 and worked for 60 years as a social worker and advocate for the poor at Hull House on Chicago's slum-ridden west side. In her efforts for children's rights, Binford opposed child labor in the garment industry. She founded the Juvenile Protection Association and was its director for decades. At over 80 years of age, she waged a two-year court fight to save Hull House from demolition. When she lost, Binford returned to Marshalltown, where she organized a club for underprivileged boys. Shortly before her death in 1966 at age 90, she donated her family home to the community and moved into a hotel. Binford was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1977.

1977

## Jessie Field Shambaugh (1881-1971)

"There has been some discussion as to who was the 'Daddy' of boys and girls club work, but there isn't the slightest doubt on the part of anyone as to who is the 'Mother' of the 4-H club movement. That great honor goes to Miss Jessie Field."

— R.K. Bliss, 1948



Jessie Field Shambaugh founded the modern 4-H movement. Born in 1881 on a farm near Shenandoah, Shambaugh taught country school, creating practical farm and home courses for her rural students as part of the regular curriculum. She introduced clubs and competitions in modern agriculture, such as soil testing and corn judging, for both boys and girls. Later, as Page County superintendent of schools, she expanded these clubs and contests to include all rural children. Within three years, her methods attracted national attention and the national 4-H youth movement was begun. Shambaugh wrote several books including *Country Girl's Creed*, which memorializes the 4-H movement. In 1912, she became national YWCA secretary for rural work. Shambaugh died in 1971 at age 90. Shambaugh was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1977.

1977

## Ida B. Wise Smith (1871-1952)

"In my book, Ida B. Wise Smith of Des Moines was one of the greatest of all Iowans."

— George Mills, *The Des Moines Register*, April 4, 1993



Ida B. Wise Smith fought for woman suffrage and child welfare through the Women's Christian Temperance Union and was instrumental in establishing the Women's reformatory at Rockwell City. She served as president of the National WCTU for 11 years and as president of the Iowa WCTU for 20 years. In 1927, Governor Hamill named Smith the "most distinguished woman in Iowa" for her contributions to child welfare. While chairperson of one committee on children, Smith prepared a children's code for the Iowa Legislature. In 1930, President Hoover appointed her to the White House Conference on Child Health and Protection, and in 1940 she was appointed to the White House Conference on Children in a Democracy. Born in 1871, this Hamburg native died in 1952 at age 81. Smith was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1977.

1977

## Mary Louise Smith (1914-1997)

"Mary Louise, by far, has reached her fullest potential and has scored her greatest achievements in political service."

- Mary Tone, 1997



Mary Louise Smith rose through Republican party ranks to become the first woman to chair the party, serving in that capacity from 1974 to 1977. Since her tenure followed Watergate, Smith was faced with the task of rebuilding confidence in the Republican Party at a time when the nation's faith in the entire political system had diminished. A force in Republican politics for more than 30 years, Smith, of Des Moines, refuses to consider her election as the first female head of the GOP extraordinary. She explained, "A Women's role in politics is the same as that of a man." Born in Eddyville in 1914, Smith is a staunch supporter of the Equal Rights Amendment and a leader in the Women's movement. She is one of six co-founders of the Iowa Women's Political Caucus. Smith was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1977.

UPDATE: Smith received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Iowa, the Cristine Wilson Medal for Equality and Justice, and the Friends of Iowa Civil Rights Award, and was the first recipient of the Mary Louise Smith Award,

established by the YWCA to honor individuals for outstanding efforts to eliminate racism. She held honorary doctoral degrees from Drake University and Grinnell College. Smith co-founded the Iowa Women's Archives and was a member of the Drake University Board of Trustees, United States Institute of Peace Board of Directors, and University of Iowa Foundation Board of Directors. Smith died in 1997.

1978

## Jacqueline Day (1918-2002)

"Jacqueline Day has worked vigorously in politics during a period of time when most thought a Women's place was in the kitchen. During the Vietnam war, she went to Vietnam to learn first hand if we were being told the truth of that controversial conflict."

—Judith Fisher, 1978



Jacqueline Day, in 1969, arranged the initial conference of representatives from Women's organizations that resulted in Governor Robert D. Ray establishing the Commission on the Status of Women. As one of the first members of the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women, she worked to secure its state department status. Day was also instrumental in organizing the Commission's first annual Iowa Women's Hall of Fame awards. Employed as the public relations officer for the Veterans Administration Hospital in Des Moines for many years, Day also worked as a national Equal Employment Opportunity investigator for the Veterans Administration. In 1967 and 1970, she visited Vietnam as a member of a Congressional fact-finding team. A lifelong resident of Des Moines, Day was born in 1918. Day was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1978.

UPDATE: Day served as confidential secretary and honorary colonel to Governors Robert Ray and Norman Erbe. She was a member of the Iowa Board of Parole for six years, chairing four of those years. She also chaired the Governor's Blue Ribbon Committee for Recruitment and Retention in Iowa National Guard as well as committees to erect World War II, Korean, and Vietnam veteran memorials on State Capitol grounds. She has served on search committees for the Deputy Adjutant General of Iowa, Chief of Iowa Highway Patrol, and executive director of the Commission on Veterans Affairs. Day served 15 years on the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy Council. She is currently serving on the Iowa Centennial Commission which provides scholarships for Iowa seniors. Day is active with the Meskwaki Indians at Tama, who call her "Old Wolf Lady." She has been honored with induction into the East High School Hall of Fame. Upon her retirement from VA Medical Center, a shelter house was erected and dedicated to Day named "DAY PLAZA," the plaque inscribed with "No Greater Love." Day died on June 23, 2002.

1978

## **Dorothy Houghton (1890-1972)**

“Dorothy Houghton... never took the view that everything was better in the good old days. Always her thoughts seemed to be on the future and how to make this world a better one.”

— The Des Moines Register, 1972



Dorothy Houghton was the first female president of the Electoral College Board. Especially remembered as the "club Women's club woman" for her activities as national president of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, her public service covered a broad spectrum. In 1949, she was designated Iowa's most distinguished citizen. In 1953, President Eisenhower appointed her director of the Office of Refugees, Migratory and Voluntary Assistance, where she served for five years, coordinating services for 40 million refugees. In 1964, she received The University of Iowa's Distinguished Service Award, honoring her 12-year tenure on the Iowa Board of Regents. Houghton was also a strong Women's rights advocate. Born in Red Oak, Iowa in 1890, she died in 1972. Houghton was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1978.

1978

## **Carolyn Pendray (1881-1958)**

"Carolyn Pendray was a pragmatic idealist who was able to work with the Legislative system for the enactment of laws that benefited all but especially the rights of women."

- Miriam C. Diehl, 1978



Carolyn Pendray, of Maquoketa, was the first female to serve in the Iowa Legislature. Born in Mount Pleasant in 1881, she was elected from Jackson County to the House of Representatives in 1928, two years after women were first allowed to serve in the Iowa Legislature. She was re-elected in 1930. In 1932, she won a state Senate seat, unseating an incumbent to become the first woman to serve in that body. She was the only woman to have served in both chambers at the time of her death in 1958 at the age of 76. As a legislator, Pendray cosponsored a bill permitting a wife to hold certain property of her own, exempt from seizure for debt. Prior to this law, only the husband was recognized as head of a household, and only he could claim property exempt from seizure for debt. Pendray was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1978.

1978

## Ruth Suckow (1892-1960)

"Ruth Suckow is especially interesting to young feminists because of her own life and because of her portrayal of many strong, independent women who refused to be placed in a mold."

--Margaret Matlack Kiesel, 1978



Ruth Suckow was a writer whose novels and short stories reflected her Iowa background. A Hawarden native, she began her writing career as a poet, soon discovering that she could not earn a living from her poems. Suckow, therefore, mastered the art of beekeeping and supported herself by selling honey while she began writing novels and short stories. In the 1920s, Suckow was ranked as one of the top 10 American fiction writers by H.L. Mencken, a noted critic and publisher. Her writing is of special interest to feminists because of its portrayal of strong, independent women. Two of her novels, *Country People* and *Iowa Interiors*, were reissued in the 1970s in a series titled *Rediscovered Fiction by American Women*. Born in 1892, Suckow died in 1960. Suckow was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1978.

UPDATE: Suckow was honored in 1992, 32 years after her death and on the 100th anniversary of her birth date with *Just Suppose*, a one-woman play about her life, which was performed in seven Iowa communities where Suckow had ties. The play, written by Rebecca Christian of Dubuque and

acted by Lenore Howard of Dubuque, is still performed today to special groups.



1979

## **Minnette Doderer (1923-2005)**

"Minnette Doderer, tough-minded and outspoken, is the leading feminist in the Iowa legislature... Doderer's efforts on behalf of women are unflagging."

—Louise R. Noun, *More Strong-Minded Women*, 1992



Minnette Doderer of Iowa City has been the leading advocate of Women's rights during her distinguished 15-year career in the state legislature. Born in Holland, Iowa in 1923, she was elected three times each to the House of Representatives and the Senate, beginning her tenure of office in 1964. Doderer's work on rape law reform, the federal and state Equal Rights Amendments, juvenile justice, child care, and inheritance tax revision resulted in many laws that improved the legal status of women. As president pro tempore of the Senate for two years, she attained the highest position ever held by a woman in the Iowa Legislature. Doderer was one of the founding members of the Iowa Women's Political Caucus and co-chair of the International Women's Year coordinating committee. Doderer was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1979.

UPDATE: Doderer continued her service in the legislature's Iowa House of Representatives from 1981 to 2000. While in the legislature, she served as co-chair of the General Assembly Women's Caucus; chair of Small Business, Economic Development & Trade; chair of Small Business and Commerce Committee; vice-chair of Budget and Taxation Committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures; and chair of the Ways and Means Committee. She sponsored and was instrumental in the passage of legislation that is pertinent to Iowa women and their equality. Among the many honors and awards she has received are the Reproductive Rights Award, 1998; Business and Professional Women Woman of Achievement Award, 1997; Citation from The American Academy of Pediatrics for sponsorship of Legislation for Post Delivery Benefits and Care of Iowa's Infants, 1996; Friend of Nursing Award, 1996; Feminist of the Year Award, 1996; Iowa City Senior Center Woman of the Year, 1995; Gold Seal Award, Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 1995; President Pioneer Lawmakers, 1993-95; ERA Tribute, 1992; Cristine Wilson Medal for Equality and Justice, 1989; Friend of Education Award, Iowa City, 1986; Distinguished Legislative Service Award, Iowa State Education Association; and the Good Citizenship Medal, Sons of the American Revolution.

1979

## Mabel Lee (1886-1985)

"Mabel Lee was a woman of boldness and vision. Committed to quality physical education and sports programs for girls, she was responsible for the creation of some of the first girls' basketball teams in Iowa."

—Dr. Patricia Geadelmann, 1994



Mabel Lee, a pioneer in Women's physical education, was born in Clearfield, Iowa in 1886. As a high school sophomore in Centerville, Iowa in 1902, she started girls' basketball. After administrative jobs at Coe College, Oregon Agricultural College, and Beloit College, Lee served as director of physical education for women at the University of Nebraska for 28 years. She was the first woman president of the American Alliance of Health, Physical Education and Recreation, and the American Academy of Physical Education. During World War II, Lee served as a regional director of physical fitness under the Office of Civilian Defense, was a member of the physical fitness council of the Federal Security Agency, and was on the civilian advisory committee for the Women's Army Corps. She lives in Lincoln, Nebraska. Lee was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1979.

UPDATE: Lee died on December 3, 1985.

1979

## Mary Jane Neville Odell (1923-2010)

"Mary Jane Odell's... brilliant career in the communication field [has] made her a substantial asset to the State of Iowa."

— Mary A. Grefe, 1994



Mary Jane Odell, a nationally recognized broadcaster, gained fame throughout Iowa for her weekend public affairs program, IPBN Presents Mary Jane Odell. After hosting several radio and television programs in Des Moines during the 1950s and 1960s, Odell moved to Chicago, where she continued her broadcasting career, receiving an Emmy in 1972 for "outstanding individual achievement." In 1975, the year Odell returned to Des Moines, she received a second Emmy for a Chicago interview with Leon Jaworski. She also received a National Broadcaster's Award for work on IPBN's "Assignment Iowa." Odell founded the Iowa chapter of the American Women in Radio and TV and served on the board of the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists. She was born in Algona, Iowa in 1923. Odell was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1979.

UPDATE: Odell was appointed Secretary of State in 1980, and was then elected in 1982, serving six years. In 1988, she received the H.R. Gross Award for Lifetime Contributions to Broadcasting and

Public Service. She has served on the board of the Iowa Peace Institute and is currently a board member of the Easter Seal Foundation.

1979

## Louise Rosenfeld (1906-1990)

"Certainly, few women have had the influence on the state that Louise Rosenfeld has had. As State Leader of Home Economics Extension, she lead an education program that went to every county of the state and was available to every family."

— Margaret K. Yoder, 1979



Louise Rosenfeld, as state home economics director of Iowa State University's Cooperative Extension Service for over 30 years, extended her program to every county in the state. Rosenfeld expanded the orientation of the extension program to include education in global awareness and the arts, as well as programs in nutrition, home management, and child care. The United States Department of Agriculture recognized Rosenfeld's innovative leadership of Iowa's home economics extension program by awarding her the USDA Superior Service Award. Following her retirement in 1972, Professor Emeritus Rosenfeld worked as a professional volunteer in Iowa State University's International Resource Center and served on the Iowa Commission for the Aging. She was born in Kelly, Iowa in 1906. Rosenfeld was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1979.

1980

## Rosa Cunningham (1890-1987)

"Rosa Cunningham made a difference in all of our lives. She was a woman of courage with strongly-held convictions and a highly principled commitment to equality."

—Dr. Sue Follon, 1994



Rosa Cunningham, an outstanding achiever in the military and a leader in the Women's movement, served almost nine years as an enlisted woman and officer in the Women's Army Corps during World War II and remains active in several veterans' organizations. Cunningham has been a leading spokeswoman for women since her involvement during the 1930s in the fight against so-called protective labor legislation for female workers that outlawed night work and placed "Mother" restrictions on Women's employment. Also in the 1930s, she swayed the National Federation of Business and Professional Women to endorse the Equal Rights Amendment, making it the first large, national group to do so. Cunningham was appointed to the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women in 1978. She lives in Des Moines. Cunningham was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1980.

1980

## Mary Grefe

"To Mary Grefe, all the world is her neighborhood."

—Kathleen Wood, *The Des Moines Register*, January 14, 1987



Mary A. Grefe, a leader in educational policy from Des Moines, was elected to a two-year term as national president of the American Association of University Women in 1979. She has distinguished herself in shaping educational policy as presidential delegate to the UNESCO Third World Conference on Adult Education, as chairperson of the U.S. Advisory Committee on Adult Education, and as a member of the Des Moines School Board for 12 years. She was also a member of the United States delegation to the United Nations Mid-Decade Conference for Women. A former YWCA director, Grefe has worked as a professional consultant on organizational development and is a member of the boards of directors of Central National Bank and Bankers Life companies in Des Moines. She was born in 1928. Grefe was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1980.

UPDATE: Grefe is the retired president of LEAD Associates, Ltd. of Des Moines. Currently, she serves

on the board of trustees of Morningside College and as treasurer of the Iowa Peace Institute, for which she formerly served as chairperson. She is the past president of the National American Association of University Women--the only person to have been nominated and elected from the floor of the national convention. She has also served as president of the AAUW Educational Foundation, which makes grants of over \$2 million annually to women scholars. Past community service in Des Moines includes serving as president of the Des Moines School Board and member for 12 years and past president of the Metro Des Moines League of Women Voters. A former YWCA executive director, Grefe has been active at all levels of government in working for equal rights for women. She was appointed by President Ford as the first woman to chair the National Advisory Council on Adult Education, has travelled widely as an official government delegate to international conferences overseas, including Tokyo, Japan, Copenhagen, Denmark, Nairobi, Kenya, and as a guest of the Chinese government to China. She received the National Brotherhood Award from the National Conference for Community and Justice. She holds five honorary doctorates, the most recent in 1997 from the University of New England.

1980

## Arabella Mansfield (1846-1911)

"There was a quiet determination and dedication in every event of the life of Belle A. Mansfield."

--Dr. Louis A. Haselmayer, *Women's Lawyer Journal*, Spring 1969



Arabella Mansfield became the first woman lawyer in the United States when she passed the bar examination in Henry County in 1869. Born in 1846, she did not attend law school but studied for two years in her brother's law office in Mount Pleasant to prepare for the exam. She was also a pioneer in the Iowa suffrage movement, chairing the first Iowa Suffrage Association state convention in 1870. She was the group's first secretary and campaigned for equal educational opportunities for women as well as voting rights. Despite Mansfield's admission to the bar, she spent her professional life teaching. She was professor of English at Iowa Wesleyan College and later, dean of the school of art and music at De Pauw University in Indiana. Mansfield died in 1911 at age 65. Mansfield was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1980.

1980

## Catherine Williams

"Catherine Williams' involvement in managing the Iowa Department of Social Services has brought prominence and pride to the State of Iowa and to her local community of Des Moines."

—Marcia Peterson & Thomas Jones, Jr., 1979



Catherine G. Williams, an exemplary leader in social services, has worked for the Iowa Department of Social Services for nearly 30 years. Ultimately deputy commissioner of the department, she began her career as a typist. Williams has been responsible for many innovations in social service delivery in Iowa, particularly in foster care programming. She held the first statewide training program for foster parents of retarded children and wrote the department's first foster care study. The Des Moines native became the highest-ranking African-American female in state government and one of the highest ranking in social services nationally. Born in 1914, Williams spent 13 years right after high school graduation as a professional dancer in New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles. Williams was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1980. UPDATE: Williams has served on the Health Facilities Council, the City of Des Moines Planning and Zoning Committee, Project Helper Board, Council of Human Services, Simpson College

Task Force on Minority Student Concerns, United Way--Model Cities Allocation Committee, and the Community Relations Task Force--NAACP and Jewish Federation. She has also served as coordinator for the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women and Commission on Aging Conference on Older Women and as project coordinator for The Links, Inc.--"I AM SOMEBODY" and High Expectations Project. Among the many honors and awards Williams has received since her induction are Social Worker of the Year for State of Iowa, 1980; University of Iowa Mark Hale Lecturer, 1980; Drake University Distinguished Alumnae Award, 1981; Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, Simpson College, 1981; State of Iowa Volunteer Award, 1984; Morris Scholarship Fund in 1985; YWCA/Mary Louise Smith Racial Justice Award, 1990; The University of Iowa, School of Social Work Distinguished Alumnae Award, 1990; North High School (Des Moines) Distinguished Alumna Award, 1991; Iowa African-Americans Hall of Fame, 1999; P.A.C.E., 1999; and National Black Child Development Institute Award, 2000.



1981

## Mary Newbury Adams (1837-1901)

"Adams, one of the founders of the Republican party in Dubuque, was an ardent Women's rights advocate."

— Louise R. Noun, *Strong-Minded Women*, 1969



Mary Newbury Adams, of Dubuque, Iowa helped establish the Iowa Federation of Women's Clubs and made major contributions to the Women's suffrage movement. In 1868, she formed her first study club as a way to increase Women's knowledge and education. Adams was later instrumental in uniting similar clubs together statewide into an association, the predecessor of the still-existing Iowa Federation of Women's Clubs. Adams' suffrage work began in 1869. Following an inspiring speech by Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Adams founded the Northern Iowa Suffrage Association, the first suffrage organization in Iowa. Gradually, she started working with nationally known suffragists as she strove to unite women to gain their equal educational and legal rights. Born in 1837, Adams died in 1901. Adams was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1981.

1981

## Roxanne Barton Conlin

"Roxanne Conlin is the name that immediately comes to the fore when you mention feminism in Iowa."  
—Louise R. Noun, *More Strong-Minded Women*, 1992



Roxanne Barton Conlin founded and was the first chair of the Iowa Women's Political Caucus, the largest caucus in the nation for many years. She has also made major contributions to her profession. After graduating from Drake University College of Law at age 21, she worked as deputy industrial commissioner, assistant attorney general for the Iowa Civil Rights Commission, consultant to the United States Commission on the Observance of International Women's Year, and University of Iowa adjunct professor of law. She was then appointed United States Attorney for the southern district of Iowa. Conlin is the second woman in the nation to be appointed to this post and is one of only four to have ever served in this capacity. Born in 1944, Conlin lives in Des Moines. Conlin was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1981.

UPDATE: Conlin became the first woman candidate for Iowa governor on a major party ticket in 1982. In 1983, she entered into private practice of law and now heads her own firm. In 1988, she became the first woman officer of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America, a 60,000-member bar association, becoming its first female president in 1992. She served as chair of the Iowa Democratic Party in 1998, president of the Roscoe Pound Foundation from 1994-97, trustee in the American Jury Trial Foundation from 1993 to the present, and has served on numerous committees throughout her career. Conlin has been president and general counsel of the NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund and president of the Civil Justice Foundation. She specializes in handling cases involving Women's issues such as employment discrimination, sexual harassment, rape, domestic abuse, and the failure to diagnose breast cancer. She is the author of numerous articles and treatises on legal issues. Conlin is the recipient of the 1998 Rosalie Wahl Leadership Award from the Minnesota Women's Lawyers Association, was named in 1998 by the National Law Journal as one of "The Fifty Most Influential Women Lawyers in American," was named the 1997 Woman of the Year by the Metro Women's Network, was featured in the 1995-96 Best Lawyers in American, and was elected to membership in the Inner Circle of Advocates in 1995.

1981

## Mary Garst (1928-2014)

"Mary Garst is an example to men or women who aspire to the American ideals of family and professional success and personal warmth. She is exemplary. I can't say more."

—Victor Preisser, 1978



Mary Garst, a pioneer in the field of agriculture, is one of only a few women in the country to manage a cattle-breeding business. She is in charge of genetic selections, bull selections, nutritional programs, and cattle sales for the Garst Company in Coon Rapids. She has served as state director of the Iowa Beef Improvement Association and president of the Iowa Simmental Cattle Association. Garst serves on the boards of directors of the Chicago Federal Reserve, International Harvester, Burlington Northern Railroad, and Northwestern Bell Telephone. Her concern for women is shown through her involvement with the League of Women Voters in Iowa, Planned Parenthood of Iowa, and the Iowa Children's and Family Services. Garst was born in 1928. Garst was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1981.

UPDATE: Garst completed her term as president of the Iowa Civil Liberties Union in 1993 and has since completed her board terms for the Chicago Federal Reserve, International Harvester, Burlington Northern Railroad, and Northwestern Bell Telephone. She died in 2014.

1981

## Louise Rosenfield Noun (1908-2002)

"Noun's words rather than her deeds provide leadership for a new generation with the responsibility of keeping alive the rights she and several others fought for."

—Mark P. Couch, *Business Record*, October 15-21, 1990



Louise Rosenfield Noun of Des Moines was involved with the Iowa and American Civil Liberties Unions for years. For eight years she was president of the ICLU; and during the 1960s and 1970s, she was a board member of the ACLU. In 1971, she helped found the Des Moines chapter of the National Organization for Women. She was involved with the Iowa League of Women Voters since the 1940s, when she was Des Moines' chapter president. Noun was also a writer. Her book, *Strong-Minded Women*, is a history of the woman suffrage movement in Iowa. Noun's other writings also reflect her feminist commitment since they include histories of Iowa's first legislative clerk, suffragist Annie Savery, voting rights in Iowa, and trends in the Women's rights movement. She was born in 1908. Noun was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1981.

UPDATE: Noun wrote three books after her induction, *Journey to Autonomy*, *A Memoir*, *More Strong-Minded Women: Iowa Feminists Tell Their Stories*, and *Iowa Women in the WPA*, as well

as several historical articles for the *Annals of Iowa* and the *Palimpsest*. In 1994, Noun curated *Three Berlin Artists of the Weimar Era: Hannah Hoeh, Kaethe Kollwitz, Jeanne Mammen*, an exhibition for the Des Moines Art Center. She founded and was the chief funder of the Chrysalis Foundation and cofounder of the Iowa Women's Archives at the University of Iowa. She served on the ACLU Advisory Committee from 1975 to the present. Among the many honors and awards Noun received since induction are Arts/Humanities/Aging honor for outstanding service awarded by the Iowa Arts Council, Iowa Humanities Board; Doctor of Humane Letters, honorary degree awarded by Cornell College, 1985; Doctor of Humane Letters, honorary degree, awarded by Drake University, 1991; Outstanding Achievement Award in the Arts, given by the Iowa Arts Council on its 25th anniversary, 1992; Peterson-Harlan Award, which recognizes an individual, group or organization that has made significant long-term or continuing contributions to Iowa history, 1993; the Cristine Wilson Medal for Equality and Justice, 1993; the Des Moines Roosevelt High School Hall of Fame, 1993; The University of Iowa Alumni Award, 1994; the Philanthropic Vision Award from the Ms. Foundation, 1995; and the Award for Lifetime Services to the Public Humanities from the Iowa Humanities Board, 1996. Noun died in 2002.

1982

## Peg Stair Anderson

"A true leader, Peg has a strong belief in women, their individual worth, and their right to realize full and creative lives. She is perennially in the forefront of Women's rights groups, voicing her beliefs, living her convictions, and working long and hard to realize her goals."

- Joy Corning, 1979



Peg Stair Anderson, member of the Iowa Board of Regents, former state chair of the Iowa Women's Political Caucus, and the Iowa ERA Coalition, has been active in diverse areas of public service for many years. She serves on the boards of the Iowa Advisory Committee of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, the Iowa Health Systems Agency, and the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women. Anderson was a founder of the Cedar Falls-Waterloo Women's Center and the Women's Political Caucus Girls' Leadership Camp. As a member of the Cedar Falls Board of Education for six years, she provided strong leadership to ensure equal opportunity for females and males. Anderson has been active in the Episcopal Church at the local, state, and national level. Born in 1928, she lives in Bettendorf, Iowa. Anderson was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1982.

UPDATE: Anderson and her husband moved to Tucson, Arizona in 1987, following Anderson's six-year term on the Iowa Board of Regents. She stayed involved in education and Women's issues in retirement by serving on the North Central Association Commission on Institutions of Higher Education, and helping to organize an Arizona Way Up Conference for Women in Higher Education Administration, as she had done in Iowa. She is also active in the Episcopal Church, having served six years on the National Council of the Episcopal Church. Anderson is currently a member of the Board of Trustees of Seabury-Western Seminary.

1982

## Ruth Bluford Anderson (1921-2013)

"I have personally known Ruth Anderson for over ten years, and she has constantly contributed toward the betterment of the disadvantaged and misunderstood."

—Margaret Rees



Ruth Bluford Anderson, University of Northern Iowa associate professor of social work, has been especially interested in and actively involved in female substance abuse issues. She served as co-chair of the first statewide institute on the problems of women alcoholics, was a member of the Iowa Substance Abuse Commission, and was honored by the Des Moines unit of the National Council on Alcoholism for bringing the special problems of the female alcoholic to the attention of alcoholism treatment professionals. Anderson has contributed her leadership abilities to the Iowa Coalition of Community Organizations, the Iowa Mental Health Association, and local and interstate branches of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. She was born in 1921. Anderson was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1982. UPDATE: Anderson is the author of *From Mother's Aid Child to University Professor: An Autobiography of an American Black Woman*, 1985. In

1989, Anderson became the first African-American woman to be elected to an at-large seat on the Black Hawk County Board of Supervisors. She also served on the Iowa Equality in the Courts Task Force. In 1990, Anderson retired after teaching 22 years and serves as Professor Emeritus for the University of Northern Iowa, Department of Social Work. Among the honors she has received are the Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, Simpson College, 1990; Great Delta Teacher of the Year, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Baltimore, Maryland, 1992; and the Kirk Strong Award, Governor's Conference on Substance Abuse, 1992. In 1996, Anderson was inducted into the Iowa African-American Hall of Fame.

Update: Anderson received a lifetime achievement award from the National Association of Social Workers in 2012, and Anderson died on Jan. 22, 2013.

1982

## Pearl Hogrefe (1889-1977)

"Pearl Hogrefe was a powerful force for humane learning within the state of Iowa, as well as nationally and internationally... Her widely influential former students and colleagues measure in the hundreds."

— Jauvanta M. Walker, 1977



Pearl Hogrefe's career as a distinguished scholar, teacher, and author spanned eight decades, including seven years at the University of Northern Iowa. During her 46 years as professor of English at Iowa State University, she founded the creative writing program, a magazine devoted to the arts and the Writers' Round Table. An internationally renowned scholar and author of seven books, Hogrefe wrote several works of particular distinction about Women's role in Tudor, England. To honor her leadership in the American Association of University Women at the state and national level, a state AAUW Fellowship was named for her. In 1972, the Pearl Hogrefe Endowment Fellowship was established at ISU to provide creative writing awards. Born in 1889, Hogrefe died in 1977. Hogrefe was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1982.

1982

## Dr. Jeanne Montgomery Smith

"A doctor who has done significant research and writing, she has combined an abiding interest in her family with a real sense of community concern underlined by her remarkable service to foreign visitors in Iowa."

—Susan K. Boyd, 1981



Dr. Jeanne Montgomery Smith, the first woman physician to join the Internal Medicine Department of the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, has taught allergy and immunology to medical students at Iowa since 1955. She has an international reputation in the epidemiology of asthma, having originated a new theory of environmental factors as the cause of this chronic condition now pursued by investigators throughout the world. With her husband, Dr. Smith founded a new medical school at East Tennessee University in Johnston City, Tennessee in 1976-1978. She has written extensively for professional journals and college textbooks and has also been active in community service. Born in 1917, Dr. Smith began her career as a surgeon lieutenant in the men's Canadian Navy during World War II. Smith was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of

Fame in 1982.

UPDATE: Smith continued to practice medicine in an academic setting until September 1993, retiring after more than 51 years of practice, teaching, research, and writing. She and her family have, once again, taken a refugee family into their home until they could reestablish themselves. Smith's retirement project, which is already underway, is to write stories of her eventful life, following the great changes in medicine and the roles of men and women.



1983

## Virginia Bedell (1895-1975)

"I recall being included in a Bedell family outing to a ski jump at Canton, South Dakota when the temperature was bitterly sub-zero. Virginia might well have enjoyed a nap in her warm home, but I doubt the thought ever crossed her mind..."

— Peter B. Narey, 1979



Virginia P. Bedell was the first woman county attorney in the state of Iowa, having studied for the bar not in law school but with a practicing attorney in Spirit Lake, Iowa. In 1940, with her appointment to the Iowa Board of Parole, she became the first woman in the United States to serve on a regularly appointed Parole Board. During her 19 years of continuous service there, Bedell was elected president of the Central States Corrections Association and was active in other state and national corrections organizations. As a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, Bedell initiated a program known as "Assigned Children," which has helped thousands of needy children of veterans. Bedell was appointed to the first Governor's Commission on Alcoholism and was a leader in her church and in the Republican Party. Born to pioneer parents in 1895, she died in 1975. Bedell was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1983.

1983

## **Evelyn K. Scott Davis (1921-2001)**

"Evelyn Davis was one of the first to raise her voice about the importance of early educational opportunities for kids. Not only did she talk, she did something about it..."

—Julie Gammack, *The Des Moines Register*, September 25, 1991



Evelyn K. Scott Davis, of Des Moines, is a creator of human resource organizations. She founded the Tiny Tot Child Care Center in 1967 and still directs the large, nonprofit center, dedicated to providing child care to low-income families. The organization has allowed thousands of parents who could not otherwise afford child care to seek employment and educational opportunities. She also initiated or helped to form the Inner Urban Health Board, United Way Volunteer Board, Black Women's Political Caucus, and Polk County Community Action Council. Because of her championship of the causes of struggling families, Davis was honored with the Des Moines Human Rights Award. Numerous state and national organizations have also benefited from her advocacy and leadership abilities, including Day Care and Child Development of America and the Iowa Council for Children. Davis was born in Hiteman, Iowa in 1921. Davis was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1983.

UPDATE: Davis was appointed to the Board of Friends of Iowa Public Television in 1990. In 1992, the faculty of Grinnell College conferred upon her the degree of Doctor of Laws. A children's park

at 16 Forest Street in Des Moines was named Evelyn K. Davis Park in August of 1993. She died on October 27, 2001.

1983

## Beverly Beth George Everett (1926-2001)

"I've known and admired Bev for many years. Her dedication to the important issues of our time are an inspiration to all of us."

—Alice McKee, 1994



Beverly Beth George Everett has spent a lifetime involved in programs advocating equity for women in Iowa and abroad. Her research and activism have led her into such diverse areas as agriculture and food problems, rural and international development, cross-cultural understanding, and continuing education. As a stellar member of the American Association of University Women, the rural New Sharon, Iowa resident has served on the AAUW National Board of Directors, been its International Representative for International Relations, and served in numerous other capacities. Her multifaceted accomplishments can be seen in an abbreviated list of organizations she has worked for locally, statewide, and nationally. These include the U.S. National Commission for UNESCO, the Iowa Department of Environmental Quality Board of Certification, various advisory committees for Iowa State University, and the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women. Everett was born in Waverly, Iowa in 1926. Everett was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in

1983.

UPDATE: Everett, after completing her term on the Iowa State Extension Advisory Council, accepted a term with the Iowa State Extended and Continuing Education Advisory, and was involved as facilitator for the Art of Association Project of Humanities Iowa. Everett was president and Used Book Sale Chair for the Oskaloosa Branch of AAUW, continued on the Ag and Rural Development Committee of Mahaska County and as liaison for AAUW to the United Nations Association of Iowa. Continued activities with the United Methodist Church in Christian Education, music, United Methodist Women, and District Superintendent Advisory. Everett was a Trustee of Iowa Wesleyan College, serving as chair of its External Relations Committee. She died on January 24, 2001.

1983

## Helen LeBaron Hilton (1910-1993)

“In a time when equivocation and evasiveness often have seemed to be essential characteristics of some of society’s leaders, Dean LeBaron never resorted to either. She has always been a no-nonsense person, and that is refreshing.”

-W. Robert Parks, 1975



Helen LeBaron Hilton, the former dean emeritus of the Home Economics College at Iowa State University, urged her graduates to follow her example by involving themselves in public policy-making and programs that would benefit families. Born in Morrisville, Vermont in 1910, Hilton was a member of the National Committee for the 1960 White House Conference on Children and Youth and the U.S. National Commission for UNESCO. During her 23-year tenure as ISU Dean, Hilton directed a decade-long Home Economics Education Project at Baroda University in India and, during this time, was chosen to be the first president of the Association of Home Economics Administrators. Hilton also lent her leadership skills to state and local organizations, serving on the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women and the Iowa Children's and Family Services Board, besides being the first woman elected to the Ames City Council. In 1980, the south wing of the Home Economics Building at ISU was named for Hilton. Hilton was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1983.

UPDATE: Hilton died in August of 1993. Prior to her death, she was honored with the first Ames League of Women Voters Carrie Chapman Catt Award, and the College of Family & Consumer Sciences honored her as its first honorary alumna.

1984

## **Fannie R. Buchanan (1875-1957)**

"In my estimation, there probably has been no other woman in the history of Iowa who has contributed more to the cultural enlightenment of rural Iowans."

— Mary Edna Pilgrim Sherman, 1983



Fannie R. Buchanan, who grew up in Grinnell, Iowa, touched Iowans in nearly every county in the state through the music projects she conducted for the Iowa State College Extension Service. During the lean years of the Depression, Buchanan brought classical and folk music and vocal and dance instruction to rural Iowans who had limited opportunities for recreation. Buchanan had worked during World War I for the War Camp Community Service and the American Red Cross, organizing special music and rehabilitation projects. After the war, she returned to Iowa and began her travels around the state, organizing rural choruses and staging pageants. Buchanan devoted much of her time to promoting musical activities in 4-H Clubs, and many of the songs she wrote for that organization were designated as official 4-H songs and are still sung today. Buchanan died in 1957. Buchanan was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1984.

1984

## Mary Frances Clarke, BVM (1803-1887)

"Mary Frances Clarke acted as a catalyst in a community that has made her mission as real in 1833 as it is in 1984."

— Jane M. Daly, 1984



Mary Frances Clarke, BVM, born in Dublin, Ireland in 1803, played an important part in the educational and religious formation of this state. She and four other religious women emigrated to America and worked with the poor and illiterate in Philadelphia. In 1833, Clarke organized her community, the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. For 10 years, the sisters labored among the city's downtrodden, before departing for Dubuque, Iowa at the invitation of Bishop Mathias Loras. There they founded St. Mary's Academy, the first Women's college in Iowa. After suffering a disastrous fire in 1849, the Academy was reestablished by Clarke as Mount St. Joseph's Academy and College, today known as Clarke College. The Sisters of Charity also started

various elementary and secondary schools around the state that have educated generations of Iowans. Clarke died in 1887. Clarke was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1984.

1984

## Mary Louise Petersen (1932-2011)

"A woman as president of the Iowa State Board of Regents was a somewhat startling innovation. The fact that as the first woman so named displayed qualities of leadership that earned her plaudits not only in Iowa but nationally, dispelled many sexist myths."

—John Baldrige, 1983



Mary Louise Petersen's volunteer service has extended from her local community of Harlan, Iowa to national policy bodies; her focus has always been higher education. Petersen served on the State Board of Regents for 12 years, eight of those as president. She also served on the Iowa Coordinating Council for Post-High School Education and became a member of the Professional Ethics and Conduct Committee of the Iowa Bar Association in 1982. Nationally, she has served on such prestigious bodies as that of the Carnegie Corporation and the Association of Governing Boards of Colleges and Universities, and she continues to work with the American Council on Education. In Harlan, Petersen has been an activist in Girl Scouts and in the United Methodist Church. Her outstanding efforts merited her earning the 1981 State of Iowa Distinguished Service Award. Petersen was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1984.

UPDATE: Petersen has finished her work with the American Council on Education, the Iowa Peace Institute Board of Directors, the Educational Testing Service Board of Directors, the National Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. Board of Directors, and the Iowa Student Loan Liquidity Corporation Board of Directors. She serves on the boards of directors of the University of Iowa Foundation Board of Directors and the Myrtue Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees. She has also been active with Shelby County Health Services.

1984

## **Edith Rose Murphy Sackett (1901-1987)**

"There are... a group of persons that are 'behind-the-scenes doers.' They do many things voluntarily that in and of themselves may not be that impressive. Taken as a whole, however, their accomplishments are great. Edith Sackett is one of those doers."

—James R. Grove, 1983



Edith Rose Murphy Sackett has pursued a career of voluntarism to her community of Spencer, Iowa, to Iowa, and to the concerns of women for more than 50 years. She helped found local branches of the AAUW and League of Women Voters and also lent her talent and energy to the Spencer Women's Club, YWCA, and Clay County Republican Women. As a leader at the state level, she served on the State Library Board, on the state board of the AAUW, and on the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women, where she chaired the first Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Committee. Sackett's love for the theatre resulted in her founding the Spencer Drama Club, the forerunner of many drama organizations in the Iowa Great Lakes region. In addition to many other honors, Edith was named Iowa Mother of the Year in 1969. She was born in Dubuque, Iowa in 1901. Sackett was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1984.

UPDATE: Sackett died in 1987. Established by the AAUW of Spencer, an award honoring Sackett is presented each year to a student whose entry to the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women's Write Women Back Into History Essay Contest focuses on the life of public service and volunteerism.



1985

## Dr. Gladys B. Black (1909-1998)

"If there are such things as human treasures I feel us lowans have one in Gladys Black. We here in Iowa are very fortunate to have such a person who has spent so much of her time and energies working to help preserve our natural surroundings..."

—Wade E. Sheeler, 1983



Dr. Gladys B. Black is known for her untiring efforts to educate lowans about their natural surroundings and the need for protecting the environment for future generations. Her columns on Iowa's native birds have appeared regularly in The Des Moines Register and other publications, and she has led hundreds of school children on nature hikes where they discovered the beauty of Iowa's countryside and wildlife. In 1978, she was awarded an honorary doctorate degree from Simpson College, Indianola, for being one of the nation's leading ornithologists, with a special knowledge of the nesting and migration patterns of American birds. In addition, her early distinguished work as a public health nurse in rural Iowa underscores her reputation as a humanitarian and conservationist. She was born on a farm east of Pleasantville, Iowa in 1909. Black was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1985.

UPDATE: Black published weekly bird columns in the Knoxville Journal Express, Pella Chronicle, and the Marion County News. She also presented programs for civic and church groups on Birds of Red Rock or

Birds of the Bible. Dr. Black assisted in "Environmental Education" Days for all sixth graders of Marion County and participated in many book signings for her book, Iowa Birdlife. Black died on July 19, 1998.

1985

## **Edna M. Griffin (1909-2000)**

"Every community has its Rosa Parks... and Edna Griffin has been the Rosa Parks of the Des Moines community for a long time. This is a civil rights warrior who knew her battleground."

--Adin Davis, *The Des Moines Register*, August 21, 1983



Edna M. Griffin has been the Rosa Parks of Des Moines for decades; however, her request for service at a segregated cafeteria there in 1948 came seven years before Parks' celebrated refusal to move to the back of a southern bus. Ultimately, Griffin's legal suits and sit-ins were successful in making such businesses obey Iowa's public accommodations law. The Fisk University graduate has devoted her life to the civil rights movement. In 1963, she organized Iowans to join Martin Luther King's famous march on Washington, D.C. She also began a Des Moines chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), which supported the voter registration drive in the South. For many years, her column appeared regularly in Iowa's statewide minority publication, the *Iowa Bystander*. She has also been active in peace and other human rights efforts. Born in Kentucky in 1909, she grew up on a New Hampshire farm and moved to Des Moines in 1947. Griffin was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in

1985.

UPDATE: Griffin received the Community Service Award from Blacks in Government in 1993 and the Cristine Wilson Medal for Equality and Justice in 1998. In 1998, on the 50th anniversary of her successful desegregation efforts, Griffin was honored by Urban Dreams for her leadership and bravery. A dedication of a commemorative plaque was also held at the site that once housed Katz Drug Store, followed by an evening reception/reunion/reenactment at the State Historical Building. In 1998 the Flynn Building, which housed Katz, was renamed the Edna Griffin Building. Griffin died on February 8, 2000.

1985

## **Anna B. Lawther (1872-1957)**

"Anna Lawther, by serving as the first woman member of the Board of Regents, proved her faith in women's educability and left Iowa women a legacy of opportunity by becoming a role model of courage and integrity, despite the social restraints on her career."

— Mary A. Grefe, 1994



Anna B. Lawther was a pioneer in Women's rights, woman suffrage, higher education, and community participation. Born in 1872, she was educated in Dubuque, Iowa and traveled east to attend college, receiving her B.A. degree from Bryn Mawr in 1897. Lawther served as secretary of that college for 15 years, before returning to her hometown in 1912 and becoming deeply involved in civic and social welfare activities. She was quickly caught up in the suffrage struggle and, as president of the Iowa Equal Suffrage Association, worked to secure Women's right to vote. After the 19th Amendment became law, she was named Iowa's first Democratic National Committeewoman and traveled the state to inform new voters about the party. As the first woman appointed to the Iowa State Board of Education in 1921,

Lawther was a strong voice for women in higher education for 20 years. In honor of her efforts, a Women's residence hall at what is now the University of Northern Iowa was named for her in 1937. Lawther died in 1957. Lawther was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1985.

1985

## Alice Van Wert Murray (1912-2014)

"For many years, I have known of the good work that Alice has been doing for the state of Iowa and especially for Iowa women... her warm, humane, and persistent approach has invariably proved to be most effective."

—W. Robert Parks, 1984



Alice Van Wert Murray, in addition to being an active farm owner-operator, has been a "super-volunteer" all of her life. Her primary concerns have been rural women, safety issues, Iowa State University (ISU), 4-H, and the Presbyterian Church. Born in 1912, the Minnesota native graduated from ISU in 1934 and has remained a devoted and active alumna, recognized many times by the university for her contributions. Throughout her life, Murray has been concerned with international understanding and was an eight-time delegate to the Associated Country Women of the World Conference. Out of her farming background evolved an interest in safety, and, as a leading representative of the National Safety Council, she was an innovator on many safety campaigns, initiating Iowa's first defensive driver course. Murray has also been an advocate for women and children on numerous state advisory committees on day care, education, and environmental health. Currently,

she works at promoting and developing Living History Farms, founded by her husband William Murray. Murray was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1985.

UPDATE: Murray was nominated for the Helen LaBaron Hilton Recognition, awarded to an ISU alumnus for outstanding community leadership as well as leadership in the College of Family and Consumer Sciences Alumni Association and the University Alumni Association, 1999; named one of eight Most Outstanding Rural Women Whose Lives and Contributions Have Bridged Generations, 1998; named one of 150 Iowans Who Made a Difference in 150 Years of Agricultural Progress (1996 book written by Don Muhm); received the Distinguished and Meritorious Service Award from the American Farm Bureau, 1992; was elected to the Board of Governors of Living History Farms, 1992; and received the Award for Outstanding Contributions while serving on the Board of Trustees of the Iowa Safety Council, 1987. She serves on the Stanton Memorial Carillon Foundation Board and various Living History Farms committees and is a volunteer ambassador for the College of Family and Consumer Sciences and a volunteer for Green Hills Retirement Community Care.

1986

## 1986 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Marguerite Esters Cothorn (1909-1999)

*"Marguerite has 'presence,' an undefinable dignity which inspires respect and admiration from everyone who has the privilege of meeting her."*

—Mary A. Grefe



Marguerite Esters Cothorn, born in Albia, Iowa in 1909, has been involved in human services, voluntarism, and music for more than 40 years. She was the first African American to be offered a four-year violin scholarship at Drake University, where she obtained a B.A. and an advanced degree in sociology. In 1954, she completed her second advanced degree, an M.A. in social work from The University of Iowa with a minor in psychology. Throughout her career, she focused on developing and organizing community-centered volunteer services and programs. In 1965, she was appointed to the United Way of Central Iowa. As Associate Director of Planning, she was reportedly the first African-American executive of a United Way Agency nationwide. She organized and directed the Des Moines Volunteer Bureau and Retired Senior Volunteer Program and set precedents for correcting the under-utilization of food stamps by elders. Her volunteer service has included the state Republican Party and the

Iowa Civil Rights Commission. Cothorn formally retired in 1973 but continues to be a strong and effective leader on several boards and commissions. Cothorn was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1986.

UPDATE: Cothorn served on the Governor's Volunteer Advisory Council, was appointed spokesperson on Women's issues for the American Association of Retired Persons, served as member of Broadlawns Medical Center Study Committee, and chaired the Study Committee on Des Moines International Airport. Cothorn served over 10 years on the Board of Des Moines

Playground and Recreation Association. She continued to be active with the League of Women Voters until her death in 1999.

## 1986 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Willie Stevenson Glanton

*"Willie Stevenson Glanton is, indeed, a pioneer in every meaning of the word in respect to the potential of women and minorities; she has succeeded with both competence and grace where the difficulties seemed insuperable."*

—Wesley C. Baker, 1986



Willie Stevenson Glanton has been dedicated to the law, human services, and civil rights. Educated in Tennessee and in Washington, D.C., she was admitted to the Iowa Bar in 1953. In the 1960s, the U.S. State Department sent her to Africa and Southeast Asia to compare laws and their application to women in these countries. In the U.S., Glanton was the first woman Assistant Polk County Attorney. She has served as an attorney and equal opportunity advocate with the Small Business Administration since 1966. She is the first African-American female to be elected to the Iowa State Legislature. Glanton has held leadership positions on numerous boards, commissions and councils, and in church, civic, and community organizations. A member of Who's Who in America, she is the first woman and first African American to be elected president of the Iowa Chapter Federal Bar Association and represented that association in a people-to-people tour of China,

Finland, and the Soviet Union in 1986. Glanton was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1986.

UPDATE: Glanton soon after went on a work-study mission to Russia and China with a 22-member group of the National Federal Bar Association. Glanton has served as president of the Iowa Federal Bar Association and on the Committee on Women and Minorities--Iowa Bar Association. She has served on the board of directors for the Des Moines General Hospital, Elsie Mason Manor and Ligutti Tower Housing, Golden Circle Incubator, National Conference of Christians and Jews--Iowa, and Mid-City Vision Committee. She is on the board of trustees for Des Moines University. Glanton is also on the President's Commission on Student Diversity, Drake University; Executive Council of the Boy Scouts of America--Mid-Iowa Council; and Greater Des Moines Charter Commission. Glanton received the Legacy Celebration Award for distinguished service as an area and national officer to The Links, Inc., 1993; Young Women's Resource Center Visionary Woman Award, 1991; the Judge Luther T. Glanton Community

Service Award for Meritorious Service to the Community at Large, given by Blacks in Government, 1992; and the Legacy Celebration Award from Links, Inc., 1993.

## **1986 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Jessie M. Parker (1879-1959)**

*"The impact of her leadership and promotion of education has been felt throughout Iowa, barring possibly only a few schools to which she has not made a personal visit."*

- Mills Graphic, May 6, 1959



Jessie M. Parker was born February 25, 1879 in Lake Mills, Iowa. She furthered her education at colleges and universities in Grinnell, Iowa; Cedar Falls, Iowa; Des Moines; and Valparaiso, Indiana. From 1897 to 1915, Parker taught the third and eighth grades in the Lake Mills school system and became the city's first woman high school principal. When she became superintendent in 1927, she was appointed school supervisor and inspector for Iowa's Standard Rural Schools. In 1938, Parker became State Superintendent of Public Instruction. As superintendent, Parker reorganized the school system, established professional teacher certification guidelines, expanded curriculum aids, revised the school accounting system, and developed the "home-to-school" phone system for ill children. Parker served one term on the Lake Mills Community School Board. In recognition of her contributions to education, Parker was included in the 1940 edition of Who's Who in America. Parker died May 1, 1959. Parker

was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1986.

UPDATE: Parker had the State's Vocational Rehabilitation building named after her in 1988, making the Parker Building the first State of Iowa government building to be named after a woman.



## 1986 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Dorothy Schramm (1909-2006)

*"Since our formation [Iowa Division of the United Nations Association of the United States of America] in 1953, Dorothy Schramm has been the guiding force in our organization. Very simply, Dorothy is the United Nations Association of Iowa."*

— Dorothy M. Paul, 1985



Dorothy Schramm has focused on world affairs, government, and art. A Burlington resident, she has been state president and national vice-president of the United Nations Association, chair of the First U.N. Day, member of national and international assemblies and committees, and author and editor on world affairs. She is on the steering committee for the National Peace Institute in Iowa. Schramm organized the Burlington League of Women Voters, served on state and national League boards, and authored the Handbook for Citizens. She was first chair of her city's Planning and Zoning Commission. The Human Relations Survey that she organized resulted in the end of her city's public segregation, several "firsts" in employment, a Mayor's Civic Unity Commission, and a local NAACP. Her concern for justice has been expressed by her work on the Iowa Council of Judicial Reform and the Judicial Selection Committee. A collector of contemporary and African art, she has

organized and supported art associations and councils. Schramm's honors include the 1971 University of Iowa Distinguished Service Award and an LLD degree from Grinnell College. Schramm was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1986.

1987

## 1987 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Jolly Ann Horton Davidson

*"If I were to nominate one person, man or woman, as the most effective leader in the nation--not just in Iowa--my nomination would be Jolly Ann Davidson."*

—Keith G. Briscoe, 1987



Jolly Ann Horton Davidson, native of Davenport, Iowa and resident of Clarinda, Iowa, is distinguished for commitment to public service, contributions to public broadcasting, and dedication to excellence and equity in education. From 1973 to 1986, she was a member of the Iowa State Board of Public Instruction, serving two years as president. She successfully advocated human relations courses for teacher certification, programs for talented and gifted students, vocational education for all, and area schools. She was president of the National Association of State Boards of Education. From 1976 to 1986, she also focused her policy-making skills as board member and six-year president of the Iowa Public Broadcasting Board and was a driving force behind the new Iowa Public Television facility. She was a board member of the Agency for Instructional Television, which seeks to improve education by integration with technology, and she chairs the National Committee on Educational Integrity for Public Broadcasting. In 1984, Davidson was presented Drake University's Alumni Distinguished Service Award. Davidson was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1987.

UPDATE: Davidson continues to be an active volunteer, particularly at the local level. Davidson serves in Clarinda and in Bradenton, Florida during winter months on Iowa Public Television's Committee on Editorial Integrity in Public Broadcasting. For eight years, she served as the national spokesperson for the Family C.O.U.R.S.E. Consortium for eight years. The Consortium, based in Washington, D.C., worked with parents and children across the country, facilitating family communication and good decision-making skills.

## 1987 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Gwendolyn Wilson Fowler (1907-1997)

*"We believe that Ms. Fowler has distinguished herself as an outstanding citizen of the United States, a woman of unique, special qualities and accomplishments, a Black American and most importantly, as an Iowan."*

—Ronald N. Langston & Inga Bumbarly-Langston, 1987



Gwendolyn Fowler of Des Moines, a pioneer woman of her time, has taken part in many of the great social changes of the nation and world and has opened doors of opportunity for minorities and women. She was the first African-American woman pharmacist licensed in Iowa, in 1930. Unable to find employment in her profession, she devoted 15 years to teaching school in Holly Springs, Mississippi. From 1945 to 1955, she was employed by the State of Iowa as a pharmacist's clerk and then as a chemist. As a presidential appointee in the U.S. Foreign Service, she was stationed in Vietnam for 4 1/2 years. In 1960, she resumed her career as a chemist in Des Moines, retiring in 1974. Fowler was a charter member of the Junior NAACP in (1920) and of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority (1932) and is a lifetime member of the NAACP. She has been a leader in such organizations as the American Red Cross, Willkie House, AAUW, and her church, and serves on the Mayor's Sister City Commission. Her collection of Oriental art is outstanding. She has received many citations and awards, including the Governor's Volunteer Award, and has been a role model for many women throughout her life. Fowler was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1987.

UPDATE: Fowler died November 19, 1997.

## 1987 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Lou Henry Hoover (1874-1944)

*"Lou Henry Hoover has impacted on many Women's lives throughout our country and the world. We, as women of Iowa, would be remiss if we did not recognize the significant role she played during the early part of this century."*

— Diana Mayes, 1987



Lou Henry Hoover was born in Waterloo, Iowa in 1874. At the age of 10, she moved to California and in 1898 became the first woman to earn a geology degree from Stanford University. There, she met and married the future president of the United States; they and their family traveled and lived all over the world. Intelligent, talented, energetic, and public-spirited, she directed her efforts toward the benefit of others. During World War I, she established the American Women's Committee for Economic Relief to aid wounded soldiers and families. She organized food conservation drives and provided housing and assistance for women. She twice served with distinction as national president of the Girl Scouts of America. She organized the National Women's Athletic Association and a National Women's

Conference on Law Enforcement. She enjoyed a lifelong love of the outdoors and a dedication to conservation. Since her death in 1944, awareness of the impact of her life has increased through the release of her papers and other written materials. Hoover was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1987.

## 1987 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Nellie Verne Walker (1874-1973)

*"As children, we knew of the unusual career of our aunt, Nellie Verne Walker, because our mother spoke often of Nellie's work in Chicago. We were in awe of this tiny lady, especially since no one else we knew had an aunt who was a sculptor."*

— Genevieve Lewis Szaton, 1985



Nellie Verne Walker's sculptures can be viewed throughout the Midwest. Her life began in 1874 in Red Oak, Iowa where she learned stone carving at her father's monument works. At the age of 17, she created her first limestone sculpture, a bust of Lincoln, which was displayed at the 1893 Columbian Exposition and is now in the museum in Moulton, Iowa. She studied and taught at the Chicago Art Institute. In 1913, she completed the statue of Chief Keokuk that overlooks the Mississippi River in Keokuk, Iowa. On display in the Iowa State Capitol is a bas-relief in bronze that she created in honor of the Pioneer Suffragists of Iowa; among those taking part in the 1936 formal dedication ceremony were Governor Clyde Herring, Secretary of State Ola Babcock Miller, and Carrie Chapman Catt. Walker's work has been characterized as "pure, strong, and for the most part classically beautiful." She has many monuments, busts and bas-reliefs to her credit

and was honored as a life member of the National Sculpture Society. This diminutive woman, known as "the lady who lived on ladders," died in 1973, leaving a legacy of art for all to enjoy. Walker was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1987.

1988

## 1988 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: A. Lillian Edmunds (1892-1955)

*"Lillian Edmunds was the Martin Luther King of the Des Moines area during the depression."*  
— George W. Robinson, Jr., 1988



A. Lillian Edmunds, a pioneer in race relations, inspired young African-American people with vision and hope at a time when their opportunities for education and meaningful employment were almost nonexistent. Born in 1892, she experienced racial discrimination herself when, educated as a nurse and pharmacist, she was unable to find permanent employment in either profession. She directed the Negro Community Center in Des Moines, later named Willkie House, from 1922 until her death in 1955. Edmunds assisted in organizing the Iowa-Nebraska Federation of Settlement Houses. At Willkie House, Edmunds always had her door open. She encouraged adults and youth in goal-setting, and she developed neighborhood leadership by strengthening residents' self-esteem. To expand the well-baby clinic program, she secured a volunteer black doctor. Edmunds dedicated herself as a role model and second parent to many children. She served on the Iowa Commission on Children and Youth and was a delegate to the White House Conference on Children and Youth in 1950. A Des Moines elementary school was named in her honor in 1973. She was recognized posthumously by the Iowa Welfare Association for her valued contributions to welfare programs. Edmunds was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1988.

## 1988 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Twila Parker Lummer

*"Twila Lummer has made a difference in generations of people—pregnant teens, adolescent mothers, their children and the parents of these young women."*

—Vada L. Babcock, 1987



Twila Parker Lummer developed a model program that paved the way for nearly 2,000 pregnant teenagers in Davenport, Iowa and countless others nationwide to attend high school. Lummer founded the Teenage Adolescent Pregnancy Program in the late 1960s, in which classes in prenatal care, consumer education, and infant nurturing were additions to the regular high school curriculum. She is a national advocate for the education of pregnant teenagers and young parents, becoming a charter member of the National Organization for Adolescent Pregnancy and Parenting in 1979. She served as NOAPP treasurer from 1982 to 1985. She added another needed educational service in Davenport by collaborating with a local psychiatrist in developing a hospital school for children and adolescents on the mental health unit of Mercy Hospital. Lummer, who has a master's degree in special education, began her career as home instruction teacher for the physically disabled. In 1986, Western Illinois University

honored her as the first woman to receive the Arnold Salisbury Leadership Award. She also received the Governor's Volunteer Award for work with the Iowa Department of Health in adolescent pregnancy and parenting. Lummer was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1988.

UPDATE: Lummer is a member of the Advisory Council, Department of Educational Administration and Supervisors, College of Education, Western Illinois University; Episcopal Trinity Cathedral's Positive Parenting At Trinity; the Foundation Board of Vera French Mental Health Center; and has served on the Allocation Board of the Scott County Regional Authority in the dispersing of funds received from the Diamond Lady Riverboat. These funds were allocated to the Domestic Abuse Center, Maternal Health Center, the D.A.R.E. program of the Bettendorf Police Department, the CASI Center, the Bettendorf Children's Museum, and many other nonprofit groups.

## 1988 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Marilyn O. Murphy

*"Marilyn Murphy is a feisty little grey-haired grandmother in her early 60s who is quite capable of forming coalitions with warring factions if necessary to achieve a worthwhile goal."*

—Nancylee Ziese, 1983



Marilyn O. Murphy has opened doors for others and serves as a role model for many, often by being the first woman to serve in traditionally male groups. She is an outstanding community volunteer and leader in social services and human rights in the Sioux City area. Her ability to achieve worthwhile objectives by forming coalitions from disputing factions is remarkable. The extensiveness of her volunteer involvements is evidenced by the variety of areas in which she has been effective: crime prevention, day care, sexual assault and domestic violence, drug abuse, juvenile justice, rural concerns/family farms, and civil rights. Since 1973, she has been Social Concerns Facilitator for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Sioux City. She was the first woman to serve on the Council of Community Services and the Iowa Commission on

Substance Abuse. She was also the first president of the Community Action Agency and chaired the Sioux City Human Rights Commission for three years. Murphy co-founded the Sioux City Chapter of the Women's Political Caucus. Among the many community service awards she has received are the Briar Cliff College Community Service Alumni Award, Kiwanis Club Community Service Award, and the Sioux City BPW Community Service Award. Murphy was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1988.

Murphy received the Cristine Wilson Medal for Equality and Justice in 2007.

UPDATE: Murphy remains the social concerns facilitator for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Sioux City, and is also serving in the capacity of Rural Life Contact for the Diocese. She serves on the boards of directors of La Casa Latina, Legal Services of Iowa (Sioux City Office), the Missouri River Historical Development Corporation, and the Iowa Citizen Action Network. She is also a member of the Diocesan Commission on Women, the Iowa Advisory Committee to the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, and the Iowa Family Farm Coalition. She has emphasized her participation in local, regional, and statewide coalitions addressing the rural crisis. She has produced five videos in the past six years, one in English and Spanish on domestic violence titled Love Shouldn't Hurt; two in English and Spanish on child sexual abuse titled Trust Shouldn't Betray and Healing the Wounded Spirit; and Reclaiming Our Rural Heritage: Responding to the Rural Crisis and Women: A Wellspring of Strength in the 21st Century Church. Murphy was active in her local campaign for the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.



## 1988 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Sister Patricia Clare Sullivan

*"Thousands of Iowans have been touched by Sister Patricia Clare Sullivan's untiring commitment to providing readily accessible quality healthcare for all... Sister's leadership has impacted the health care of Iowans since 1955."*

- Ce Ce Zenti, 1987



Sister Patricia Clare Sullivan, RSM, is known for her vision and leadership in providing accessible, quality care for all Iowans. As President of Mercy Health Center of Central Iowa and its eight subsidiaries, Sister Clare heads one of the largest corporations in the state. Her caring and compassion have been manifested in the many programs she has developed to serve needy populations in the Des Moines area—Clark Street House of Mercy, which assists single mothers to become independent; expansion of the health care delivery system to rural areas; a respite program for families caring for elderly persons in their homes; and Willis Care Center, an adult day care program. She serves on the board of directors of the Greater Des Moines Chamber Federation, First Interstate Bank, and the National Conference of Christians and Jews, and has traveled the state

addressing issues of prejudice with the Know your Neighbor panel. Her service includes regional director and past president of Iowa Chapter of the American Academy of Medical Administrators. She received the Newcomer Award for Health Care Executive of the Year in 1984 and in 1985, the People of Vision Award from the Iowa Society for the Prevention of Blindness. Sullivan was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1988.

UPDATE: Sullivan has served as president of External Affairs, Mercy Health Center of Central Iowa; president of Hillside Development Corporation; and treasurer of the Greater Des Moines Committee, an affiliate of the Greater Des Moines Chamber of Commerce Federation. Sullivan was also a member of the Des Moines Development Committee and served on the Board of Directors of Boatmen's National Bank of Des Moines. In 1991, she was named Distinguished Iowa Citizen by Mid-Iowa Boy Scouts of America and named one of six outstanding Women of Vision by the Young Women's Resource Center. In 1993, she was inducted into the Central Iowa Business Hall of Achievement. She is currently serving on the Casey's Board of Directors and Mercy Hospice Development Board.

1989

## 1989 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Dr. Nancy Maria Hill (1833-1919)

*"Dr. Hill was characterized by a great intellect, high ethics, and a generous, cheerful disposition. She delivered over 1,000 babies and felt great sympathy for unwed mothers and their babies."*

—Ann Straley, 1987



Dr. Nancy Maria Hill, born in Boston in 1833, was one of the first women physicians in the United States. Dr. Hill began her career as a nurse during the Civil War, an experience that led her to pursue a degree in medicine. In 1874, she graduated from the University of Michigan Medical School and shortly after moved to Dubuque, Iowa, where she practiced medicine for 36 years. Dr. Hill was a tireless advocate for pregnant women and children. "I was never a mother but brought about 1000 children into this world," she once wrote. In the late 1800s, she organized the Women's Rescue Society of Dubuque, which later became the Hillcrest Deaconess Home and Baby Fold. Now known as Hillcrest Family Services, this institution has served tens of thousands of clients with vital social services. In her own words, Dr. Hill was "interested in all philanthropic works that come into a

physician's life." She was also active in local, state, and national medical societies, often as the only woman participating and, in later years, was heartened to see more women entering her beloved profession. She died in 1919. She was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1989.

## 1989 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Georgia Rogers Sievers (1924-2014)

*"Georgia has a philosophy of commitment—'keep farming strong to keep the economy strong; work hard in politics to facilitate good education and health programs; and work on appropriate Boards to see that these goals are met'...and Iowa is a better place because of it!"*

-Becky Nash, 1988



Georgia Anne Rogers Sievers was presented the Governor's Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service to the State of Iowa in 1988. Her dedication and expertise in education, health and human services, transportation, and community development have notably improved the quality of life for Iowans. As an educational leader, Sievers served on the State Board of Public Instruction and Vocational Education at a time when area community colleges, state aid formula, and area education agencies were developed. With others, she helped to establish Iowa Public Television's Network, mindful of its potential for broadcasting college courses. She prompted the improvement of roads and bridges for school buses in southwest Iowa, and served on numerous committees to improve educational opportunities for women with disabilities, and others. Sievers has lobbied for progressive farm legislation, served as a hospital coordinator for health and school programs, served on the Board of directors of the Iowa West Racing Association, and emphasized equity for women in her activity with the Democratic Party and many other organizations. She has also shared in a family farm operation and parented five children. She was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1989.

UPDATE: Sievers was appointed to Senator Tom Harkin's Academy Screening Committee in 1991. She has served on the Iowa West Racing Association Board of Directors, working on the Grant Committee to increase monies for tuition grant programs, the Area Junior High Leadership Academy, and better fire and emergency equipment and facilities. She continues work towards restoration of the Avoca Courthouse, which received National 1st Award for Historical Preservation by the National Federated Garden Club, and is a Trustee for the Avoca Courthouse Preservation Endowment Fund. Sievers also serves on the Iowa West Foundation Board, County Board of Compensation, as Community Director for the Outreach Program of Jennie Edmundson Hospital, and as co-chair of Pottawattamie County Democratic Party. Sievers was appointed to the Avoca Civic Development and Ecology Committee. In 1998, she received the Avoca, Iowa Outstanding Citizen Award and State of Iowa Federated Garden Club's "Garden Angel Award" in 1999.

## 1989 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Ruth Wildman Swenson

*"She was in many ways a 'mentor,' facilitating the careers of other women wherever she could, making sure our accomplishments were noticed, that we were represented on committees, and offering support when it was needed."*

—Marilyn D. Bachmann, 1988



Ruth Wildman Swenson is an outstanding scientist, university administrator, and advocate for women in sciences and engineering. As an emeritus professor of botany and emeritus associate dean of Sciences and Humanities at Iowa State University, she has been an innovator of programs to encourage and support women in nontraditional careers. Swenson was the Iowa coordinator for a national program to help women move into academic administration and co-directed a National Science Foundation project to increase the number of women in science. She developed and implemented internships, career conferences, and intensive role model projects for high school girls and undergraduate women aiming for technical/scientific careers. Additionally, she helped to initiate annual conferences on women in higher education and is oft-cited as an inspiration for women in academia. She now serves as president of the Iowa Academy of Science, honored in part for her research in cell

biology, biochemistry, and the ecology of blue-green algae ("nuisance blooms") on Iowa lakes and ponds. She is also a supporter of local music, art, and social services programs in her community. She was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1989.

UPDATE: Swenson has served on numerous boards, committees, and councils, including Ames International Orchestra Festival Association, Ames Town and Gown Chamber Music Association, Central Iowa Symphony Association, Emergency Residence Project, Episcopal Parish of Ames, University Museums, League of Women Voters of Ames, Mary Greeley Medical Center Auxiliary, Planned Parenthood of Greater Iowa, Analysis of Social Services Evaluation Team, Infant Care Work Group, Healthland Senior Services Foundation, Youth & Shelter Services, ISU Archives of Women in Science and Engineering Advisory Board, ISU Department of Music Advisory Committee, ISU Liberal Arts & Sciences Dean's Advisory Council, and Reiman Gardens Cohorts. She has finished her term as president of the Iowa Academy of Science.

## 1989 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Cristine Swanson Wilson (1945-1991)

*"For many young women in the '60s and '70s, it came with a sudden flash of knowledge that things were not as they should be. She saw it not so much for herself personally but in global terms and sought to change things for all of us."*

—Roxanne Conlin, 1985



Cristine Swanson Wilson's innovative spirit and hard work made the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame a reality. Wilson served on temporary Governor's commissions on women that evolved into the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women in 1972, the first permanent state agency for Women's concerns. As its first chair, Wilson fought for passage of anti-discriminatory laws in housing, credit, education, employment, and insurance; recognition of homemakers' contributions in inheritance tax determination; a model, progressive rape statute; provision for state funding and licensing of childcare centers; creation of a process by which more women could be appointed to state boards and commissions; and creation of the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame. As a Women's movement pioneer, Wilson helped to found the Iowa Women's Political Caucus and served as the first woman chair of the Polk County Republican Platform committee. Her remarkable achievements have

contributed to Iowa's recognition nationally as a state characterized by equality and justice. In 1982, the Commission established a Medal for Equality and Justice in her name, which is awarded to Iowans whose life and work illustrate such service and dedication. She was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1989.

UPDATE: Wilson died in 1991.

1990

## 1990 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Mary Jane Coggeshall (1836-1911)

*"Mary Jane Coggeshall's goal of Women's suffrage has been attained, and another one of her hopes realized:... that the next generation of women may find their work made easier because we have trodden the path before them."*

—Jean Lloyd-Jones, 1990



Mary Jane Whitely Coggeshall, born in 1836, promoted woman suffrage for 41 years. Carrie Chapman Catt called her "The Mother of Woman Suffrage in Iowa" and "my greatest inspiration." In 1870, Coggeshall became a charter member of the Iowa Woman Suffrage Association and continued as its president in 1890 and 1891 and again from 1903 to 1905. Coggeshall was the first editor of the *Women's Standard*, the monthly newspaper of the Iowa Woman Suffrage Association, and was a continuing contributor to that publication as well. She served as secretary of the Polk County Woman Suffrage Society during its early years. She often acted as spokeswoman for woman suffrage, addressing the Iowa House and Senate committees and innumerable woman suffrage meetings. Of the early Iowa woman suffrage workers, she was the only one active on the national level. She wrote articles for national newspapers and served on the Board of the National American Woman Suffrage Association beginning in 1885. Her longtime dedication to the woman suffrage cause in Iowa and the nation provided a strong source for continuity and inspiration to other women suffrage workers. She died in 1911. She was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1990.

## 1990 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Merle Wilna Fleming (1926-2006)

*"To me, Merle is the epitome of the strong, talented, and dedicated human being whom we might construct as the ideal Iowa woman."*

—James A. Thomas, 1987



Merle Wilna Fleming's career has focused on civil rights and education reform. She was appointed to the first Iowa Civil Rights Commission, serving as its chair from 1966 to 1968. Later, as Hearing Examiner for the Commission, Fleming heard the first sex discrimination case to reach public hearing. Volunteer work with the League of Women Voters helped guide Fleming toward her efforts at state education reform. A member of the local board of the League from 1950 to 1954 and 1963 to 1964, she served on the state board of the League from 1965 to 1966 and was its education chair. Fleming entered law school at the age of 50, graduating with distinction. As an assistant attorney general, she wrote opinions concerning education that include those relating to the use of school

buildings by religious groups, the possible redistricting of Iowa schools every ten years, and teaching creationism in public schools. Following her early retirement, Fleming has assisted the Iowa School Board Association in preparing a manual to implement affirmative action requirements for Iowa's school districts. She was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1990.

UPDATE: Fleming served on the Des Moines Strategic Planning Commission from 1997-99 (its chair 1997-98), as a hearing officer for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services on a case-by-case basis, and served as parliamentarian for Drake University Head Start Policy Council. She was a member of the American Bar Association, Iowa Bar Association, Polk County Bar Association, and Polk County Women Attorneys. In 1995, Fleming retired from Ahlers Law Firm in Des Moines, where she specialized in Education Law. From 1994-95, she served as chair of the IBA Women and Minorities Committee and from 1993-96 the IBA Administrative Law Section Council. Fleming chaired the Study of Iowa Budget Process Committee of the League of Women Voters of Iowa. She was board member and president of the League of Women Voters of Metro Des Moines. Fleming also served as a board member of the Iowa Civil Liberties Union, serving as president for one year, chaired the Des Moines Strategic Planning Commission, and was the vice-president of the Metro Des Moines Opera Guild. She died on November 26, 2006.

## 1990 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Betty Jean Furgerson

*"Betty Jean, for all her soft spoken, friendly demeanor, has a toughness of steel for causes she believes in."*

—Karen K. Goodenow, 1990



Betty Jean Furgerson's life is epitomized as one of service and leadership, particularly in human rights, education, public television, and the arts. As director of the Waterloo Human Rights Commission since 1974, and in her volunteer capacities, she has been a strong and effective advocate for women and people of color. She is treasurer of the Regional Executive Council on Civil Rights, an organization comprising human rights agencies in a tri-state area. Her contributions to higher education include service on the Legislative Higher Education and Excellence in Education Task Forces, presidency of the Board of Directors of the Waterloo Community Schools, and membership on the Iowa Council on Vocational Education. She was one of the original members of the Iowa Department of Education's Multicultural, Nonsexist Curriculum Committee and

aided in the formulation of the state policy that human relations training be a part of teacher preparation and relicensure. In 1989, Furgerson was appointed to the Iowa State Board of Regents. As president of the Iowa Public Broadcasting Board, she has directed policies for Iowa Public Television to assure quality alternative programming for Iowans. She was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1990.

UPDATE: Furgerson has retired as the director of the Waterloo Human Rights Commission. Furgerson now serves as president of the Advisory Board to the University of Northern Iowa Leadership Studies Program and chair of Regents Affirmative Action Priority Study committee. She continues as a member of the Iowa Department of Education's Multicultural, Nonsexist Curriculum Committee, which is now called Educational Equity Committee, and was a member of the Iowa Literacy Academy.



## 1990 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Glenda Gates Riley

*"Glenda has not merely worked diligently to uncover Women's history sources previously overlooked... Her inspired writings and animated public speaking awaken a sense of new discoveries about Iowa women in her audiences."*

-Margo Dundon, 1985



Glenda Gates Riley, professor of history at the University of Northern Iowa since 1969, is an internationally known historian and an advocate for women. In 1972, she taught the first Women's history course in Iowa. She later co-designed the first Women's studies program in the state and served as Director of Women's Studies at UNI. Riley brought Iowa women to national attention through her book, *Frontierswomen: The Iowa Experience*, which received a Distinguished Achievement Award from the Iowa State Historical Society. She has served on the Iowa Historical Records Advisory Board, the Historical Advisory Board of Iowa, and the Board of Trustees of the Iowa State Historical Society. More recently, she held a Distinguished Fulbright appointment as Mary Ball Washington Professor of American History at University College, Dublin, where she taught the first Women's history course in the Republic of Ireland. She has also twice held the Visiting Women's Chair in

Humanistic Studies at Marquette University in Milwaukee. In 1988, she became the first woman to win a Distinguished Scholar Award at UNI. She was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1990.

UPDATE: Riley accepted appointment as the Alexander M. Bracken Professor of History at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana in 1991. She published *Divorce: An American Tradition*, 1991; *A Place to Grow: Women in the American West*, 1992; *The Life and Legacy of Annie Oakley*, 1994; *Building and Breaking Families in the American West*, 1996; *Women and Nature: Saving the "Wild West"*, 1999; *Prairie Voices: Iowa's Pioneer Women*, 1996; and a second edition of *Inventing the American Woman: An Inclusive History*. In 1992, she held the Wayne Aspinall Visiting Professorship at Mesa State College in Colorado and appeared in the television special *The Wild West* on the Fox network. She has served as president of the Western History Association. In 1995, she received the Outstanding Researcher Award from Ball State University and in 1998, received a Fulbright Research Award. She continues to speak and consult widely in such countries as Korea and Ireland.



1991

## 1991 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Mabel Lossing Jones (1878-1978)

*"Mabel Lossing Jones' influence upon her students has affected the global community. Due to her efforts, hundreds of children received an education, thus ultimately contributing to society in all walks of life."*

— Karilyn K. Bonomolo, 1991



Mabel Lossing Jones, born in 1878, spent 42 years as a teacher and administrator in India. A graduate of Upper Iowa University, she was appointed by the Methodist Episcopal Church mission schools to a girls school in Khandwa, India. Within a year she became its principal. A few years later, Jones was sent to Isabella Thobrun College, the first college for women in India. It was here that she met and married Dr. E. Stanley Jones, also a missionary. Her next move was to Sitapur where she became superintendent of six schools, including a boarding school for Christian boys. It was this school that became the focus of Jones's work in India and on into retirement. She was responsible for introducing women teachers into the school at a time in India when women were not considered qualified to teach boys; other schools throughout India followed her lead. She mastered the Hindi and Urdu languages and script. She served with 10 Hindu and ten Muslim males as the only non-Indian, Christian woman elected to the Sitapur

administrative body, a position she held for nearly 20 years. For health reasons, Jones retired in 1945 but continued to seek scholarships for students to the Sitapur Boys Boarding School. At age 90, she was still raising enough funds to send 600 boys to school. She died in 1978. She was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1991.

## 1991 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Mary Louisa Duncan Putnam (1832-1903)

*"Mary Louisa Duncan Putnam was indeed the guiding spirit behind the Davenport Academy and without her... the Quad Cities region would not know the benefits of an institution like the Putnam Museum of History and Natural Science."*

—Michael J. Smith, 1991



Mary Louisa Duncan Putnam's primary contribution was the work she did in the development of the Davenport Academy of Sciences. Born in 1832, she became involved with the Academy in 1868, was its first woman member, and later became its president. To make known the findings of the Academy's scientists and its growing collection of artifacts, she organized the Ladies Centennial Committee that raised money and published the first Proceedings of the Academy. These proceedings achieved worldwide circulation, and the accomplishment was called a "unique enterprise for men." Through her efforts, the first Academy of Science building was constructed. She also established natural history programs for children and adults at the Academy. Having borne eleven children, eight of whom survived to maturity, Putnam was highly committed to public education. In

1902, she was made a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the highest honor that organization bestowed on anyone at the time. When she died in 1903, Putnam left a trust for the continued publication and distribution of the Proceedings. Today, the Davenport Academy of Sciences serves the Quad-Cities community and the state of Iowa as the Putnam Museum of History and Natural Science. She was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1991.

## 1991 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Marilyn E. Staples

*"Marilyn Staples is the representative woman... She represents the women who have donated lives to volunteer activities. She represents the women who do so much... She represents the women who have made a difference in our lives..."*

—Betty Grundberg, 1991



Marilyn E. Staples, born in 1926, has worked as a volunteer to improve the quality of life for Iowans. Her thorough research and unrelenting advocacy have focused on housing, human needs, government, education, and the land. She has often worked to support causes that were unpopular but which had far-reaching beneficial consequences. As president of the Des Moines Housing Council, she has developed such programs as homesteading, housing for low-income families, and a tool-lending library. She has served on the Polk-Des Moines Taxpayers Association Board, Grand View College Board of Trustees, Des Moines Planning and Zoning Commission, Polk County Land Use Advisory Committee, Greater Des Moines Chamber of Commerce Federation Board, and numerous other boards and committees.

Staples has been president of the League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Des Moines and has chaired background studies on government, health services, human resources, natural resources, and housing issues. She co-drafted county charter legislation that was enacted in 1988 and helped to spearhead the successful drive to establish a Charter Commission in Polk County. This Commission, the first in Iowa, may well provide a model for other counties as it studies possibilities for restructuring county government and finance. She was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1991.

UPDATE: Staples has retired from the board of the Des Moines Housing Council, after having helped found the organization in 1978 and serving on the board from 1978 to 1993. She has continued her active involvement in city government. She has served on numerous Des Moines Planning and Zoning Commission committees, worked with city staff on writing a comprehensive plan for the year 2020, reviewed the City's Capital Improvements programs, represented Planning and Zoning on the Strategic Planning Commission and other ad hoc committees, and served on the committee to re-engineer the design of Martin Luther King Parkway. Staples has also served on the Gray's Lake Design Committee; the Southwestern Hills Neighborhood Association Park Committee; the Polk Des Moines Taxpayers Association; the Des Moines area Mayors' Select Committee on Tax Disparities; Fleur Drive Development group; and the Metropolitan Des Moines League of Women Voters Board.

## 1991 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Lois Hattery Tiffany (1924-2009)

*"Lois is one of the most interesting and dedicated teachers I have known. Even the taxonomy (classification) of fungi—not usually considered captivating subject matter—comes alive with her enthusiasm."*

—Ruth W. Swenson, 1990



Lois Hattery Tiffany, in her professional career as a professor and administrator, earned an impressive array of awards and honors for her teaching, advising, and service leadership at Iowa State University. Her field is mycology (the science of fungi), and her research publications (numbering over 60) and recognition at state and national levels attest to the excellence of her contributions. She cosponsored the Botany Club, one of the most active departmental organizations on the ISU campus. She also served as a role model in ISU's Women in Science and Engineering pilot project, visiting junior and senior high school science classes and encouraging young women to study math and science and to consider careers in those fields. Known by the general public as the "Mushroom Lady," Tiffany shared her knowledge of fungi, including edible and non-edible mushrooms, with citizens of all ages and backgrounds.

Tiffany received a number of awards including the first recipient of the annual Mycological Society of America "W.H. Weston, Jr. Award" for Teaching Excellence in Mycology, Distinguished Iowa Scientist Award, Iowa Academy of Science; and the first recipient of the Governor's Medal for Science Teaching. She was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1991.

UPDATE: Tiffany was a distinguished professor at Iowa State University and was the chair of the Department of Botany for six years. Since her induction, she authored numerous publications and is a member of the Department of Transportation Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Technical Advisory Committee and the State Preserves Advisory Board. Tiffany served on the Governor's Science Council. She received the Iowa Chapter American Association of University Women Distinguished Faculty Award, 1993, Veishea Professor of the Year award from ISU, 1993; Strong Minded Women of ISU, Carrie Chapman Catt Center, 1994; Distinguished Service Award, Iowa Academy of Science, 1994; Distinguished Professor, ISU, 1994; and Anna Pate Award from ISU Women in Science and Engineering, 1999. Tiffany died on September 6, 2009.

1992

## 1992 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Virginia Harper (1929-1997)

*"I can't think of anyone else who has done more in this century for promoting the educational opportunities of women and minorities in Iowa than Virginia Harper."*

—George F. Garcia, Ed.D., 1992



Virginia Harper, born in 1929, is an advocate for equality and justice for all Iowans. She became an activist at 11 years of age, when she led in desegregating the local theatre. In 1946, as a first-year student at the University of Iowa, she and four other African-American women integrated Currier Hall. As the first African-American woman on the State Board of Public Instruction, she effectively spearheaded the move for multicultural, nonsexist requirements in Iowa education. Her efforts aided in the adoption of the human relations requirement for teachers. Harper was also the first African-American woman appointed to the Iowa Board of Parole. A life member of the NAACP, Harper, working at the state and regional levels, has been president of the local branch from 1978 to the present. She has served on the Fort Madison

Human Rights commission and the Library Board of Trustees, and has been a prison volunteer. She is a member of Amnesty International, League of Women Voters, the National Council of Negro Women, and the Iowa and American Corrections Association. She currently serves on the Fort Madison School District Human Equity Committee and is involved in a variety of activities that deal with equity and justice. She was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1992.

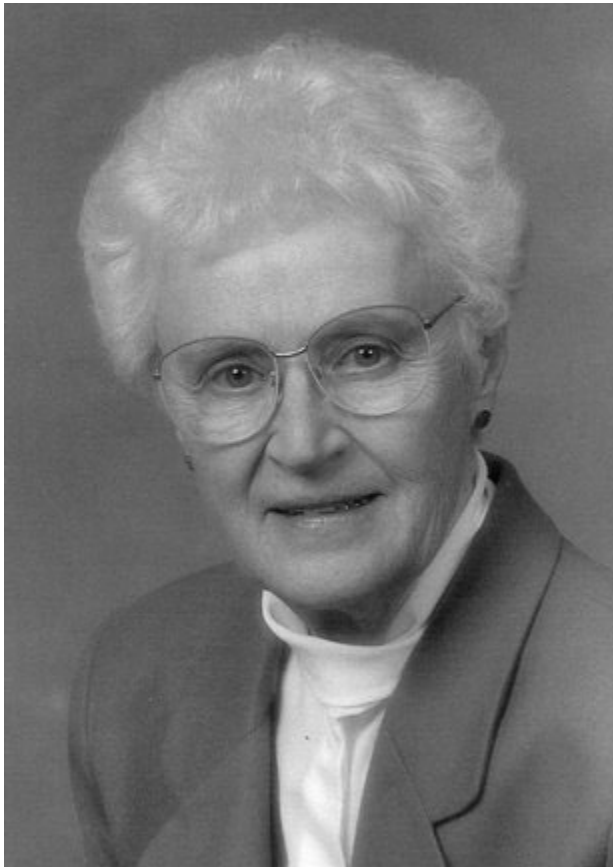
Harper served as President of the Fort Madison Branch of the NAACP and was involved in the Fort Madison School District's Human Equity Committee. She died in 1997. In 1998, Harper

posthumously received the Martin Luther King, Jr. Achievement Award from the Iowa Commission on the Status of African-Americans.



## 1992 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Helen Brown Henderson (1919-1997)

*"Helen Henderson, almost single-handedly, created, cajoled, communicated, shepherded, nurtured, and developed services for the mentally ill/retarded in Iowa - literally, bringing the services from the dark ages to their present status as among the most enviable in the nation."*  
- Michael V. Reagen, 1992



Helen Brown Henderson has spent much of her life as an advocate for the needs of mentally retarded persons. In the late 1940s, as the mother of a child born with special needs, she was faced with the reality that the avenues for assistance were limited. Through her questions and attempts to use the existing system, she developed an extensive network of supporters. In 1950, she began a campaign that developed 95 county chapters of the National Association for Retarded Children (ARC). In 1954, Henderson was elected the first president of the Black Hawk County chapter. She was also a founding member of the Iowa ARC, which sponsored the first three Special Olympics. From 1970 to 1978, she served as its executive director. She trained hundreds of Iowa parents in skills to advocate for community-based services to incorporate all citizens into community life. She also spent many hours volunteering her time to lobby the State Legislature on issues related to the education of children with disabilities.

Henderson's vision eventually led to the development of the Area Education Agencies, designed as a resource to local school districts to enable them to provide K-12 education for disabled children in their home communities. She was the executive director of the Polk County Health Services from 1978 to 1983, where she continued her advocacy for mentally ill and substance abusing citizens of Polk County. She was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1992.

## 1992 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Eve Schmoll Rubenstein (1907-1993)

*"As a pioneer of the age of working women, Eve worked in a nontraditional field for women during the early days of TV... She is a legend of her own time."*

—Dennis and Edwina O'Farrell, 1992



Eve Schmoll Rubenstein, a pioneer in Iowa broadcasting, was born, raised, and educated in Fort Dodge. In 1930, she married Charles Rubenstein. When he died suddenly in 1953, she began her career in broadcasting at station KVFD-radio in Fort Dodge. The following year she was named to the national Board of American Women in Radio and Television (AWRT). In 1960, she helped to organize the Hawkeye Chapter of the AWRT and in 1969 was named manager of the KVFD-TV. In 1970, she was a delegate to the International Convention of American Women in Radio and Television in London, where she interviewed the Lord Mayor of London and later the Mayor of Berlin. In 1971, she won the prestigious New York Frany Award for First in Fashion Coverage. By 1972, she had been on the air for 19 years and logged more time on television than any woman in the nation. In 1988, she was named Fort Dodge's "Most Respected Citizen." Rubenstein has served on numerous

boards and foundations, including the Catholic Daughters of America, the Webster County Board of Health, and the North Central Alcoholism Research Foundation. She was the first woman president of the Blanden Memorial Art Museum. She is also a permanent member of the lecture staff at the Substance Abuse Recovery Center of Trinity Regional Hospital and is also a lifetime honorary member of the Des Moines Advertising Club. She was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1992.

## 1992 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Mary Beaumont Welch (1841-1923)

*"Mrs. Welch believed ardently in the power of women to make a constructive, creative difference in their world and she gave unstinting efforts in educating women to unleash that power."*

—Dr. Beverly Crabtree & Dr. Jane Farrell-Beck, 1991



Mary Beaumont Welch promoted the cause of Women's education at Iowa State Agricultural College for over 15 years. Born in 1841 in Lyons, New York, she came to Ames in 1868 when her husband, Adonijah, was appointed the college's first president. In 1871, she initiated a course of lectures on housekeeping. She was an instructor of Domestic Economy, English, and Elocution from 1875 to 1893. After attending cooking schools in New York and London, she established the first of its kind experimental kitchen at ISU. She published an article in the July 1879 issue of *The College Quarterly*, expounding on the need to honor Women's efforts in the home. "It is hard to give one's life to that which, according to general opinion, is an inferior pursuit." In 1882, Welch began to lecture throughout Iowa on home economics, a precedent for the extension courses that did not begin until 1903. In 1884, she published *Mrs. Welch's Cookbook*, the first book published in home

economics at ISU. In 1888, Welch became president of the Iowa Women Suffrage Association. She proclaimed that women "...claim the absolute and inherent right to guard by vote all laws that affect in any manner the personal virtue of our sex. No man, or body of men, has the right to legislate away my control over myself..." She was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1992.

1993

## 1993 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Julia Faltinson Anderson (1919-2012)

*"Julia Anderson is a natural leader and role model—enthusiastic, tactfully persistent, and contagiously good-humored. She continues to devote her energy in the lifetime commitment to improving the quality of life for girls and women in developing countries as well as here at home."*

—Ruth Swenson, 1994



Julia Faltinson Anderson was born in Iowa in 1919. Her assistance to the international community includes serving the Navy during World War II, helping to train Peace Corps volunteers, serving as director of work camps in Austria, Yugoslavia, and Malawi. During the early part of Anderson's career, she served as an extension home economist, a 4-H youth leader, and later as associate dean for undergraduate programming at Iowa State University's College of Family and Consumer Sciences. Since her retirement, she has been active as a member of the United Way, Mary Greeley Medical Center, and the Iowa Division of the United Nations Association boards; a chair for the International Relations committee, Iowa division of AAUW; and the first woman on the Iowa Banking Board. She has also served on the Ames Fair Housing and Parks and Recreation Commission; she was a strong proponent of affordable housing. A member of the Board of Governors of the ISU Foundation, Anderson recently received the Helen LeBaron

Hilton Recognition Award for her lifelong commitment to international affairs pursued through work with UNESCO, Partners of the Americas, and USAID. Currently, she is the co-chair of a task force developing a College for Seniors at ISU that will offer noncredit courses for retirees living in central Iowa. Anderson was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1993.

UPDATE: Anderson successfully cochaired the task force that developed a College for Seniors at Iowa State University, which offers noncredit courses for retirees living in central Iowa.



## 1993 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Mamie Doud Eisenhower (1896-1979)

*"Ike and Mamie were middle-class Americans to the core, right out of a Norman Rockwell painting."*

—Bob Hope, 1980



Mamie Geneva Doud Eisenhower was born in Boone, Iowa in 1896 and spent her early years in Cedar Rapids. At age six, she moved with her family to Colorado. In 1915, she met and later married Lieutenant Dwight D. Eisenhower. The Eisenhowers moved 35 times, living in a variety of army posts, including Panama, France, and the Philippines. Two sons were born to them. Mamie Eisenhower was a well-known and admired First Lady who served with her husband in the White House from 1953 to 1961. For over 25 years, she was listed on the Gallup Poll of the "Ten Most Admired Women in America." Her years in the White House were marked with dignity, grace, charm, and charitable works. After the Eisenhowers retired from public office, they returned to their farm in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. In 1970, Eisenhower received the "Nation's

Foremost Heart Volunteer" award from the American Heart Association and was the first woman to receive the coveted Iowa Award. In 1971, President Nixon presented her with the "Military Wife of the Century" award at a Diamond Jubilee Dinner. Eisenhower died in 1979, 10 years after the former President. Eisenhower's birthplace in Boone was restored to its 1890s period and dedicated as a museum/library in 1980. It is open to the public from April through October and at other times by appointment. She was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1993.

## 1993 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Phebe W. Sudlow (1831-1922)

*"Phebe Sudlow's legacy in our school district is an incentive, not only for our female students and those women who aspire to be administrators, but it also remains a source of motivation for everyone who wants to be a strong, effective administrator."*

— Dr. Peter F. Flynn, 1992



Phebe W. Sudlow, born in New York in 1831, became a teacher at the early age of 15. In 1856, she moved with her family to Scott County, Iowa. By 1859, she had become the first woman public school principal in the United States, supervising both a grammar school and a district school in Davenport. In 1869, she became the first woman to present a program at the Iowa convention of county superintendents. In 1872, she was the first principal of the Davenport Training School for Teachers. Two years later, she became superintendent of public schools. In 1877, Sudlow was elected the first female president of the Iowa State Teachers' Association. A year later, she was appointed the first female professor at the University of Iowa (Department of English). Due to ill health, Sudlow retired from teaching in 1881 but continued to be active in her community. Among her later accomplishments were co-owning a bookstore, helping to establish a library in

Davenport, and personally directing The Ladies Industrial Relief Society for 15 years. That organization assisted poor families and working mothers by providing a day nursery, washing machines, and cooking and sewing lessons. Sudlow died in 1922 at the age of 91. She was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1993.

## 1993 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Jean Adeline Morgan Wanatee (1910-1996)

*"Adeline Wanatee is a remarkable woman, a credit to the Mesquakie people and to her gender."*

—Mary Beth Schroeder Fracek, 1993



Jean Adeline Morgan Wanatee was born in 1910 on the Meskwaki Indian Settlement in Tama. She is a member of the peaceful Wolf Clan. As a child, she attended the Sac and Fox Day School in Tama, the Flandreau Indian School in South Dakota and then, in the 8th grade, returned to Iowa to attend Tama Public Schools. In her late teens, Wanatee worked two years at the Toledo Sanatorium and later at the Sac and Fox Day School. Wanatee and her husband raised seven children on the settlement. Over the years, she became a role model and advocate on the state and national level for the rights of women. She is a Meskwaki language specialist and resource for the Smithsonian Institute. Wanatee has served on the Governor's Advisory Committee and was a member of the Iowa Arts Council's "artist-in-the-schools" program. She also chaired the local Meskwaki School Board and was the first woman

representative on the local pow-wow association. Nationally, Wanatee was the first woman elected to the Meskwaki Tribal Council, serving two four-year terms. When asked what she would like people to know about her, Wanatee replied, "Where I came from, I am proud that my people never left Iowa, never became prisoners. They are the reason I want to help." She was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1993.



1994

## 1994 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Mildred Wirt Benson (1905-2002)

*"My hunch is that Mildred Wirt Benson, through her writings, has touched more people's lives, both in and beyond Iowa, than any other Iowa-born author."*

—Kenneth Starck, 1993



Mildred Wirt Benson, born in Ladora, Iowa in 1905, published her first story at the age of 12 and became the first woman to earn an M.A. in journalism from the University of Iowa in 1927. She has written more than 130 published books but is most noted as the first writer of the Nancy Drew series, carrying her independent spirit into the development of Nancy Drew as a strong female character and role model for three generations of women. She worked as a reporter for the Toledo Times from 1944 to 1975 and since then as a reporter/columnist for The Blade. A pilot as well, Benson was recognized in the 1947 edition of Who's Who in Aviation, American Women for her aviation columns for the Blade. She has been recognized with numerous writing awards and received the University of Iowa Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award in 1994. She is a member of the Iowa School of Journalism and Mass Communication Hall of Fame and the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame. Benson was inducted

into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1994.

UPDATE: Benson was the recipient of the Ohio Newspaper Women's Association Life Achievement Award and the Blades Lifetime Achievement Award, the first-ever given by the newspaper. Benson died on May 28, 2002.

## 1994 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Lois Eichacker

*"In this world there are givers and takers. Lois is definitely a giver, and she gives everything she has to every effort that she becomes involved with."*

— James E. Smith, 1994



Lois Harper Eichacker was born in 1932 and is a fifth generation Iowan living in Fort Madison. She has spent her adult life advancing the causes of the disadvantaged, especially children and the working poor, by participating in the formation of public policies that affect them. Beginning her career at Southeast Iowa Community Action Organization in 1967, she served as executive director from 1974 to 1989. In the past, Eichacker has been president of the Region Seven Community Action Directors' Association, on the Iowa Humanities Board, on the Long Term Task Force, and Investing in People. Currently, she is a member of the Board of Directors of the Iowa Department of Economic Development, vice-chair 1991 to present; State Job Training Coordinating Council; Commission of Community Action Agencies, chairperson 1992 to present; Council on Human Investment; Iowa's Policymakers' Institute; NAACP; PIC; AAUW, and the University of Iowa Black Alumni

Association. She has received many honors, including the Bob Tyson Outstanding Partner in Community Action Award, and the naming of the CAP Neighborhood Center in Fort Madison, the Eichacker Center. Eichacker is the president-elect of the 46,000-member U of I Alumni Association. She was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1994.

## 1994 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Gertrude Durden Rush (1880-1962)

*"Mrs. Rush not only contributed to this nation and this world, but to her own local community, making life better for so many in her cry for justice..."*

— Dr. Cleota Proctor Wilbekin, 1994 Attorney



Gertrude Durden Rush, born in Navasota, Texas in 1880, moved to Des Moines in 1907 to become the first African-American woman to be admitted to the Iowa Bar. She remained the sole African-American female to practice law in Iowa until the 1950s. Receiving her B.A. from Des Moines University in 1914, Rush began studying law under her husband, James B. Rush, a Des Moines attorney, passing the Iowa Bar Examination in 1918. In 1924, after denial of membership in the American Bar Association, Rush and four other African-American lawyers, who were men, created the National Bar Association, a minority bar association, which officially began in Des Moines in 1925. Rush was a member of the Illinois Bar, maintaining offices both in Des Moines and Chicago, residing in Des Moines. She also held positions in many nationally and community organizations, including president of the Iowa State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs and president of the Des Moines Colored Federated Clubs. She died in 1962. Two monuments in her honor are located at the Des Moines Public Library and St. Paul AME Church. She was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1994.

## 1994 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Evelyne Jobe Villines

*"Evelyne Villines is truly an outstanding human being. As a speaker, she has the ability to capture an audience and leave them feeling moved to a greater understanding of joy and problems shared by persons with disabilities."*

—Harlietta Helland, 1994



Evelyne Jobe Villines of Des Moines, born in Siam, Iowa in 1930, is a political activist and leading national spokesperson for person with disabilities. Villines had polio at the age three when she was living in southwest Iowa. From the time she was nine through 16 years of age, for the most part, she was a patient at crippled Children's Hospital in Iowa City, 250 miles away from home. As a teenager, Villines encountered her first job discrimination. Soon after, she began her life and career of empowering people who are disabled. Villines has served as Executive Secretary of the Iowa Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped from 1965 to 1975; Director of Development at Iowa Lutheran Hospital in Des Moines from 1975 to 1979; and Director of the Client Assistance Program for the Easter Seal Society of Iowa, Inc. from 1979 to 1991. Since 1980, Villines has been a free-lance motivational speaker, giving her speech "In the Name of Love" to hundreds of organizations worldwide. In 1986, she was inducted into the National Hall of Fame for Persons with Disabilities. In May of 1994, President Bill Clinton appointed Villines as a member of the committee for Purchase from People Who are Blind or Severely Disabled. She was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1994.

UPDATE: Villines was, in 1999, reappointed by President Bill Clinton for another five years as a member of the Committee for Purchase from Persons Who are Blind or Severely Disabled. She was honored in 2000 as Woman of the Year by the Metro Women's Network of Greater Des Moines.

1995

## 1995 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Sue M. Wilson Brown (1877-1941)

*Sue M. Wilson Brown's life was a commitment to the foundational development of women leaders and the social, political, ethical, and economic upward mobility of African Americans... She was the great organizer of her day and we have yet to see her equal."*

— Gwendolyn Wilson Fowler, 1995



Sue M. Wilson Brown was born in Staunton, Virginia in 1877. She graduated from Oskaloosa High School, and later moved to Des Moines. Brown dedicated her life to improving the status of African Americans on both a state and national level. To achieve that, Brown founded several clubs, including the Intellectual Improvement Club, Iowa Colored Women, and the Des Moines League of Colored Women Voters. She served as president of the Iowa Federation of Colored Women, the Colonel Charles Young Auxiliary of the American Red Cross, and the Des Moines branch of Church women's Interracial Commission, and as the first female president of the Des Moines Branch of the NAACP. She served as a charter member of the Central Association of Colored Women and the First Interracial Commission on Civil Rights. As chairperson of the Iowa Association of Colored Women, Brown supervised the building of the University Girls' Home in Iowa City, which became one of the first owned and operated university dormitories for African Americans outside any traditional African-American colleges or universities. She served as a delegate to the International Council of Women. Brown wrote three books about African-American women and is featured in *Who's Who in Colored America*. She died in 1941. Brown was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1995.

## 1995 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Mary E. Domingues Campos

*"Mary has been a remarkable volunteer... Her undying interest in ensuring that all of the youth from the Hispanic community understand their culture and roots is evident in all of her volunteer activities and in all aspects of her life."*

—YWCA of Greater Des Moines, 1994



Mary E. Domingues Campos, born in McAlester, Oklahoma in 1929, is an advocate for women and children in Iowa and has helped to establish better relationships between people of diverse ethnic backgrounds. Campos serves on numerous boards and councils as a champion for human rights, including the Community Housing Education Resources, Bidwell Riverside Community Center, Des Moines Human Rights Commission, Hispanic Education Resource Center, Council for International Understanding, Mid-City Vision Committee, Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel, Hispanic Ministry, Senior Citizens Advisory Council, Adult and Youth Ministries Diocese of Des Moines Advisory Council, and The Des Moines Register Advisory Council. She served as president of the United Mexican-American Community Center. Campos has also been active politically, serving as the Hispanic representative to the Iowa

Democratic Party in 1983 and as the co-chair of the Polk County Democratic County Convention in 1992. With the Hispanic population increasing in Iowa, Campos spends countless hours helping non-English speaking families who are relocating in Des Moines and Perry become more informed about social and health issues. As Randolph J. Davis says, "She has represented her Latino ethnic group with dignity and courage." Campos was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1995.

## 1995 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Gertrude Dieken (1910-2002)

*"Gertrude Dieken is a pioneering consumer economist, gifted journalist, and a woman who authentically and most successfully dedicated her life's work to advancing the status of women."*

—Coe College President John E. Brown, 1995



Gertrude Dieken, born in Grundy County, Iowa in 1910, graduated with her B.A. from Coe College and following graduate studies in consumer economics and journalism at Iowa State University, launched her career as an editor and businesswoman. As an editor, Dieken garnered first the resources of the United States Department of Agriculture Extension Service in Ames, Iowa and then of the most influential farm magazine of the world, the Farm Journal. As a longtime editor of the family magazine within Farm Journal, she championed farm women as vital partners in farm production, as effective community leaders, and as intelligent and strong nurturers. The differences she made in the lives of farm families during an era of great change in agriculture reached far beyond her readers of the 1940s-70s, into the lives of the next generations. Dieken established the book publishing division of Farm Journal, Inc., and within the first decade, over ten million books were distributed. During this period, she became vice president and a member of the board of directors of Farm Journal, Inc. She was the first woman recipient of the Reuben Brigham Award for outstanding service to agriculture and rural living through mass communication media. Dieken is listed in Who's Who of American Women. Dieken was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1995.

UPDATE: Dieken was selected Woman of the Year by Women in Communications in 1947. She received the Coe College Alumni Award of Merit in 1957. She died August 31, 2002.

## 1995 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Rowena Edson Stevens (1852-1918)

*"She possessed an analytic mind that could dissect false argument and show up its inconsistencies. She saw, as if by intuition, where error had been given the semblance of truth and she knew how to hit it and hit it hard."*

—Dean E. W. Stanton, *The Alumnus*, May 1918



Rowena Edson Stevens, born near Columbus, Wisconsin in 1852, graduated from Iowa State College in its second class. She taught school in Iowa and Nebraska. In 1876, she married John Stevens, a graduate of Iowa State College's first class. The family lived in Ames and later in Boone. Stevens became socially and politically active, founding and supporting charitable organizations, as well as playing a prominent role in the struggle for woman suffrage. She organized the Political Equality Club in Ames, serving as its president. She also served as president of the Boone Equality Club and organized chapters in other cities. Stevens was president of the Benevolent Society in Ames for 12 years, Worthy Matron of the Order of Eastern Star in Ames, state Regent of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and on the board of the first hospital in Boone. She held various offices in the Iowa Equal Suffrage Association, including president in 1894, in which capacity she addressed the Iowa Legislature on behalf of the suffragist movement. As president of the Boone Equality Club, Stevens organized the first woman suffrage parade in the United States for the annual convention of the Iowa Equal Suffrage Association in Boone in 1908. Stevens was honored by the League of Women Voters in 1931 as one of the 24 "women in Iowa whose courageous work opened the opportunities of complete citizenship to all women in the state." Stevens died in 1918. Stevens was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1995.



1996

## 1996 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Joan Liffring-Zug Bourret

*"Her artistic talents and dedication to cultural documentation allowed her to create truly unique statements about life in this state."*

— Mary Bennett, 1996



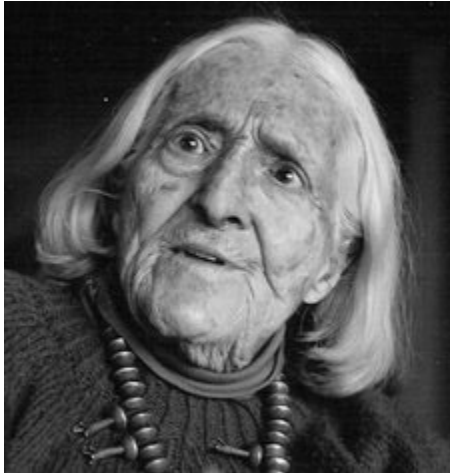
Joan Liffring-Zug Bourret is a recognized Iowa photographer whose s are in many collections, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Her photographs include studies of the roles of men and women and ethnic groups, including Norwegians, Swedes, Czechs, Amish, Dutch, Meskwaki Indians, Hispanic workers, and the Amana people. She also documented the black civil rights movement in Cedar Rapids during the 1960s, which was instrumental in the election of one of the first African Americans, Cecil Reed, to the Iowa House of Representatives. Born in 1929 in Iowa City, Liffring-Zug Bourret attended the University of Iowa, then worked as a writer/photographer for the Cedar Rapids Gazette, 1948-51. In 1951 and 1952, she received national and international recognition for her photo documentary of the birth of her first son. Look magazine published the essay with Life using one photograph. She captured on film the variety and richness of Iowa life for The Iowan magazine from 1954 to 1985, and The Des Moines Sunday Register as a free-lancer from 1952 until 1969. She co-founded Penfield Press, publishing books of ethnic interest, in 1979, with her late husband John Zug, as well as authored several books about Grant Wood. Liffring-Zug Bourret was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1996.

Update: Liffring-Zug Bourret is a former board member of the Friends Development Council, University of Iowa Museum of Art. She is a contributor of over 500,000 negatives from the 1940s to 2007 to the archives of the State Historical Society of Iowa and of photographic prints to the Women's Archives, University of Iowa Libraries, Cedar Rapids Museum of Art, and Kirkwood Community College. She has also contributed fine art and crafts to Iowa museums. As publisher of Penfield Books, first founded as Penfield Press in 1979, she has released over 106 books promoting understanding of ethnic culture primarily of northern and eastern European descent including historical books about the Amana Colonies of Iowa. Her photographs of Martin Luther King (1962) and the Divided Child (1958) (an African American preschooler with a white curtain dividing her face) continue to have media publication.

## 1996 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Meridel Le Sueur (1900-1996)

*"Her artistic talents and dedication to cultural documentation allowed her to create truly unique statements about life in this state."*

— Mary Bennett, 1996



Meridel Le Sueur, Wisconsin, was born in Murray, Iowa in 1900. She has spent her life recording Women's lives and documenting the United States' cultural heritage through her fiction, poetry, history, journalism, autobiography, and biography. Her experiences and writings reflect the poor women in this century and the need for women to be linked to other generations of women. Le Sueur has written extensively about her grandmother, an Iowa pioneer and militant temperance worker, and her mother, an active feminist and a socialist. Rural and ethnic life in the Midwest, the land, and corn are other common themes. During the McCarthy era in the 1950s, she was blacklisted, resulting in being unable to publish her works for nearly 30

years. Since 1970, her works have found a new audience and new popularity. Le Sueur was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1996.

UPDATE: Le Sueur died on November 14, 1996 in Hudson, Wisconsin.

## 1996 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Janette Stevenson Murray (1874-1967)

*"Her contributions have been notable and worthy of highest recommendation on a number of scores... [she] has made a significant impact in role choice for women, in the suffrage movement, in media development, in education, and as a national newsmaker."*

—Carol Zeigler, 1995



Janette Stevenson Murray was a Cedar Rapids civic leader, an early suffragist, educator, lecturer, and writer. Among her accomplishments were fighting for Women's right to vote, helping to establish the Child Welfare Station at the University of Iowa, and serving as president of the Cedar Rapids Board of Education from 1923-24 at a time when few women in the country held that responsibility. She wrote feature articles for women entitled "The Modern Mother in Home, School, and Community," which appeared each week in The Evening Gazette as well as delivered radio talks on child training. As the state Parent Teacher Association chairperson of parent education, she organized study groups, out of which came three 64-page booklets that sold nationally. She co-wrote The Story of Cedar Rapids with her husband, Frederick G. Murray, M.D., published a history of her Tama birthplace, They Came To North Tama,

and later went on to produce two more books on Tama County with her daughter. Among her awards are the national Brotherhood Award from the National Conference of Christians and Jews, 1947 American Mother of the Year from the American Mothers' Association and the Golden Rule Foundation, and the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters from her alma mater, Coe College. Murray was born in 1874 and died in 1967. She was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1996.

## 1996 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Mary E. Wood (1902-1998)

*"As an outstanding dedicated black woman, she has maintained and promoted high principles in spite of repeated racial rejections, making a difference in this community and in the nation."*

—Lois Eichacker, 1996



Mary E. Wood, Des Moines, born in 1902, was the only African American to graduate from East High in Des Moines in 1920 and from Drake University in 1924. She received her M.A. degree at New York University and is a certified social worker. Active all her life in the YWCA, Wood has served as branch youth program director for the YWCA in Tulsa, Oklahoma; branch youth and camp director in Denver, Colorado; branch executive director, Newark; and branch executive director, Southwest Belmont, Philadelphia. In 1956, Wood became the first African-American woman in the United States to be named executive director of a metropolitan YWCA—Buffalo and Erie County, New York—and later went on to serve as metropolitan executive director of Greater Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She has also served on numerous committees, social agencies, churches, and Women's organizations, including the New York State

Board of Education. Among her honors are Woman of the Year, Zeta Phi Beta; Alumni Distinguished Service Award, Drake University; listed in "Who's Who Among Women of the World;" and September 4 designated Mary E. Wood Day in Pittsburgh. She was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1996.

UPDATE: Wood died in November of 1998.

1997

## 1997 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Charlotte Hughes Bruner (1917-1999)

*"Charlotte Bruner [is] one of the most outstanding pioneers in the field of African and Women's Studies, as well as in Literature and Culture where her innovative and visionary approach has opened new avenues."*

—Evelyn Accad, 1997



Charlotte Hughes Bruner of Ames, born in 1917, is recognized as one of the pioneer scholars and editors in the field of writing by African women. She has had an impact in the field by bringing voices of known and unknown women from several continents to the rest of the world. Bruner has edited two collections of short stories by African women writers, published by Heinemann Press and distributed around the world: *Unwinding Threads* and *African Women's Writings*. A foreign language professor at Iowa State University for 33 years, Bruner has helped thousands of students get to know about the lives and experiences of women and men in other cultures. During the 1970s and 1980s, she co-directed and co-hosted, with her husband David, a series of 170 radio programs on WOI entitled *First Person Feminine*, that provided commentary and readings of short stories by and about women internationally. She has served as vice president of the African Literature Association and as African editor for *The Feminist Companion to Literature in English*. In addition to her feminist scholarship, Bruner has been an activist for peace, justice, and human rights issues. She was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1997.

UPDATE: Bruner served as the keynote speaker for the first Iowa State University International Women's Day and presented a paper, *The Grandmother Bond*, at the 1998 National Meeting of African Literature Association. She died on December 4, 1999.

## 1997 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Margaret "Peg" Mullen (1917- 2009)

*"Her outrage... challenged conventional Midwestern morals and, as often as not, alienated friends, family, the citizens of Iowa and a war-torn nation. She exposed the self-righteous and aloof among the nation's leaders."*

—Michael Scott, 1997



Margaret "Peg" Mullen of Brownsville, Texas has been a national anti-war figure, holding the government and its military accountable for the thousands of personal and family tragedies of the Vietnam War, and war in general. Mullen, born in 1917 and a former Black Hawk County farmer, had always been politically active. Yet when her son, Michael Mullen, 25, died in American artillery fire that was misdirected during the Vietnam War, her life's work was solidified. She and her husband, Gene, placed a half-page anti-war advertisement in The Des Moines Register on April 12, 1970 containing 714 crosses, representing the number of Iowans

who had died in the war up to that time, with the words: "A SILENT message to fathers and mothers of Iowa: We have been dying for nine, long, miserable years in Vietnam in an undeclared war... How many more lives do you wish to sacrifice because of your SILENCE?" In the face of much adversity, she looked into the circumstances of her son's death and confronted the government on its policies. C.D.B. Bryan wrote the book Friendly Fire about Mullen's story, which was turned into a widely publicized TV movie. Mullen wrote her own version of the story in Unfriendly Fire: A Mother's Memoir, published in 1995. She was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1997.

UPDATE: Mullen died on October 2, 2009.

## 1997 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Annie Nowlin Savery (1831-1891)

*"Annie Savery is the most admirable woman I have found in my research on Iowa feminists..."*

— Louise R. Noun, *The Des Moines Register*, 1996



Annie Nowlin Savery, a Des Moines resident born in London, England in 1831, was a pioneer suffragist and a leader in the Women's movement in Iowa during the late 1860s and 1870s. In 1868 she became the first Des Moines woman to lecture on woman suffrage, braving an audience unfriendly to the subject. In 1870, she attended the organizational meeting of the Iowa Woman Suffrage Society in Mt. Pleasant and was elected corresponding secretary. That same year she helped organize the first woman suffrage society in Des Moines. Savery soon emerged as the leading spokesperson for the suffrage movement in Iowa, lecturing statewide. In 1871, when suffragists were under attack nationally because of the

association of free love advocate Victoria Woodhull with their movement, Savery defended the right of any person to join the suffrage ranks regardless of her/his personal morals. Because of this stand, Savery was ousted from the Iowa suffrage movement. She continued, nonetheless, to seek ways to better Women's economic and educational opportunities, including endowing scholarships for women at Grinnell College and establishing a beekeeping business as an example of how women could earn money. In 1875, she was one of two women to graduate from The University of Iowa Law School. Savery died in 1891. She was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1997.

## 1997 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Beulah E. Webb (1895-1998)

*"In her own quiet, unassuming yet forceful way Mrs. Webb has been an effective, positive role model for at least six decades in Sioux City."*

— Richard E. Hayes, 1997



Beulah Webb of Sioux City, born in 1895, is a community service leader. In 1927, she organized the Sioux City Association of Colored Women to promote culture, education, literature, and art and to alleviate racial problems. She was selected to attend the National Federation of Colored Women's Clubs Convention in 1938. Recognizing the critical need for housing in the community, Webb worked to assist people, some with cardboard and tar houses, obtain better housing by helping found the Rehabilitation Program for Elderly Homeowners and serving on the Siouxland Interstate Metropolitan Planning Council's Citizen Housing Committee. Webb is also considered the pioneer and moving force behind many senior citizen programs in the Sioux City area. She co-founded the Downtown Senior

Citizens Center and served as its director from 1971-77. She was also founder of the Sanford Community Center, and member of the Woodbury County Task Force on Aging and the Advisory Committee on Aging. Webb's service extends to the Red Cross, Woodbury County Social Services, Girl Scouts of America, and the Mary Treglia Community House. She was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1997.



1998

## 1998 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Bess Streeter Aldrich (1881-1954)

*"Bess Streeter Aldrich brought a masterful realism and a determined optimism to short stories and novels about Midwestern families both contemporary and pioneer."*

—Cedar Falls Historical Society, 1997



Bess Streeter Aldrich, born in Cedar Falls in 1881, gained national and international fame as an author of the Midwest experience, including strong female characters. After receiving her degree from Iowa State Normal School (now University of Northern Iowa), she taught school for five years in various Iowa communities before moving to Elmwood, Nebraska, where she spent the rest of her professional career. Her short stories appeared in many popular magazines, including Ladies Home Journal, American Magazine, Good Housekeeping, McCall's, and Cosmopolitan. Between 1924-42, she wrote nine novels including *A Lantern in Her Hand* and *Miss Bishop*, on which the movie *Cheers for Miss Bishop* was based. Aldrich draws upon her Iowa roots in *Song of Years*--the story of the founding of her home town, Cedar Falls. In 1949 the Iowa Library Association presented her with the

Johnson Brigham Award that read, "To the Iowa author for the most outstanding contribution to literature." She died in 1954. Aldrich was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1998.

## 1998 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Janice Ann Beran

*"Jan is... a great ambassador for the state of Iowa and those causes she believes in. She has brought honor to her family, profession, [Iowa State] University, the state, and to women."*

—Barbara E. Forker, 1998



Janice Ann Beran of Ames, emerita professor of health and human performance, is a leading educator who advocates for international understanding and equal opportunities for all. During the 18 years she served on the Iowa State University faculty, Beran was a master teacher who brought topics to life through dramatizations, reenactment of historical events, and classroom conference calls with leaders in the field. Beran is widely recognized for her work in Women's sports and physical education and has written a book on the history of Iowa girls' basketball. Her extensive cross-cultural interests led to international teaching as a missionary educator in the Philippines for 13 years and as a visiting professor/lecturer in Japan, China, Taiwan, and Nigeria. In 1984, she served as the United States delegate to the Olympic Academy in Greece. Beran is also a community and church leader, having served as president of the League of Women Voters of Ames; the League of Women Voters of Iowa; Iowa-Yucatan Partners of the Americans; and the Iowa Association for Physical Education, Health, Recreation and Dance; and as Synod Moderator in the Presbyterian Church. Beran and her husband have three adult children and six grandchildren, and have served as foster parents to 42 troubled and disadvantaged teens. Beran was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1998.

## 1998 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Lynn Germain Cutler

*"The example Ms. Cutler gives to young women—being a leader, an advocate for others, a public servant, a nationally recognized political commentator, a mother--is an inspiration to all..."*

— Senator Tom Harkin, 1998



Lynn Germain Cutler of Washington, D.C. is a nationwide leader in politics, promoting the causes of women and children as well as encouraging women to become involved in politics. Born in Illinois in 1938 and longtime Waterloo resident, Cutler got her start in advocating for those causes as a teacher in Cedar Falls. Soon thereafter, she became involved in Iowa politics by becoming the first woman to chair the Black Hawk County Board of Supervisors and, in 1980 and 1982, she ran as the Democratic nominee for the United States Congress from her district. She has held several political appointments, including 12 years as the vice chair of the National Democratic Party, vice chair of the U.S. Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, and U.S. delegate to the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women. She is involved in the National Women's Political Caucus, EMILY's List, and the

International Women's Forum. Cutler has also been active in the Jewish community. Currently she serves in the White House as deputy assistant to the President for Intergovernmental Affairs, where her duties are as White House liaison to countries, cities, tribal governments, and women-elected officials. She was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1998.

## 1998 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Maude Esther White (1913-2003)

*"She is a motivating force in the Des Moines community and has been a pioneer in civil rights and in the empowerment of children."*

— Monroe Colston and Frances Colston, 1998



Maude Esther White, born in 1913 as one of nine children to Reverend and Mrs. G.W. White of Perry, Iowa, has devoted her life to assisting disadvantaged persons in education, employment, housing, and business. She attended the University of California at Berkeley and holds B.A. and M.A. degrees from Drake University, and an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Grand View College, which established the Maude Esther White Endowed Scholarship in 1995. After holding a number of teaching and government positions in California, she came to Iowa where she was the first affirmative action administrator for the State of Iowa. In 1980, she founded and directed, until 1991, the Des Moines Tutoring Center, a nonprofit organization that strives to encourage young people to reach their potential through education. She has served on the Iowa Commission on the Status of African-Americans, and the boards of Good Samaritan Urban Ministries, San Francisco LINKS, YWCA, American Association of University Women, and Girl Scouts

of America. She is past board member and president of the Des Moines Branch of the NAACP. She was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1998.

UPDATE: White died on February 23, 2003.

1999

## 1999 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Professor Mary Jaylene Berg (1950-2004)

*"Dr. Mary Berg is the acknowledged leader in fostering the important role of women in pharmacy."*

—Dr. Adrienne Bendich, 1997



Professor Mary Jaylene Berg of Iowa City is a worldwide leader in fostering the role of women in pharmacy and in the improvement of Women's health. In 1995, she became the first female promoted to professor in the College of Pharmacy at The University of Iowa since its founding in 1885. Berg has led international efforts to bring together women pharmacists in order to assure the inclusion of gender-related health issues in pharmacy curricula. Nationally, she has served as a charter member on the advisory committee that reviews the research strategy of the National Institutes of Health's Office of Research on Women's Health and presently serves on the board of directors of the Society for the Advancement of Women's Health Research. Berg's own research involves women with epilepsy

who want to have a family. The multidisciplinary research team that she coordinates studies the potential for epileptic women to safely use folic acid-containing multivitamins to reduce the risk of adverse birth outcomes while they are taking anti-folate drugs to control seizures. Berg is the coeditor of four books, *International Leadership Symposium: The Role of Women in Pharmacy* (1990), *Women - A Force in Pharmacy* (1992), *Gender-Related Health Issues: An International Perspective* (1996), and *Global Visions of Women Pharmacists* (1998), and the author of 50 journal articles--almost all of which relate to Women's health. In 1992, she served as a Delegate to the 45th World Health Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland. A graduate of North Dakota State University and the University of Kentucky and a post-doctoral fellow at the State University of New York at Buffalo, Berg has been included in *Who's Who in America*, *Who's Who of American Women*, *The World Who's Who of Women*, *Who's Who in the World*, *Who's Who in the Midwest*, and *Who's Who in Science and Engineering*. Berg was born in 1950 in Fargo, North Dakota. Berg was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1999.

## 1999 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Rosa Maria Escude de Findlay

*"Mrs. de Findlay's service to the Latino/Hispanic population of Iowa represents her altruistic willingness to assist others in a variety of capacities. She goes where the need is no matter how difficult the situation or demands on her time."*

—Dr. Victoria L. Robinson, 1997



Rosa Maria Escudé de Findlay of Cedar Falls has been serving the Latino population of Iowa and working to advance the understanding of and appreciation for Latino/Hispanic culture throughout the state for 35 years. After moving to Iowa in 1964, de Findlay established networks, programs, and contacts to assist the Latino/Hispanic population in becoming U.S. citizens and in understanding U.S. culture, often times serving as a mentor to immigrants to the U.S. In 1997, de Findlay served as an observer for three days when 156 workers were detained by the Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS) in Newton. While recognizing the authority of the law, de Findlay never forgot the human emotions and struggles of those who were detained, and she performed the role of translator and ombudsperson for many Latino/Hispanic immigrants. She ensured that they understood their rights, their lawyers, and their judge and had adequate facilities. In addition to her efforts in easing the pain of deportation, de Findlay volunteers up to nine hours per time of service as an interpreter for Black Hawk County hospitals, police headquarters, and various agencies. She also gives educational presentations, workshops, and programs about the Latino/Hispanic culture and has served on the Lt. Governor's Diversity Committee. She serves on the Cedar Falls Human Rights Commission and is a member of the Dubuque Archdiocese Board of Education. De Findlay has served as a Spanish teacher, at all grade levels, for the University of Northern Iowa at Price Laboratory School for 35 years. Born in San Juan, Puerto Rico in 1936, de Findlay raised two children, who are following in her footsteps as community volunteers. She was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1999.

## 1999 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Helen Navran Stein (1923-2010)

*"Stein was motivated by a concern for individuals of all races, religions, and cultural groups. She felt challenged by a strong belief that if we allowed ourselves to get to know one another, some preconceived notions and prejudices would fade away."*

—Arlene J. Morris, 1997



Helen Navran Stein of Des Moines pioneered the Know Your Neighbor Panel, which is credited with breaking down racial, religious, and social prejudices at a critical time in American history. In 1960, when Iowa and the nation were experiencing tremendous turmoil in race relations, Stein organized a panel of six Des Moines women of varying races, cultures, and religious beliefs to travel statewide to open communication for better human relations. The panelists told their personal narratives as members of different racial and ethnic groups, promoting understanding through knowledge. The panel made appearances throughout the country, achieving both statewide and national prominence. From 1960 to 1972, the Know Your Neighbor Panel appeared before thousands, many of whose attitudes were touched and changed by the panel's message. In 1955, Stein originated a service for blind students in the state of Iowa, making it possible for those students to have their textbooks recorded. Stein's community service also includes serving as a crisis line counselor and as a certified Brailist. At the present time, she is a Court-Appointed Special Advocate for children who are victims of abuse and neglect. She is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin. Born in Kansas City, Missouri in 1923, Stein and her husband, Arthur, have two sons, Jay, Iowa City, and Art, Washington, D.C. She was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1999.

UPDATE: Stein died on April 23, 2010.

## 1999 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Elaine Eisfelder Szymoniak (1920-2009)

*"She is a woman who has done it all — she has been a wonderful, successful mother; has had a career; has been a dedicated volunteer and public servant; and has been a mentor and a role model. She is a woman who has truly made a difference."*

—Connie Wimer, 1991



Elaine Eisfelder Szymoniak of Des Moines was born in Boscobel, Wisconsin in 1920. Her parents were deaf and an older brother had cerebral palsy. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin with a B.S. degree and a major in Education and Speech Pathology. Before becoming an Iowa resident she worked in public schools in Wisconsin, New York, and Kansas and at Army Hospital Aural Rehabilitation Center in Oklahoma and the Wisconsin General Hospital and Medical School. In Iowa, she devoted almost 30 years to assisting persons with disabilities through the state Vocational Rehabilitation Agency. During this period, Szymoniak obtained an M.S. degree at Iowa State University. From 1978-89, she was a member of the Des Moines City Council and worked to meet the needs of her constituents with a special emphasis in economic development, equality and justice. From 1989 to the present she has served as an Iowa State Senator where she has been recognized as a leader in Health and Human Services. She has served in leadership positions in many legislative committees. She has also served on numerous committees of the National Conference of State Legislatures and made presentations to annual meetings on ethics, welfare reform, and child protection. Szymoniak has been an active participant in many professional and civil boards, commissions, and foundations. In 1943, she married Casimir Szymoniak; together they raised five children and have five grandchildren. She was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1999.



2000

## 2000 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Betty Jean "Beje" Walker Clark (1920-2005)

*"Every single day, she makes at least one telephone call with the sole purpose of improving the condition of one someone in this state."*

— Karon Perlowski, 2000



Betty Jean "Beje" Walker Clark of Rockwell, born in 1920, has made public service her life's work. Long involved with social justice work in the United Methodist Church, Clark has been a leader in her local congregation, Iowa Conference and United Methodist Women. Perhaps best known as a legislator, Clark served 14 years in the House of Representatives where she worked primarily on issues of human services and criminal and juvenile justice. Clark was appointed in 1990 to the Advisory Council of the Iowa Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning where she was instrumental in the planning and development of alternatives to prison. A halfway house in Mason City named the Beje Clark Residential Center opened in 1992. In 1993 she initiated a program through the Iowa Conference of the United Methodist Church that broadened into a non-profit organization, Restorative Justice Advocacy,

Inc. Clark travels extensively throughout Iowa to help introduce the principles of restorative justice and works on a national scale with the newly created Restorative Justice Ministries. In addition to authoring numerous articles and co-authoring a book, *Nearer to Thee*, Clark is a skilled editor, broadcaster, and public speaker. She was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2000.

## 2000 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Denise O'Brien

*"Denise O'Brien has emphasized her Iowa roots as a woman farmer for 21 years, the commonalities she shares with women around the globe, and the need to develop a close relationship with our planet Earth."*

- Dorothy M. Paul, 1998



Denise O'Brien is a self-employed farmer from Atlantic who uses organic practices. She founded and is coordinator for Women, Food, and Agriculture Network, an organization dedicated to the empowerment of farm and rural women whose mission statement is "to link and amplify women's voices on issues of food systems, sustainable communities and environmental integrity." Through her work as a past president of the National Family Farm Coalition, she lifted the concerns of farm families and rural communities on international, national, state, regional, and local levels. In 1997, she spoke before the United Nations General Assembly on behalf of the world's farmers. Her efforts have aided the establishment of many organizations, including Rural Advocacy 2000, Iowa Fair Trade Watch, the Women's Task Force of the Iowa Farm Unity Coalition, and Progressive Prairie Alliance. She served on the

Governor's Farm Emergency Task Force for the past year. O'Brien continues to serve on the Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Local Food Task Force. An extensive lecturer, O'Brien has shared her expertise in rural development and farming with thousands throughout the United States and world. She and her family have been regular hosts to international delegations. She was the 1997 recipient of the "Gloria Steinem Award" and the Iowa Farmers Union "Young Leadership Award" in 1990. O'Brien was born in 1949. She was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2000.

## 2000 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Adeline Morrison Swain (1820-1899)

*"A renaissance woman with a variety of interests, she was recognized nationally for her contributions to scientific knowledge and her efforts for women's rights and statewide for her artistic talents and religious contributions."*

—Roger B. Natte, 2000



Adeline Morrison Swain was born in Bath, New Hampshire in 1820. After moving to Fort Dodge following her marriage in 1846, she recognized the lack of cultural opportunities for young women and organized French, English, music, botany, and art classes and a children's lyceum. In 1869, she organized the first woman's suffrage meeting in Fort Dodge. During the 1870s she traveled the state, often speaking and accompanying nationally recognized women's rights leaders such as Susan B. Anthony and Amelia Jenks Bloomer. She was active in the National Women's Congress and National Woman's Suffrage Association, which elected Swain vice-president for life. She was a regular contributor to the Women's Tribune. Swain also had expertise in history, theology, and natural sciences. She was a correspondent of the Entomological Commission of the United States Department of Agriculture to study the Colorado grasshopper,

which was devastating agriculture in western Iowa during the 1870s. Swain's accomplishments in the field earned her membership in the American Association for the Advancement of the Sciences and she was one of the first women to prepare and read a paper before that body's national convention. She was active in the Greenback Party because of its support of equal political and legal rights for women and monetary reforms, and was the first woman to run for state office in Iowa. She was a leader in the temperance movement, and as a spiritualist, she advocated equal opportunity for women as religious leaders. Swain died in 1899. She was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2000.

## 2000 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Margaret Boeye Swanson (1919-2011)

*"Margaret is a great example of the impact volunteers can make and the benefits to be gained through volunteerism."*

— Carolyn Scholl, 1990



Margaret Boeye Swanson has been called Des Moines' best known and most beloved volunteer by The Business Record, a Des Moines newspaper. Since moving to Des Moines in 1949, she has been a tireless community supporter, volunteer, and philanthropist. She has given golden anniversary years of service to both the Red Cross and Girl Scouts, silver anniversary years of service to Iowa Lutheran Hospital, and thousands of hours to over twenty local, regional, and national organizations. Swanson has been recognized by numerous organizations including the YWCA, Iowa Lutheran Hospital, National Conference for Community and Justice, East Des Moines Chamber of Commerce, National Tri-Delta Sorority, Sertoma Club, and Red Cross. Swanson has also received a Doctor of Laws degree from Grand View College. A lodge at the Girl Scouts' camp in Boone bears her name. She was instrumental in creating the Botanical Center, the first woman in

Iowa to serve on a draft board, a founding member of Union Park Neighborhood Association, and active with the League of Women Voters and American Association of University Women. Swanson was born in Webster City in 1919. She was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2000.

2001

## 2001 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Dr. Ursula Delworth (1934-2000)

*“An outstanding academician with a dedication and commitment to students that goes above and beyond...”*

-Dr. Luis A. Vazquez, 2000



Dr. Ursula Delworth's lifelong commitment to her profession has positively influenced the field of psychology as well as the status of women. Gender differences in education was a focus in her career long before the institutionalization of "Women's Studies." A counseling psychologist by training, Delworth joined the faculty at the University of Iowa in 1976 as the first woman hired with tenure status. She was an expert in the field of women in psychology and multicultural issues and chaired the Affirmative Action Subcommittee of the University of Iowa Council on the Status of Women. Delworth's contributions to academia were extensive. She served as departmental chair as well as associate dean of the College of Education. She was published regularly in prestigious journals and volunteered tirelessly for professional organizations and university committees. She was often sought after as a panel presenter, organizational consultant, and task force member. She was dedicated to helping the system of education become more inclusive in scope. In recognition of her efforts she has received many professional honors. In addition to her work with the University of Iowa, Delworth's dedication extended to the Iowa City community evidenced by her involvement with the Johnson County Humane Society and Altrusa Club of Iowa City. Delworth was born October 22, 1934 and died May 24, 2000. Delworth was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2001.

## 2001 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Lt. Colonel Phyllis L. Propp Fowle (1908-2000)

*"Phyllis was a role model and an inspiration to young women serving their country."*  
— Bettie J. Morden, 2000



Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Phyllis L. Propp Fowle was the first to open the door for women lawyers to serve their country as soldiers and attorneys. Fowle was born in Jasper County, Iowa, and was educated in the Marshalltown Schools. She obtained her law degree from the University of Iowa Law School in 1933 – the only woman in her graduating class. During the United States' engagement in World War II, Fowle, along with ten other women, was chosen to the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps leadership to start the Corps. She was detailed to the Judge Advocate General's Corps (JAG) and became the first woman Judge Advocate General officer in the United States Army on May 4, 1944. She immediately asked to attend the JAG's School, but was denied as the school, housed at the University of Michigan, did not accept women. She was assigned as the Staff Judge Advocate at Ft. Des Moines, which is the highest legal position an

attorney can hold at an Army post. She later was sent to Europe and was the only woman Judge Advocate to serve overseas during World War II. At the end of World War II after all women were discharged from service, she was invited to stay in the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate as a civilian attorney acting as the Chief of Legal Assistance. After returning to the United States, Fowle served as Judge Advocate in the United States Army Reserves. She was born May 8, 1908 and died June 22, 2000. Fowle was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2001.

## 2001 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Phyllis Josephine Hughes, JD (1912-2005)

*"The majority of her daily hours are spent in helping others."*  
--Rita Engelken, 2001



Phyllis Josephine Hughes, of Manchester, was born knowing she would be an attorney. The day after she received her doctorate from Marquette University Law School, she began practicing law in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Her law career took her to New York, Washington D.C. and Europe. She was the first woman executive with the Curtis Wright Corporation, who offered her employment not knowing she was a woman. Hughes returned to Iowa in 1950 after the death of her mother to assist her father as co-owner of the E.M. Hughes Store, continuing her legal work at night. Since 1983, Hughes has volunteered her time helping distressed farmers with their legal needs. Pope John Paul II honored Hughes for her devoted service to farmers. She is a 75-year member of the Democratic Party; and in the last 50 years, she has not missed a county, district, or state Democratic Convention. She is a long time member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, National Council of Catholic Women, Catholic Daughters of America, and the Manchester Chamber of Commerce. Hughes designed and presented the "Tribute to Iowa Women: Past, Present, and Future" bronze medallion as a gift from the women of Iowa during Iowa's sesquicentennial, which is displayed in the Governor's Conference Room at the State Capitol. She has just completed her first novel, *Thirty-six Inches Makes a Yard*. Hughes was born in The Dalles, Oregon in 1912. Hughes was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2001.

## 2001 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Ann Dearing Holtgren Pellegreno

*"She has never pursued riches or fame, only seemingly impossible goals. Very lofty and difficult ones."*

—Patricia Bliss, 2001



Ann Dearing Holtgren Pellegreno has been a professional musician, teacher, author, lecturer, and farmer. In 1960, on the day she obtained her private pilot's license, she took her mother up for a flight as her first passenger, a surprise because Mrs. Holtgren was not aware that her daughter had learned to fly. Within five years, Pellegreno obtained a commercial pilot's license to which she added ratings for instrument, multi-engine, and flight instructor for airplanes and instruments. On June 9, 1967, she and a crew of three took off from Oakland, California, in a twin-engine Lockheed 10, a sistership to that flown by Amelia Earhart on her fateful world flight in 1937. Exactly thirty years later Pellegreno found Earhart's flight-planned destination – tiny Howland Island – dropped a wreath, and returned to Oakland on July 7th, completing the 28,000-mile commemorative flight. In 1974

Pellegreno was appointed to the Aeronautics Commission, the first woman thus serving in Iowa, and also to the Iowa Department of Transportation Commission, the first woman in the nation to serve in that capacity. Pellegreno was inducted into the Iowa Aviation Hall of Fame (1990), the Michigan Aviation Hall of Fame (1991), and the Experimental Aircraft Association – Vintage Aircraft Association Hall of Fame (1997). Her first book, *World Flight, the Earhart Trail*, was published in 1971. The first two volumes of her trilogy *Iowa Takes to the Air* were published in 1980 and 1986. She was born in Chicago, Illinois. Pellegreno was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2001.



2002

## 2002 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Bonnie Campbell

*"She was the strongest voice in changing the way we think and act as a state and a people when it comes to violence against women."*

- Thomas J. Miller



Bonnie Campbell of Washington D.C. is a staunch supporter of Women's freedom from violence. Born in Norwich, New York in 1948, Campbell grew up in a modest family of dairy farmers and was the first person in her family to graduate from high school. While listening to a campaign speech at the age of 16, she was inspired to public service. After high school graduation, she moved to Washington, D.C. to work for the Department of Housing and Urban Development and later, for three U.S. Senators. After moving to Iowa and a stint with U.S. Senator Culver, she became a full-time student at Drake University, earning a bachelor's degree in 1982 and a law degree in 1984. She chaired the Iowa Democratic Party for two years, the first woman to do so. Elected in 1990, she became Iowa's first woman Attorney General and while in office authored one of the nation's first anti-stalking laws. She ran unsuccessfully for governor in 1994. In 1995, President Clinton appointed Campbell as the first director of the Violence Against Women Office, an agency of the U.S. Department of Justice. In that position, Campbell had the opportunity to travel throughout the country and to other nations. After her service as a member of the U.S. Delegation to the United Nations' Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing, she became a leading spokesperson on international human rights. Named in Time magazine as one of the 25 most influential people in America in 1997, Campbell continues her work in private practice. Campbell was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2002.

## 2002 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Sue Ellen Follon (1942-1998)

*"Sue's extraordinary leadership was her ability to empower others to succeed."*  
-Mary Jean Montgomery



Volga native Sue Ellen Follon was a visionary leader and advocate for women. The Des Moines Register described her impact in this way: "You may never have heard her name, but there's a good chance she has touched your life." From 1976 through 1984, Follon was the executive director of the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women. She worked to expand the Commission's influence and scope by revising rape and sexual abuse laws; holding public hearings on domestic abuse, displaced homemakers, and the feminization of poverty; sponsoring a conference and brochure on Title IX; and leading Iowa to become the first state in the nation to take legislative action to address inequities in many facets of life. Follon then went on to become the first woman to serve as Vice President at the University of Northern Iowa. As the Vice President of Educational and Student Services, she supervised nine departments to help ensure the quality of student life. The hallmarks of her leadership were student-centeredness and leadership development. She was active in her community, working with civic groups, businesses, and local government. She made over 150 presentations from the local to the international level on the subjects of Women's equality, leadership, higher education, and mentors for women and minorities. Follon earned a doctorate in higher education administration from Drake University in 1983. Born in 1942, Follon died on November 4, 1998, the day after voters passed the equal rights amendment to the Iowa Constitution. Follon was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2002.

## 2002 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Alice Yost Jordan (1916-2012)

*"It is safe to say that on any given Sunday morning her compositions are widely heard throughout the United States."*

- Sherrill Milnes



Internationally known, Alice Yost Jordan is one of the most distinguished and published American composers. She is best known for her choral and organ works numbering over 200, which have sold over 250,000 copies. A recital song, *Take Joy Home* (text: Jean Ingelow) commissioned by Sherrill Milnes, of Metropolitan Opera fame, and Jon Spong, pianist, received world-wide exposure on concert tours, was performed at the White House for a State Dinner in 1983 and is recorded on compact disc. Her arrangement of *America The Beautiful*, commissioned by the Iowa High School Music Association for the All-State Chorus and Orchestra, opens the All-State Festival Concert biennially. Other works commissioned by churches, universities and organizations across the United States total 40. Born in Davenport December 31, 1916, but a life-long resident of Des

Moines, she graduated from Drake University, where she studied composition at the undergraduate and graduate levels with the late Dr. Francis J. Pyle. Grand View College conferred the Honorary Degree: Doctor of Letters in 1986. With her husband, the late Dr. Frank B. Jordan, former dean of the College of Fine Arts at Drake, she has been active in the cultural and educational life of Des Moines. Jordan was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2002.

## 2002 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Shirley Ruedy

*"In a time when we rail against the press for sensationalizing all the terrible things that happen...., we neglect to recognize those who have the foresight to realize how positive the power of the press can be."*

- Nancy Lee Ziese



Shirley Ruedy of Cedar Rapids is a nationally recognized cancer journalist and survivor. Twice diagnosed with breast cancer, Ruedy conceived a biweekly "Cancer Update" column that The Gazette began publishing in 1991. By intertwining her original writings, guest columns by cancer experts, and readers' questions, her column is devoted exclusively to cancer. It frequently addresses issues specific to women, including breast and uterine cancer, mammography, tamoxifen, and hormone replacement therapy. "Cancer Update," perhaps the only such column in the United States, is carried in the Patient Education Center at the Mayo Clinic Women's Cancer Program. Each October, in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Ruedy runs a column she co-wrote with a surgeon about the life journey of a breast

cancer cell. She not only reaches her audience through her column, but also as a speaker. Serving as a role model and positive advocate for all those who have been diagnosed with cancer, Ruedy says that "for women to be in full and equal participation in our society, they must first be alive." She was born in Anamosa on January 14, 1936. Ruedy was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2002.

2003

## 2003 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Diana "Di" L. Findley

*"She had the vision to improve our profession, and by doing so, has improved us all."*  
-Deb Larson, 2003



Diana "Di" L. Findley, born September 6, 1948 in Ontario, Oregon, now lives in Mitchellville. Findley is a champion for direct care workers. After working as a nursing assistant (CNA) for 13 years, in 1992 Findley saw a need for a professional organization to provide educational opportunities for CNAs. For three years she worked on her own, with no salary to establish the Iowa CareGivers Association, whose vision is to maintain high quality care by offering direct care workers what they want and need - education, support, advocacy, and recognition. While advocating the extraordinary work of CNAs and other direct care workers, she works to involve all stakeholders in health care. She believes that by addressing the needs of care providers, quality care can be improved. Under Findley's directorship, the Iowa CareGivers Association has become a national model. Its recruitment and retention project, worker surveys, and mentor project have also received national

attention. To make sure the needs of frontline direct caregivers are always at the forefront of the Iowa CareGivers Association, Findley empowers CNAs to serve on boards and committees...a tireless crusader for direct care workers, most of whom are women, and for quality care. Among her honors are the 1995 Governor's Partners in Aging Award and the Metro Women's Network's Woman of the Year Award in 2001. Findley is a graduate of Drake University and serves on numerous state and national boards, task forces, councils, and committees related to quality jobs and quality care. Findley was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2003.

## 2003 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: May E. Francis, PhD (1880-1968)

*"As a teacher, author, and political figure, she was an extraordinary woman in the history of Iowa."*

--Sarah Meyer-Reyerson, 2002



May E. Francis, Ph.D., a nationally recognized educator, author, scholar, and historian, was born November 2, 1880 in rural Mapleton, Minnesota. Francis began her career as a teacher in a one-room school in Bremer County. She quickly advanced through the teaching and administrative ranks. She drafted the Standard School Law and developed the regulations to implement the law, which was designed to improve educational programs in one-room schools. In 1922, Francis became the first woman to be elected to statewide public office in Iowa - state superintendent of public instruction. Her one term as State Superintendent was marked by controversy: she advocated high school teachers must complete at least two years of college, opposed school dress codes, and championed the one-room school and spending restraint. She lost her re-election bid and moved to Texas, where she received a Ph.D. from the University of Texas in 1934. She had earlier received her B.A. degree from Iowa State Teachers College in 1910 and M.A. degree from Teachers College in Columbia University, New York. She moved to New York and in 1948, returned to Iowa, settling in Waterloo. Following her education, she undertook a varied career of teaching, government work, writing, and a final unsuccessful run for state superintendent. Her popular historical novel, *Jim Bowie's Lost Mine*, had five printings; the final edition was published in 1970. She also authored a fourth-grade spelling textbook. Francis died in 1968. Francis was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2003.

## 2003 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Jean Hall Lloyd-Jones

*"The women of Iowa are better off because of Jean's devotion to our interests and concerns."*

-- Janet A. Carl, 2002

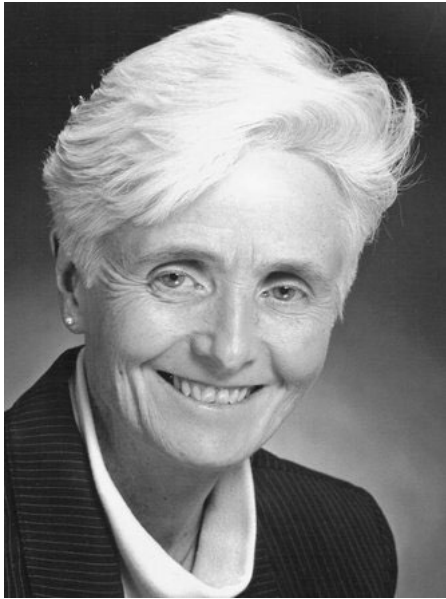


Jean Hall Lloyd-Jones, of Iowa City, began her career as a volunteer in local peace and civic activities, including Another Mother for Peace, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, vigils and teach-ins to protest the Viet Nam war. A member of the League of Women Voters since 1955, she served as local and state president. In 1971 she led the League to join the ACLU, AFL-CIO, and the Democratic Party to petition the Supreme Court in the successful effort to overturn the reapportionment plan adopted by the state legislature. In 1977 she chaired the Iowa Coordinating Committee for International Women's Year. She was elected to the Iowa General Assembly in 1978, serving four terms in the House and two terms in the Senate. As a state legislator, she and others formed a support group for women pages, which later became the Legislative Women's Caucus. She managed the "Buckle up Baby" bill, steered the government reorganization bill through the House, and led the effort to revitalize rail service through central Iowa. She conceived the idea for the Iowa Peace Institute, worked to build and fund that organization, and served as its chair for the first eight years. She is the only woman in Iowa to have been nominated by a major party for the US Senate. After retiring from the Legislature, she received an MA in Conflict Resolution from Antioch University. She has been a member of the Iowa Sister States Program for many years, traveling to China, Russia and Japan as a citizen ambassador. Lloyd-Jones was born October 14, 1929, in Washington, DC. Lloyd-Jones was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2003.

## 2003 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Margaret Mary Toomey

*"Margaret Toomey's story is one of faith, hope, and courage...proof that one person can have a significant impact on the lives of many others."*

- Mary Milz, 2002



Margaret Mary Toomey of Des Moines devoted nearly three decades of her life to serving the residents of Des Moines' Oakridge Neighborhood. A one-time Dominican sister, Toomey taught English and served as chaplain in Wisconsin before moving to Des Moines in 1972. Soon after moving to the Oakridge neighborhood, she began volunteering with children and elderly residents and led a tenant group to successfully fight a rent increase. In 1973 she joined the board of directors and in 1975 became the complex manager of the Oakridge Neighborhood. Not only was she the executive director for the 300-unit housing project, she was also the fundraiser, public relations manager, family counselor, maintenance supervisor, playground supervisor, and eyes of the neighborhood working with the Des Moines Police Department. During Toomey's tenure, Oakridge opened a nationally accredited childcare center, started after-school programs, organized activities for the elderly

and provided computer, vocational and job training programs. When drug and gang violence found their way to Oakridge, Toomey fought back. She added cameras and security gates, hired off-duty police officers, and joined residents in several marches and rallies to "take back" their neighborhood. Toomey was born in Chicago on August 23, 1937. Toomey was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2003.



2004

## 2004 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Joy Cole Corning

*"She is such a strong advocate; a person who is heard without having to shout and be loud - a person whose presence is felt wherever she goes."*

- Governor Robert Ray



Joy Cole Corning created the first statewide effort in Iowa's history to accept, value, and celebrate diversity-people's differences, unique needs, similarities, and contributions. As lieutenant governor, in 1991 she turned an appalling incident driven by prejudice and bigotry into the impetus for creating community initiatives- forums, team-building activities, a major television presentation, and highly successful annual statewide conferences. The breadth of Corning's leadership is remarkable: children and families benefited when, as a state senator, she successfully introduced Iowa's first measure outlawing physical punishment in schools and when her hotly debated bill to extend the statute of limitations on sexual abuse passed, paving the way for later extensions. Lt. Governor Corning led projects that increased the number of good foster homes and dramatically raised the number of adoptions of special-needs children. For the rights

and well-being of women, she chaired Iowa's first STOP Violence Against Women Coordinating Council; chaired the 75th Anniversary of Woman Suffrage; and after leaving public office, led campaigns to raise funds for the chapel at the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women. In education she served the Cedar Falls School Board for 11 years-nine as president, helped develop Iowa Gifted and Talented (was state president, helped author the first state plan), led a workplace literacy project for the state, served on University of Northern Iowa boards, and established the UNI Joy Cole Corning Distinguished Leadership Lecture Series. Other notable roles: chair of National Conference of Lt. Governors and continuing work with a dozen boards and not-for-profit organizations. Corning was born in Bridgewater on September 7, 1932. Corning was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2004.

## 2004 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Mary Ann Evans

*"Mary Ann Evans' professional legacy thrives in the lives of women...they have been inspired through her work...even when it meant bucking tradition, breaking tightly-held all-male networks, or facing blatant intolerance and bias."*

- Pam St. John



Mary Ann Evans, through her work at Iowa State University (ISU), has been a voice for women within the academic community, a path builder for girls and women interested in nontraditional careers, and an enabler for international women in science and engineering. Since 1978, she has been a leader in recommending how ISU could better serve women students and employees. She was a driving force on the University Committee on Women for more than 20 years. When it became clear that both faculty and students had a critical need for childcare, Evans led the way in developing the ISU Child Care Resource Program, which grew from a single child care center to a system of services. She completed this important work while at the same time returning to school to earn master's and doctoral degrees from ISU. Recognizing how few women were enrolling in science and engineering at ISU, she founded and directed the Program for Women in Science and Engineering (PWSE), a university-wide administrative program focused on women in science and engineering. PWSE is a comprehensive program serving numerous girls and women, both on and off campus, with initiatives such as career conferences, mentoring programs, internships, role models, and scholarships. Evans was also a co-founder of Iowa State University's International Women in Science and Engineering program (IWISE), whose activities have reached women working in research institutes, universities, government labs, nongovernmental organizations in more than 20 countries. She has been active in the community, serving as a volunteer at the Center for Creative Justice, Ames United Way, Ames Civil Service Commission, and the Iowa Women's Political Caucus. Evans was born September 1, 1939 in Buffalo, NY. Evans was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2004.

## 2004 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame: Ruth Cole Nash (1922-2002)

*"Ruth was a true activist, organizer, and a dedicated worker in the struggle for justice and equal rights."*

- Dr. Percy G. Harris



Ruth Cole Nash, born in Minneapolis on February 10, 1922, was a supporter for the arts and worked tirelessly for social change. A member of Phi Beta Kappa, she graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1944. She effectively organized study groups and neighborhood activism in opening housing to all races, helping to end segregation in Cedar Rapids. Nash was active in the NAACP and Faces and Voices, an annual multicultural celebration in Dubuque. She resigned from Delta Gamma sorority in 1962 after a chapter was put on probation for allowing an African-American woman to pledge. Nash saw the arts as a means to end racism, prejudice, violence, and injustice. She was instrumental in starting and supporting numerous cultural programs and events in Dubuque: DubuqueFest, which was the city's first festival; Iowa Citizens for the Arts, now called Iowans

for the Arts, a statewide lobby; Dubuque Fine Arts Society; Dubuque Museum of Art; Rocco Buda Art Resource Center; and art programs targeting youth and the disadvantaged. She was a mentor and supporter for many artists in different fields: fine arts, photography, crafts, poetry, and fiction. Committed to making the arts accessible and exciting to everyone, especially the less fortunate, Nash often provided scholarships and gave gallery space at no cost. She believed deeply in the necessity for art in every person's life, and in the rights of the individual. An activist to the very end, Nash brought attention to the right of a person to end a life of pain and mental deterioration when she drowned herself on September 15, 2002 in Dubuque. Nash was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2004.

## 2004 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Sally J. Pederson

*"As Lt. Governor, as a mother, as a wife, and as a citizen of Iowa, Sally Pederson has made it her life's mission to improve the lives of those around her."*

- Senator Tom Harkin



Sally J. Pederson has made it her life's work to advocate for people who cannot advocate for themselves. From the time she graduated from Iowa State University and entered the business world at Meredith Corporation until now, she has made volunteer community and political involvement a staple in her daily life. As the parent of a child with a disability, she emerged as a forceful social advocate, not only for people with disabilities but also for children generally, for minorities, and for gays and lesbians. As president of the Autism Society of Iowa, she traveled the state working with parents and educators to assure that children with autism were being served appropriately. Her leadership in those years is widely credited in the creation of the Autism Services Program, a statewide resource in schools. She was founding president of The Homestead Living and Learning Center for Adults with Autism. Pederson's work and influence have not been limited to Iowa. She was a special guest at the first White House Conference on Mental Health and served as a trustee for the National Alliance for Autism Research. In 2004, she was an invited delegate to the Global Women's Action Network for Children where she worked with women leaders from around the world to create strategies that will try to build the political will to globally address women and children's issues. As Lieutenant Governor of Iowa, Pederson works side by side with the Governor, who often refers to her as the "conscience of this administration." She has served on the Executive Committee of the National Lieutenant Governors Association and as national chair of the Democratic Lieutenant Governors Association. Pederson was born January 13, 1951, in Muscatine and grew up in Vinton. Pederson was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2004.

2005

## 2005 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Johnie Wright Hammond

*"She is a justice advocate's advocate of the highest caliber."*

- Rev. Carlos C. Jayne, 2005



Guided by an unshakable belief in justice and dignity for all, in the power of public education, and the democratic process to effect change, Johnie Wright Hammond has been an Iowa leader in ways that are far reaching and enduring. She has been a tireless advocate for those sometimes forgotten: children, the elderly, persons with disabilities, women, and low income families and individuals. She was the first woman elected to the Story County Board of Supervisors, and the first woman elected to represent Ames in the House of Representatives (12 years) and the Senate (8 years). While in the Iowa General Assembly, she played a key role in the women's caucus and helped enact landmark legislation that has improved women's lives: comparable worth, inheritance

laws, minimum wage, health care for children, and the criminalization of marital rape. She authored legislation for gender balance on state boards and the Equal Rights Amendment to the Iowa Constitution. As a staunch defender of civil rights and an innovator for reform of the justice system in Iowa, she served on boards of directors for the League of Women Voters, Iowa Civil Liberties Union, Legal Services of Story County, Center for Creative Justice, and the Iowa Board of Corrections. She has a reputation for remarkable wit and humor even when addressing serious issues. Hammond was born August 22, 1932 in Eupora, Mississippi. She is an active American Baptist, and is deeply committed to her family including her husband Earl, their four children and eleven grandchildren. Hammond was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2005.

## 2005 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Brenda LaBlanc

*"The ignored and the underserved have a huge voice in Brenda LaBlanc."*  
— Stephen L. Henry, 2005



Brenda LaBlanc, born in Watford, England on April 15, 1928, moved to the east side of Des Moines in 1946 as a war bride. She began her advocacy when she was nearly 40 years old, contesting the City of Des Moines proposal to inspect every home and require repairs. That experience was a defining moment in her life as, with her neighbors, she took steps to address the issues. Later, she and her husband were denied a home mortgage by five banks because their home was located in a low-income neighborhood. As a result LaBlanc began her 30 year mission to ensure that other qualified borrowers were not denied the credit they deserved. She joined Des Moines Citizens for Community Improvement and began using the Community Reinvestment Act to ensure banks met the credit needs of everyone, including those who lived in low-income neighborhoods. She has also advocated on other issues that impact people of modest means such as affordable utility rates and neighborhood drug activity. Because of her leadership skills, LaBlanc was recruited to be co-chair of National Peoples' Action in 2001, where she helps coordinate a coalition of hundreds of community organizations across the United States. LaBlanc connects people across racial, economic, ethnic, and geographical boundaries and values working together with others to improve the community for all. LaBlanc was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2005.

## 2005 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Susan Schechter

*"Susan quite simply changed the world for the better."*  
- Esta Soler, 2004



Susan Schechter, visionary national leader in shaping society's response to domestic violence and key figure in the American feminist movement of the late twentieth century, was a Clinical Professor of Social Work at the University of Iowa from 1993 until her untimely death in February 2004. Among her major accomplishments are *Women and Male Violence*, a pathbreaking book that framed the issues surrounding violence against women in the home and has profoundly influenced subsequent efforts to confront the issue; *When Love Goes Wrong* (with Ann Jones), a self-help book for women in abusive relationships; *Effective Intervention in Domestic Violence and Child Maltreatment* (known as the "Greenbook"), a guide to program development for professionals in child abuse and domestic violence; and *AWAKE*, the first program in the country to address child abuse in families afflicted by domestic violence, which she founded (with Lisa Tieszen) at Children's Hospital in Boston. As a result of her work, courts, public child welfare systems and community organizations alike have fundamentally changed their practice in dealing with women and children exposed to violence in the home. Susan Schechter was born in St. Louis on May 1, 1946. Schechter was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2005.

## 2005 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: JoAnn McIntosh Zimmerman

*"Her work...always reflected her concern for those who could not advocate for themselves."*

—John R. Kelly, 1997



Jo Ann McIntosh Zimmerman, of West Des Moines, is a catalyst for change. As a registered nurse, she worked to professionalize the image of nurses through the Iowa Nurses Association. Zimmerman served on the Waukee School Board and in the House of Representatives, where she was the first nurse, from 1982 to 1986; and was the first woman elected Lieutenant Governor and President of the Senate in 1987. A Democrat, she was elected by popular vote to serve alongside a Republican Governor. Zimmerman has worked consistently to encourage women to run for public office and helped to elect women through DAWN (Democratic Activist Women's Network), of which she is a co-founder. She has also been a mentor for young girls in the Girl Scouts, brought the Mother of Twins Organization to Central Iowa, founded the Iowa Talented and Gifted: parents support group, developed human sexuality programs for teens and parents in her church, and many other projects to better the lives of Iowa families. Zimmerman continues to be an advocate for health care policy. She initiated the Health Ministry of the First Christian Church in Des Moines, where a weekly health tent at the Drake Neighborhood Farmer's Market offers free screenings and children's physicals. She has served numerous organizations, including the Iowa PTA Board, the Iowa League of Nursing Board, and Iowa Women's Political Caucus. She and her husband are parents of five children and two foster daughters, to whom they taught self reliance, public responsibility and good citizenship. Zimmerman was born on December 24, 1936 in Van Buren County, Iowa. She was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2005.



2006

## 2006 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame: Jeannette Eyerly (1908-2008)

*"Her persistent passion has always been a better place for all."*

- Mary M. Kennedy, 2005



Jeannette Eyerly, an Iowan for more than 90 years, is an award-winning author of books for children and teens and an advocate for mental health. First published at age eight, she wrote twenty books of fiction for young people, two books of poetry and co-authored a book on writing young adult novels. She graduated from the University of Iowa in 1930 with a bachelor's degree in English. After co-writing a nationally syndicated column in the late 1950s, Eyerly later wrote eighteen novels for young adults, in which the subject matter was ahead of its time - high school drop-outs, abortion, suicide, divorce, and alcoholism. Her work in the public policy arena for treatment of mental illness in Iowa

has changed the face of how services are delivered and the stigma attached to mental illness. Following the Community Mental Health Center Act of 1963, Eyerly began a grassroots effort in Des Moines to establish an alternative to hospital care for mental illness. Her dogged determination led to the 1969 establishment of the Polk County Mental Health Center, of which she was a founding member. It was renamed the Eyerly-Ball Community Mental Health Services in 1995 to honor her work. She also is a former member of the Iowa Commission for the Blind and past president of the Des Moines Child Guidance Center. She was born on June 7, 1908 in Topeka, Kansas. She was married 65 years to the late Frank Eyerly, managing editor of The Des Moines Register and Tribune and is the mother of two daughters. She has six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. She was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2006.

Update: Eyerly died at the age of 100 on August 18, 2008.

## 2006 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Christine H. B. Grant

*"She's been one of the ...leaders in the struggle for fairness for all women in all aspects of life, not just in athletics."*

– C. Vivian Stringer, 2001



Christine H. B. Grant, associate professor of sports administration and former women's athletic director at the University of Iowa, is a nationally known advocate for gender equity in intercollegiate athletics. As a result of her leadership following her appointment in 1973, the Women's athletic program reached national prominence. Her recognition of disparities in the resources allotted to Women's and men's athletics led her to become a champion of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Grant has served as an expert consultant to the Health, Education and Welfare Office for Civil Rights Title IX Task Force. In addition, she has served as an expert witness in numerous Title IX cases, and as a consultant on Women's athletics, and has also published widely on intercollegiate athletics and equity issues. She was a founding member of the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women and later served as its President. After serving on the Board of the National Association of Collegiate Women's Athletic Administrators, she was then elected its President. Grant was a member of the U.S. Olympic Committee in 1980 and selected as a field hockey judge for the 1980 Moscow Olympic Games. Although she officially retired as athletic director from the University of Iowa in 2000, she continued to teach in the graduate program in the Department of Health and Sport Studies until May 2006. Her work as an advocate for gender equity in college and high school athletics will continue. She was born in Bo'ness, Scotland on May 27, 1936. She was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2006.

## 2006 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Dorothy Marion Bouleris Paul

*"She is a model for how to generously contribute to a community."*  
– Kenneth Cmiel, 2005



Dorothy Marion Bouleris Paul, born in New York State, is a world citizen who emphasizes her connections with the world's people by providing leadership in organizations dedicated to human rights and world peace. A true internationalist, Paul was executive director of the Iowa Division of the United Nations Association of the United States (UNA-USA) from 1979 to 1996. She then served as executive director for programs from 1996 to 2000. She participated in six international conferences, including being the UNA-USA official observer for the 1995 UN Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China and the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. In 1995, she was awarded the UNA-USA Arnold Goodman Award in recognition of her unending creative talents in producing world class programs linking UNA with other non-governmental organizations, public officials, the media and educational institutions throughout the State of Iowa and the region. Since 2000, she has worked with the University of Iowa Center for Human Rights as Executive Director and most recently as the associate director for community affairs. She has been active in many other community activities including the Iowa City Human Rights Commission, Iowa City Foreign Relations Council, Rotary Club of Iowa City (noon), Emma Goldman Clinic for Women, and Human Rights Iowa City. She was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2006.

## 2006 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Margaret Wragg Sloss (1901-1979)

*“Throughout her career [she] was the unappointed but widely recognized leader of women in veterinary medicine.”*

– Dr. George Beran, 2005



Margaret Wragg Sloss, a pioneer in nontraditional careers for women, was born on October 28, 1901 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. An incredible leader for women in science, particularly veterinary science, and education, she earned a bachelor's degree in Zoology from Iowa State College in 1923, and a master's degree in microscopic anatomy in 1932. In 1923, she became the first female staff member in Veterinary Medicine at ISU as a pathology laboratory technician. Sloss contributed to changing the admissions policy at the veterinary school to allow admission to women. She applied for admission into the doctoral program and was denied. She persisted and was allowed to enroll in classes following her research on land-grant admissions policies that stated admissions could not be refused based on sex. In 1938, Sloss became the first woman at Iowa State College to earn the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree, the 27th in the USA. Although she taught at Iowa State College from 1941, she did not reach full professor until 1965. In 1940, Sloss was one of 100 women pursuing nontraditional careers who were invited by Carrie Chapman Catt to attend the Women's Centennial Congress in New York City. She was invited by Eleanor Roosevelt to the White House in 1944. She established the Women's Veterinary Medicine Association in 1947 and served two years as its president. Sloss died December 11, 1979 and is interred in the Iowa State University cemetery. ISU named Margaret Sloss Women's Center in her honor in 1981. She was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2006.

2007

## 2007 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Ruth Ann Gaines

*"She uses her skills to connect with people and empower them."*

–Barbara Boatwright, 2000



For 36 years, Ruth Ann Gaines has been the Des Moines East High School drama teacher, Des Moines Area Community College speech and drama instructor, and a facilitator of diversity courses through the Heartland Area Education Agency. Since she and her family members have been discriminated against because of the color of their skin, and after adopting a child with a disability as a single parent, she has been motivated to dedicate her adult life to fighting for justice for all. Valued and honored with many awards over the years, in 1998 Gaines was the first fine arts teacher to receive the Department of Education's Iowa Teacher of the Year award. Also in 1998, she showed what a dedicated, serious, and talented individual she is by serving as the Iowa Ambassador for Education. In 2001 Gaines created Sisters For Success, a Des Moines Public School mentorship program for African American middle and high school girls. In 2003, she was one of five educators chosen from around the country to be inducted into the National Teachers Hall of Fame. And in 2004, she was one of three Iowans to be inducted into the Iowa African American Hall of Fame. Besides being an effective and inspiring leader, Gaines is well known locally for her acting ability. Born in 1947, Gaines has lived in Iowa her entire life. She was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2007.

## 2007 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Emma J. Harvat (1870-1949)

*"She opened horizons for women in political and business life."*  
–Roxanne Barton Conlin, 2003



Emma J. Harvat was an important historical figure in United States and Iowa history, for in 1922, she became the first woman in the nation to be mayor of a city larger than 10,000. "I believe my experience and training in business won the election for me," she said. Bringing the female perspective to problems in city government, she immediately separated female and male offenders in the city jail and established a juvenile home. Born in Iowa City in 1870, she was the ninth of ten children of Czechoslovakian immigrants Joseph and Mary Harvat. She started her professional life as a store clerk but quickly advanced to owning her own business, a ready-made dress shop. Later she became involved in real estate, home building, and as a landlord. Her home in Iowa City was placed on the National Register of Historic Places and Iowa City's Civic Center was designated as "Emma J. Harvat Hall" in 2000. Harvat was an Iowa woman of remarkable vision, professional achievement, and originality who

was a pathfinder for civic leaders in our state. She died in 1949. She was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2007.

## 2007 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Dr. Ada Hayden (1884-1950)

*"She had a lifelong love affair with prairies and all elements of the open Iowa landscape."*

—Dr. Lois Tiffany, 2002



After being the first woman to obtain her Ph.D. at Iowa State University in 1918, Ada Hayden was appointed as assistant professor in botany in 1919. She also conducted research on Iowa's plants and ecology, publishing nearly 30 papers based on these studies. "A Botanical Survey in the Iowa Lake Region of Clay and Palo Alto Counties" was published in 1943 and is heralded by many authorities as one of the best surveys of Iowa flora. She was also a talented artist and photographer. She devoted much of her time and energy to the Iowa State Herbarium and added over 10,000 high-quality specimens that she personally collected; the Herbarium was named in her honor in 1988. In 2004, Ames dedicated one of its largest parks as the Ada Hayden Heritage Park. Hayden was also keen on environmental conservation, and one of her well known reports was titled "The Selection of Prairie Areas in Iowa Which Should Be Preserved." Several of the natural Iowa landscape areas she described have since been purchased and designated as state preserves. Born on August 14, 1884, Hayden died on August 12, 1950. After her death, a 200-acre preserve in Howard County was named in her honor. She was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2007.

## 2007 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Connie Wimer

*“She has made herself available to any woman needing her help in business – and in life.”*

–Joan Fitzpatrick Bolin, 2002



Connie Wimer, of Des Moines, has been an active business and community leader for many years. She was the owner and President of Iowa Title Company from 1976 until 1985 when she sold the company to Central Life Insurance Company, but continued as President until 2001. In 1981 she purchased a small legal paper and transitioned it in 1983 to become the Des Moines Business Record. She publishes another ten publications including "dsm Magazine", Intro, Daily Business Record, and Book of Lists. Additionally, she created a number of annual events, including Women of Influence and Forty under 40, recognizing women and younger people who contribute to the community. In addition to the publishing business, Wimer sits on a number of business and charitable boards. She founded Winefest Des

Moines and was the first woman to chair the Des Moines Chamber of Commerce as well as the first woman to chair the National Alliance of Area Business Publications. She was the first woman elected to the Greater Des Moines Committee's Business Hall of Fame in 2002 and she has received many other awards throughout her career. Born in Merrill, Iowa in 1932, Wimer moved to Des Moines in 1950 and in Des Moines she earned her reputation as a competent, caring and sharing business leader. She was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2007.



2008

## 2008 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Joan Urenn Axel

*"Ms. Axel exemplifies the change in status of women during the past 50 years...she is a woman who is a pioneer in legal and public service."*

— Willard Boyd, 2006



Joan Urenn Axel, born on January 21, 1943 in Fargo, ND, is an indefatigable participant in the lives, issues, organizations, and communities around her. She has an innate ability to bring people together to accomplish difficult objectives. She builds bridges and friendships through her style of leadership. During her nearly 50 years in Iowa, Axel frequently has been the first woman to serve on a board or to lead an organization, paving the way for other women to follow. She has served as director on governing boards, a municipal utility board, the first Iowa Lottery Commission, and the first Iowa Communications Network Commission. Axel devotes much of her time to mentoring women and girls in ways to reach their potential, to participate in good government at all levels, and to be economically secure. She was one of the volunteer founders of the Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women in Politics and a lead sponsor of the Mary Louise Smith Chair at Iowa State University. Prior to her continuing 27 year career in the private practice of law in Muscatine, she was elected to the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors and served as the first person to chair the Board for two years. Her law practice has focused on personal client services such as small and minority business development, estate planning, elder law, family issues, and women in business. She has served on numerous boards, including Iowa Supreme Court Commissions, State of Iowa Commissions, and local foundations. Axel's public service extends beyond Iowa as a participant in the first sister-state mission to China in the 1980s with former Governor Robert Ray and, more recently, in the sister-state delegation establishing Iowa's official ties to Stavropol in Russia. Axel has impacted the lives of thousands of women and girls with her personal time and investment in mentoring and educating, not only through her vision and support of programs, but also through her commitment to the rights and dignity of others. Axel was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2008.

## 2008 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Barbara Moorman Boatwright (1924-2012)

*"Because of her tireless work in the public policy arena, she has been and continues to be, a gift to all the citizens of Iowa."*

— Representative Ro Foege, 2008



Barbara Moorman Boatwright, of Des Moines, is a social worker by profession and an activist by temperament. Throughout her 84 years, she has lived a seamless life, working both personally and professionally to solve problems, promote peace and justice, and empower others. As a social worker, she has counseled individuals and families, mentored student social workers, and taught as an adjunct faculty member of the University of Iowa School of Social Work. In 2000, she was named Iowa Social Worker of the Year and in 2006 was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the National Association of Social Workers. In her personal life, Boatwright has been a community activist, taking the values of social work to propel her into political involvement. Boatwright's political advocacy had spanned 60 years, working on behalf of progressive candidates and as a founding member of DAWN, the Democratic Activist Women's Network. She has recruited numerous women to run for public office and worked on many state and local campaigns, raising funds to support women candidates. Recognizing the difficulties faced by women in the male-dominated General Assembly, she facilitated a bi-partisan retreat for women legislators. To alleviate poverty and empower low-income people in developing countries, Barbara established a "fair trade" shop in her church, making products created by artisans in 35 countries available to members of the church and community (70% of the artisans were women needing to support their families.) Through the Peace and Justice committee of her church she facilitated in bringing International Peacemakers to Des Moines for various high school and community activities to increase international understanding. As a League of Women Voters board member she organized non-partisan candidate forums for many contested local elections. In 1999, the Iowa Association of Social Workers established the Boatwright Political Action Award for her work to strengthen diversity and empower women. Boatwright is a catalyst for change, a teacher, a mentor, and a woman whose life is a testimony to her values and convictions. She was born on February 2, 1924, in Pittsburgh, PA. Boatwright was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2008.

## 2008 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Hualing Nieh Engle

*"She is truly Iowa's ambassador to the world."*  
—Willard Boyd, 2008



Hualing Nieh Engle is an author and editor of global acclaim and one of Iowa's most gifted cultural ambassadors. Born Nieh Hualing in Hubei Province, China in 1925, Engle came to Iowa City in 1964 to attend the Writer's Workshop. In 1967, she and late husband Paul founded the International Writing Program at the University of Iowa, with the intention to create international connections among writers and heighten understanding across borders. Four decades later this unique residency program has hosted over 1100 poets, playwrights, and fiction writers from 120 countries. Many of the program's visiting writers are introduced to American life, art, and politics through the hospitality and friendship of Engle. She has and continues to work for international goodwill on the practical and creative levels. In 1976, 300 writers advanced the Engles for the Nobel Peace Prize, and they were officially nominated. Over a distinguished literary career that spans the last half-century and two continents, Engle has worked with grace and tenacity to make Iowa a crossroads for international writing and exchange. She has authored more than twenty published books and has been praised in China and the United States for the sincere way her work draws strength from two very different literary traditions. Last year, she published her memoir, *Three Lives*, which chronicles her experiences in China, Taiwan and the United States. In her retirement, Engle occasionally returns to East Asia to serve on literary juries, negotiation with cultural agencies, and participate in various cultural gatherings. She also finds time to carry on an extensive correspondence with writers worldwide who have remained personal friends and enduring admirers of Iowa. Engle was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2008.

## 2008 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Marilyn A. Russell (1932-2007)

*"Marilyn is a leader, a visionary, a women's advocate."*  
— Mary Weaver & Marilyn Warling, 2005



Marilyn A. Russell, of Des Moines, was a determined leader and visionary in the home and community health industry. A nurse by training, she was the executive director of Visiting Nurse Services (VNS) of Des Moines for over 25 years. She advanced the role of nursing through her leadership and she improved the efficiency of the health care delivery system in central Iowa and throughout the state. Russell helped develop nomenclature for home care and public health, which became accepted by health care organizations and colleges nationally. It was her strong leadership that helped co-found the Iowa Assembly of Home Health Agencies, which is known today as Iowa Association for Home Care. She was voted by her peers to become the first chair of the board of Health Policy Corporation of Iowa in 1982 and was the first woman chair of the Iowa Health Systems Agency. She was instrumental in founding Hospice of Central Iowa in the 1970s, which was the first hospice in Iowa accredited by JACHO. She not only looked at system changes that were needed, she first looked at how the issues would affect the individual people. Russell unselfishly shared her vision with other nurses, administrators, and agencies, and provided them with needed inspiration and even computer software to help them provide and track services to Iowans. Her agency was the first to develop a computerized database for clinical nursing records, and she was a leader in developing the systems for cost analysis of nursing services. Much of her work continues to guide the public health nursing agencies of Iowa's 99 counties and in neighboring states that utilize her systems or have benefited from her guidance and expertise. She was born on February 23, 1932, in Des Moines and died on March 24, 2007. Russell was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2008.

2009

## 2009 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Linda K. Kerber

*"She is a woman of wisdom, strength, compassion, curiosity, good humor, and incredible genius who is capable of confronting pas ideologies about gender so that women and men can work together."*

— Mary Bennett, 2009



Preeminent among historians of her generation, Dr. Linda K. Kerber has devoted her life and career to the empowerment of women through a better understanding of women's history. The first professor of women's history at the University of Iowa in 1971, she became a catalyst for transforming the way scholars and students look at the contributions of women to society. As a humanist scholar, Kerber is an authority on American history and women's studies, achieving international distinction for her contributions to our understanding of

gender, citizenship, and the legal and political status of women. Her creative intellect, influential leadership, and invigorating teaching place her at the top of her field. She has received many awards and honors, including becoming a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a member of the American Philosophical Society, the oldest learned society in the United States. She is one of the few scholars to have held the top leadership positions in the three major professional organizations in her field – the American Historical Association, the American Studies Association, and the Organization of American Historians. In addition to her scholarly work, she is a civil rights activist, political advocate, and mentor to countless women. Kerber lives in Iowa City and was born in 1940 in New York. She was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2009.

## 2009 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Mary E. Kramer

*"Mary's entry into public life, after a very successful career in the corporate sector, served as an inspiration to others on the value and importance of public service."*

— John D. Forsyth, 200



Mary E. Kramer is a remarkable Iowa leader and citizen. Leadership and support for women have been the hallmarks of her long and diverse career. She has experience as a musician, teacher, wife, mother, volunteer activist, business executive, political leader, and ambassador.

Kramer served as an Iowa State Senator for 13 years. During the last seven of those years, she served as presiding officer of the Senate, President of the Iowa Senate. Kramer was appointed by President George W. Bush to serve as Chair of the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars in 2002. In 2003, the President nominated Kramer to serve as the United States Ambassador to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, where she served until her retirement in 2006. Previous to that, Kramer spent 18 years at Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield, joining the company as its the first woman officer, first as Vice President of Human Resources, then as Vice President of Community Relations. A former teacher and school administrator in Iowa, Kramer also served as the Personnel Director for Younkers, Inc. Kramer's leadership, mentoring and negotiation skills have been widely recognized. She is a lifetime member of the Iowa Society for Human Resource Management and was presented the National Society's highest award in 1996. Throughout the years, through her political, business and volunteer activities, Kramer has been passionate and tireless in supporting women and children, particularly as mentor and coach as well as in providing leadership and support for women in the workplace. She was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2009.

## 2009 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Adeline Lavonne McCormick-Ohnemus, D.O. (1921-1996)

*"Dr. McCormick was a classic example of an old-time, common-sense, earthy family doctor."*

— Linda Banger, 2008



Dr. Adeline Lavonne McCormick-Ohnemus, an advocate for healthy lifestyle choices and preventative medicine, was a role model and motivator for the rural women she cared for over the 45 years she lived and practiced medicine in Milo.

McCormick-Ohnemus put herself through junior college and became a teacher. She then decided to go to Drake University in pre-med and was the only woman in her class at Still College of Osteopathy (now Des Moines University) in the 1940s. Through much of her career, her medical practice was adjacent to her home, and on an average day she would care for 40 patients in the office. McCormick-Ohnemus established herself as a dominant force in the Osteopathic profession, supporting her school and hospital, keeping long office hours,

driving to nursing homes in Indianola, making house calls and caring for patients in the hospital that was 40 miles away in Des Moines. She did it all with the grace that is befitting the profession as the care and management of her patients always came first. She never turned away a patient that was unable to pay. McCormick-Ohnemus generously shared both her professional life and well as her personal life with her community, serving as Warren County Medical Examiner, on the Warren County Board of Health, and as a trustee of the Iowa Osteopathic Medical Association. After years of exemplary and loyal service to the community of Milo, its community center has been dedicated to her memory. She was born on November 21, 1921 in Lucas County, Iowa and died February 22, 1996. McCormick-Ohnemus was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2009.

## 2009 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Lyn Stinson

*"Lyn has a special ability to see the good in every person and always brings out their best."*

— Sharon Ford, 2007



Lyn Stinson has made her adoptive home of Burlington a better place. People in Burlington know that if there is a project that needs done, a problem that needs solved, a person who is in need, or an opportunity to be utilized, Stinson will be there to do it. There are few people in Burlington who have such a profound impact on the community; low-income people, African-Americans, job-seekers, women, children, and future generations all feel the impact of her innovation, tireless spirit, and leadership. During her tenure at Community Action of Southeast Iowa, she developed a Community Food Program, which helped families learn to plant gardens to supplement their food budget, and set up a summer meal program for low-income children. She also founded the Women in Waiting program, a support group for women whose loved one is confined to Fort

Madison prison. Stinson has been a leader and member of several state and community boards, including Civil Service Commission, Iowa Workforce Development Commission, NAACP and the African American Historical Museum and Cultural Center of Iowa. Stinson was the only volunteer connecting with Job Corps graduates upon their return to the community. For this, she was named Volunteer of the Year in 2000 by the Joint Action in Community Service (JACS) Region VII, prompting Burlington's mayor to declare June 14, 2000 as "Lyn Stinson Day." Stinson was born in Opelika, Alabama. She was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2009.



2010

## 2010 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Julia C. Addington (1829-1875)

*"She broke ground for all women office-holders who came after her..."*

--Dr. Thomas Morain, 2007



Julia C. Addington, born in 1829, was the first woman elected to public office in Iowa and may have been the first woman in the United States to be elected to office when, in 1869, she was elected Superintendent of Schools in Mitchell County. She was 40 years old when she was elected on the "Bolters" ticket, a renegade faction of the Republican Party. Because of her gender, the legality of Addington assuming the position came into question. The Iowa Attorney General ruled that there was no reason she could not hold the position of county school superintendent. Even after her election and the ruling by the Iowa attorney general that her election was legal, not all of her colleagues were accepting of her. Prior to her election, she was the "preceptress" at the Cedar Valley

Seminary in Osage and taught in Cedar Falls, Waterloo, and Des Moines. Her reputation in the education community was solid. Regardless of whether she was the first woman to hold office in the United States, it is certain that she accepted the call of a political party to run for office in a time when it took courage for women to do so. By accepting the call, she was setting herself up for certain scrutiny and probable scorn. While there is no evidence that Addington was an advocate for women's suffrage, she was one of many pioneering women in the fight for equal rights for women. Because of ill health, she retired in 1871. She lived and owned property in Stacyville, Iowa. Addington died on September 21, 1875 and is buried in Stacyville. She was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2010.

## 2010 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Mary Adelaide Lundby

*"Mary understood that people always come before ideology."*  
— Brent Oleson, 2009



Mary Adelaide Lundby, a long time public servant and forthright leader, stood for all Iowans. Lundby served in the Iowa House of Representatives from 1986-1994 and the Iowa Senate from 1995-2009. Unfailingly loyal to friends and colleagues, she was willing to speak eloquently for causes and for people she believed in, without regard to the consequences, personal or political. Known as a formidable competitor, she was an advocate for issues concerning children, families, the environment, and conservation. As a Senator, she supported the REAP (Resource Enhancement and Protection) program, sometimes nearly single-handedly securing funds for projects vital to the support of state parks and other natural resources that allowed Iowans to appreciate their environment. She was an independent thinker around education issues and was considered by some the one vote that defeated the possible constitutional amendment prohibiting same-sex marriage. On the occasion of that vote, Lundby said she would never vote to put discrimination into the Iowa constitution and spoke passionately about fair treatment. She was also a talented whistler and could be heard in the Chambers whistling a tune as she worked at her desk. Lundby was tireless in communicating with her constituents, many of whom received annual birthday or anniversary remembrances from their Senator. She was the first woman to be elected Speaker Pro-Tempore of the Iowa House of Representatives and was the first woman Majority Leader and Minority Leader in the Iowa Senate. Lundby was born on February 2, 1948 in Carroll and died January 17, 2009 after a three-year battle with cancer.

## 2010 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Ruby L. Sutton (1932-2015)

*"She is a shining example of the power of women to effect lasting change."*  
– Kelly Larson, 2010



Ruby L. Sutton, of Dubuque, is a champion of social justice. She moved to Dubuque in 1959; her family was one of only five African-American families at the time. Though she faced discrimination, Sutton chose to stay in the community and work to make Dubuque a welcoming community for people of color. Through both her work and volunteer involvement, she has touched thousands of people's lives. Sutton served for 36 years as the outreach manager of the Operation New View Community Action Agency and 21 years on the Dubuque Human Rights Commission. She played a pivotal role in the formation of the Dubuque Community Advisory Panel. Sutton has been a tireless community activist, and is a source of inspiration, motivation, and empowerment. She has held many board and leadership positions in community organizations. She received Dubuque's Telegraph Herald's First Citizen Award in 1984, YWCA Women of Achievement Award in 1987, NAACP First Humanitarian Award in 1989, which was later renamed in her honor, and Peacemaker Award in 1999, and the Friends of Iowa Civil Rights Award in 2000. November 13th, 2009 was declared Ruby Sutton Day in Dubuque to recognize her many contributions to the community in areas of equality and justice. Born in 1932 in Lexington, Mississippi, Sutton grew up in Louisiana.

**Update:** Ruby Sutton died September 17, 2015 in Dubuque, Iowa.

## 2010 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Charese Yanney

*“Charese provides a tangible example of someone who is dedicated to improving the lives of Iowans.”*

– Michael Ralston, 2008



Charese Elizabeth Yanney, of Sioux City, is a legacy leader; she is willing to give of herself so that other women can achieve their goals. When she was 12, Yanney started working at the family business and volunteering as swimming teacher at the YWCA. That early work ethic served her well. After college graduation, Yanney spent four years as a junior high school teacher but gradually felt constrained by spending all day in the classroom. So, she decided to make a dramatic career change. She announced to her father that she was resigning her teaching position to work for the family business, Guarantee Roofing, Siding and Insulation Company. She became a partner in the firm a year later and today shares the responsibility of running the company with her father. Yanney tirelessly works to make her community and state better. She has served as chair of the Siouxland Chamber of Commerce, Iowa Association of Business and Industry, United Way of Siouxland, Symphony Board, St. Luke's Hospital Board, and various state commissions and boards. Her leadership working on behalf of women and girls is perhaps most evident in the launch of two national award winning events for United Way of Siouxland: Women's Power Lunch and Women United, which have raised more than \$516,000 for women and girls in Siouxland. To date, the Power Lunch has raised \$231,000 that have been awarded to 68 single mothers. Women United, whose mission is to improve the quality of life for Siouxland youth 0 to 18, has awarded \$285,000 awarded to 13 innovative programs. Yanney was born in 1949.

2011

## 2011 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Nancy A. Dunkel

*"She represents proof that women can and should rise to higher positions and occupy more board seats than they do now."*

— Jill M. Cochrane, 2008



Nancy A. Dunkel of Dyersville, is a respected leader in the banking industry and an inspirational role model for women in business. She has held many positions in bank leadership roles, including majority shareholder and President of a Bank Holding Company. Dunkel is a model of leadership and service. She has been a dedicated advocate of the banking industry and a mentor for other women to be successful in business, rise to higher positions and hold board seats. Dunkel was elected to be the first woman to Chair the Iowa Bankers Association. She has also served as President of the Iowa Chapter of Financial Women International, Inc. and chaired the board of directors of the Iowa Department of Economic Development. Her other leadership roles include serving as a member of the board of directors of the Iowa Targeted Small Business and past board member of the Iowa Department of Banking. Locally, she has served as Chair of the Dubuque Chamber of Commerce and also the Dyersville Area Chamber of Commerce. Presently, she is a board member of Stonehill Franciscan Services, Finley Hospital and the Principal Bank. Dunkel was born in Manchester in 1955. Dunkel was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2011.

## 2011 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Jacqueline Easley McGhee

*"Jacquie's work has inspired, cajoled, challenged, and improved the lives of women in our state."*

— Joseph Nolte, 2011



Jacqueline Easley McGhee, a native of Des Moines, is a dynamo. Whether serving in the capacity of corporate executive, civic leader, or elected representative, McGhee's passion, commitment and action toward making Iowa a better place for all, particularly women and minorities, are felt broad and wide. She was elected to the Des Moines School Board in 1990 and was the first African-American female to hold such a post. In 1994, she was elected by her fellow board members as president. McGhee's vigilant commitment to diversity, as both a professional and community member have positively impacted central Iowa. McGhee has been appointed to serve on the national diversity committee of the American Heart Association, Central Iowa Workforce

Investment Board, Terrace Hill Commission, Drake University Board of Trustees, and the City of Des Moines Planning and Zoning Commission. She is an active member and leader of many community organizations, including I'll Make Me a World In Iowa, Greater Des Moines Partnership's Diversity Council, and has served as president of YWCA of Greater Des Moines. She has been honored by numerous organizations with awards such as Des Moines Business Record Woman of Influence, YWCA Woman of Achievement, Des Moines Citizen of the Year and Iowa Junior Chamber of Commerce's Iowan of the Year. McGhee was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2011.

## 2011 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Charlotte Bowers Nelson

*"With her grace, dignity, intelligence, and perseverance, she has led the way in changing the lives of all women and girls in Iowa."*

— Laurie Schipper, 2011



Charlotte Bowers Nelson has elevated the status of women and girls in Iowa through her leadership and advocacy for justice and equality for everyone. With her grace, dignity, intelligence, and perseverance, Nelson has addressed issues impacting women and girls. She was a YWCA teenage program director, Office Manager of the LWVIA, State Director of the LWVUS "Sex Equity in Vocational Education" project, and coordinated the first women's studies course at Drake University. For 22 years, she served as the Governor-appointed executive director of the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women. With her knowledge of public policy, she represented women and girls with legislators, government, and the people of Iowa.

From reforming Iowa's welfare system, establishing gender balance on state boards, initiating equity-related legislation (including naming two state office buildings for women, supporting family planning, and combating domestic violence and sexual assault), Nelson led a compassionate, multi-faceted effort that made a difference. This soft-spoken radical continues her advocacy on boards like the Iowa CareGivers Association and Iowa Friends of Legal Services. Her degrees are a Duke B.A. (summa cum laude), a Columbia M.A., and a Drake M.P.A. Born in Bristol, Virginia in 1931, and raised in Bristol, Tennessee, Nelson has lived in Des Moines since 1974. Nelson was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2011.

## 2011 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Dr. Mildred Hope Fisher Wood (1920-2014)

*“Mildred Wood has touched many lives, professionally and personally. Her lasting gift to me is the following advice, never stated explicitly but clear from her behavior: Never stop learning. Never stop creating. Never stop sharing.”*

-Professor Janet Rives of UNI



Dr. Mildred Hope Fisher Wood is a pioneer who brought special education for learning disabilities to the forefront in Iowa, empowering thousands of students each year to lead productive, respected lives. Born in Alta in 1920, Wood earned four degrees from the University of Northern Iowa, did postgraduate work at Syracuse University and the University of Oregon, and earned a doctorate at Indiana University – all to study learning disabilities in children and to develop practices to transform them into learners. She created and taught the first courses on learning disabilities to future teachers at the University of Northern Iowa and conducted hundreds of workshops for teachers, principals, parents, psychologists, and juvenile court officers. Not only is she an advocate for children, she is a mentor for parents and has bettered the lives of innumerable families – often through volunteer work in communities, the church, and throughout the state. Wood is a recognized leader and is a charter member of the National Association for Children with Learning Disabilities and the Iowa Association. She has also been the president of the Iowa Learning Disabilities Association. Wood is a published author, a co-author of a diagnostic test for pre-school children, and the recipient of many awards.



2012

## 2012 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Dr. Judith Conlin

*"Never one to accept the status quo, she has dedicated herself to working in a variety of fields—all with a shared goal of improving lives."*

-Jan Kaiser, 2012



Judith Conlin has positively impacted the lives of women and girls throughout the state of Iowa. An Iowa native, her efforts have helped young women, immigrant women, aging women, battered women, displaced women, disabled women and addicted women. Born in Fort Dodge, Conlin studied at the University of Iowa and the University of Edinburgh and ultimately earned her Doctorate of Arts in 1978 from Drake University. She embodies the goals of the women's movement for equality and upward mobility, especially for the disenfranchised. While teaching at Iowa State University, Conlin co-founded the Iowa Women's Studies Association in 1975; became the first Chair of the Ames Community School

District's Advisory Committee on Multicultural Non-Sexist Curriculums in 1978; authored, "How to Get Your Bearings—How to Get a Job: A Guide for Women who are Unemployed, Underemployed and/or Underpaid" in 1980; developed a multilingual international resource guide for the Iowa International Center, "Welcome to Iowa," in 2009 and a multilingual website in 64 languages in 2011. She performed extensive fundraising for Planned Parenthood and acted as the executive director for the Animal Rescue League, the Alzheimer's Association and the Iowa Department of Elder Affairs. Conlin's commitment to people from every walk of life and dedication to the Iowa community have made a profound difference in the lives of women. She was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2012.

## 2012 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Terry Hernandez

*“Terry Hernandez has been raising the expectations of and from women’s organizations, assuring our voices are loudly heard locally, nationally and even internationally.”*

—Renee Hardman, 2012



Terry Hernandez is often sought as an expert on issues facing girls and women and is a role model for those making a difference in the community. Born in 1956 in West Union, Iowa, she attended Iowa State University and later completed a Bachelor's Degree in Management and Marketing at Upper Iowa University. While she met notable success working as a public relations manager for Iowa Lutheran Hospital, Farm Bureau Insurance and United Bank Savings and Loan and later as metro director of public relations and marketing of YMCA of Greater Des Moines, her most exceptional accomplishments have come from her work with the Chrysalis Foundation. Hired as the first Chrysalis staff person in 1997, Hernandez worked tirelessly to transform the foundation's role as "funder" to "investor," and ultimately "partner" with community organizations around the state that work to assure the financial stability and independence of women and girls. In 1998, she created Chrysalis After-School, a program now serving hundreds of adolescent girls in more than two dozen metro area elementary and middle schools. In 2006, Hernandez established the Women's Alliance, a partnership of organizations sharing knowledge and best practices and exploring avenues of collaboration to support girls and women in the Greater Des Moines area. More than 10 years ago, Hernandez led the formation of what is now the Central Iowa Funders Forum, a partnership of public and private grant making organizations in Greater Des Moines that discuss issues and share ideas on philanthropy and community development. Terry Hernandez has had a significant impact on the lives of women and girls in Iowa throughout her career and through her leadership of the Chrysalis Foundation. She was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2012.

## 2012 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Mary Parks Stier

*"Time and again during our work together, I marveled at her ability to rally her team, executives, sales personnel to action. Her inspiration and timing – offering just the right insight, clarity at just the right moment - was remarkable. Many times I witnessed her ability to connect problems and opportunities with the right problem solvers and empower them through adversity to success."*

-Laura Hollingsworth



Mary Parks Stier is an accomplished media executive and visionary Iowa leader who blazes trails to empower women to reach their highest potential. Born in Memphis in 1956, Stier attended the University of Iowa and graduated Phi Beta Kappa with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1978. Fresh out of college, she began her career with the Gannett Company, Inc. when she joined the Iowa City Press-Citizen. In 1991, she was promoted to the President and Publisher to the Register Star in Rockford, Ill. She returned to Iowa in 2000 to serve as the President and Publisher of the

Des Moines Register. Stier empowered women to strive for roles of leadership through her career and community service, always encouraging women to come together and learn from each other's experiences. She has helped place 15 women into top roles as publishers, taught a class entitled "The Emerging Leadership of Women in the 21st Century" at Drake University, hosted and shared her own story at the 2004 Smart Talk Women's Lecture series, and started The Brilliance Group, which mission is to "bring the wisdom and grace of women's leadership into the world." She blogs twice a week on women's leadership issues on her website and continues to inspire woman leaders through her example.

## 2012 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Dr. Dorothy Hubbard Schwieder (1933-2014)

*"Through her willingness to advise, collaborate, and nurture, she has modeled a collegiality among Iowa historians that has created a supportive community among those doing serious research in Iowa history. The entire state of Iowa has been the beneficiary."*

-Thomas Morain



Dr. Dorothy Schwieder is a pioneer in Iowa and women's history. With decades of service, she has made lasting contributions to the state of Iowa. Born in 1933 in the small town of Presho, South Dakota, Schwieder earned a degree in history from Dakota Wesleyan University, and eventually made her way to Iowa to pursue a Doctorate in Sociology. She began her career in 1966 at Iowa State University as a part-time instructor in the History Department, later earning her Master's degree from ISU in History in 1968. Schwieder became a full-time History instructor at Iowa State in 1974, receiving her Ph.D. from Iowa in 1981, after which she became a full Professor at ISU. Her contributions to Iowa and women's history have included numerous book chapters, encyclopedia entries, pamphlets, articles, media

appearances, speeches, and presentations that have been met with numerous honors and awards. Her work as a professor pioneered the field of Iowa History at ISU, and helped develop the field of women's history. Her research commonly focused on the roles of Iowa women, girls, and the home. In 2001, she retired from ISU, but remains active in academia by publishing two books: a personal memoir of growing up on the Great Plains, and a Sesquicentennial history of Iowa State in 2008.

2013

## 2013 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Dr. Mary Louise Sconiers Chapman

*"Mary is dedicated to helping women and families leave poverty and find ladders of opportunity."*



Dr. Mary Louise Sconiers Chapman's relentless dedication to underrepresented and underserved Iowans has opened the door for many to obtain previously limited resources in the areas of continued education, economic advancement and housing. Chapman joined Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) in 1990 and was the first woman to serve as an executive dean at the college. She went on to become the vice president of community and workforce partnerships. Through her work at DMACC, Chapman has created programs for women and at-risk youth, including the establishment of face-to-face college credit programs for the inmates at the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women in Mitchellville; engineered strategic partnerships to support Des Moines

Public Schools' Teacher Quality Program, which successfully placed dozens of minority teachers in Des Moines; and worked to develop the Evelyn K. Davis Center for Working Families in Des Moines, a first-of-its-kind, community-based, integrated service delivery partnership between education, business and community that connects families and individuals with education, support services, career pathways and employment. She has served dozens of community and statewide boards and other civic organizations, including chair of the Iowa Civil Rights Commission and past president of both - The Links, Inc. and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. She is the recipient of many awards, including the Young Women's Resource Center Visionary Woman Award, The YWCA Women of Achievement Award, Iowa African American Hall of Fame and the Iowa Commission on the Status of African Americans' Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Achievement Award. She was born in Chancellor, Alabama, in 1948 and has lived in Des Moines for 44 years.

## 2013 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Patty Jean Poole Judge

*“Working with Lt. Gov. Judge showed me all the mysticism behind politics was imaginary. She showed me that all you needed to run for public office is the ability to listen, a love of learning and passion for service.”*

—Sara Sedlacek



Born in Ft. Madison in 1943 and raised in Albia, Iowa, Patty Jean Poole Judge began her career in Albia as a registered nurse and as a partner with her husband in a Monroe County farming operation. She purchased her parents' real estate business in the early 1980s. As she built the business, Judge became aware of the looming farm crisis. She soon began helping hundreds of farm families and their creditors find solutions to financial troubles through the Iowa Farmer Creditor Mediation Service, which led her to be a strong advocate for rural families. Active both in her community and throughout southern Iowa, Judge was elected to the Iowa Senate in 1992 and re-elected in 1996. In 1998, she became the first woman elected Iowa Secretary of Agriculture and was re-elected in 2002. During her administration renewable energy grew to become an integral part of Iowa's economy, new international markets for agricultural products were developed, Iowa's wine industry began to flourish and the swine disease pseudorabies was eradicated from Iowa hog herds. In 2006, Judge was elected Iowa's Lieutenant Governor, serving with Governor Chet Culver. During her term in office she also served the state as the Homeland Security Advisor and was instrumental in coordinating critical response operations during the historic floods of 2008. While in office she worked to create a task force designed to address issues of racial disparity in Iowa prisons, took a critical look at gender gap in wages and championed the expansion of the state's children's health insurance program and wellness programs. Since leaving the state capitol in January 2011, Judge has created a consulting company and has assisted many candidates in their bids for elected office.

## 2013 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Barbara Marie Mack (1952-2012)

*“Barbara Mack was an Iowa woman who became mentor and role model for God knows how many other Iowa women, many of whom were—like her—the first in their families to go to college (or at least to go for reasons other than finding a husband).”*

—Christine Romans, CNN Correspondent and host of “Your Bottom Line”



Barbara Marie Mack was a journalist, lawyer and teacher who shattered glass ceilings, inspired women and gave generously to many people throughout her life. Born in Des Moines in 1952, she put herself through college in just three years, receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree with Phi Beta Kappa academic honors in journalism from Iowa State University in 1974. Long before college, Mack was at home in a newsroom. She started as a copy courier at age 16 with the Des Moines Register and Tribune, then rose to reporter after graduation, blazing a trail for Register women covering courts and crime news. From those earliest days, she was passionate about First Amendment issues. She helped found the Iowa Freedom of Information Council in 1975. Her growing interest in the law drew her to Drake University Law School, where she received her Juris Doctor in 1977. By 1982, at age 29, Mack became the Register and Tribune Company’s first female corporate secretary and general counsel, making her the highest-ranking woman in Register corporate history and its youngest executive. After overseeing the sale of the company to Gannett interests, she was of counsel at the Davis Law Firm briefly before returning to Iowa State University as a professor in journalism and mass communications. While at ISU, she taught classes ranging from basic to advanced and was a teacher, academic advisor, mentor and role model for thousands of students over a 25-year career; but Mack also made it a personal priority to tutor students who needed to pass the fundamental language usage exam required for entry into the Greenlee School of Journalism and Communications. She died in 2012, mourned by family, friends and those many students who have taken her lessons to heart. Her legacy is a generation of young people, particularly women, poised to have positive impacts on Iowa and on the world beyond.

## 2013 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Dr. Deborah Ann Turner

*“As an Iowa citizen, as an American citizen, and as a world citizen, Dr. Deborah Turner has been a life-long public servant. Her advocacy on behalf of women, girls and minorities has contributed to more inclusive health care policies here at home and better health care practices around the world.”*

—Lt. Gov. Sally J. Pederson



While growing up in Mason City, Dr. Deborah Ann Turner often heard her mother say, “There is only one race: the human race.” And her father always told her, “I never met a stranger.” Turner has lived by those words since her birth in 1950. Turner was the first African-American woman to integrate a sorority at Iowa State University, be certified by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology in the specialty of gynecologic oncology and be hired as a gynecological oncologist at the University of Nebraska, University of Iowa and Medical College of Wisconsin. In 2000, Turner moved to Des Moines and became director of gynecologic oncology at Mercy Cancer Center, where she currently continues her practice. At that time Turner decided she could have greater impact on health policies, as well as education and social justice issues, if she

had a law degree. So she studied nights and weekends to obtain a Juris Doctorate degree, all the while maintaining her medical practice. In addition to making contributions in her field of medicine, Turner has made civic responsibility a high priority, including on the Iowa Board of Regents, where she served until 2005 (while simultaneously pursuing her law degree), and as vice president of the League of Women Voters of Iowa and president for the Metro League of Women Voters in Des Moines. She continues to educate as a clinical professor at Des Moines University Medical School and as adjunct clinical faculty at the University of Iowa. She has expanded her medical mission to work in Tanzania with Outreach, Inc., a nondenominational non-governmental organization out of Union, Iowa. She has found this work rewarding and humbling; however, her greatest commitment is to her children, son Daniyel and niece Danielle.



2014

## 2014 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Renee Hardman

*"You will not meet a woman more dedicated to the growth and empowerment of women and children in the state of Iowa. Renee has always been willing to break new ground and provide opportunities to those individuals in our community who might not have access or the ability to avail themselves to opportunities to improve their lives. Renee has used her influence through her former employer and her numerous community networks to develop programs which give women and minorities the opportunity to gain meaningful workforce skills."*

-Description written by team of nominators in their submission



Renee Hardman is owner of Hardman Consulting, LLC, a consulting firm which provides comprehensive HR services to both profit and non-profit organizations. Prior to launching this endeavor, she worked at Bankers Trust for twenty years - primarily as Senior Vice President of Human Resources. Before Bankers Trust, she was employed for over seven years for the State of Iowa, working in personnel management.

Throughout her career, she has been involved in seeing that diversity was the cornerstone of everything she encountered. Her efforts resulted in high impact changes in the areas of talent acquisition, employee development, employee engagement, and community outreach. The changes that occurred under Ms. Hardman's leadership while working with her team resulted in her prior employer receiving the Partnership's Diversity Award three times, the NAACP Merit Employer Award on multiple occasions and the Society for Human Resources Management inaugural recipient.

Ms. Hardman has been dedicated both professionally and personally to improving the lives of women and young people. Through her former employer she developed an impactful partnership with Oakridge Neighborhood Services and co-developed a summer youth program. This program provides summer jobs and educational opportunities for minority youth that have limited access to career choices. This program has become the mainstay of youth employment training programs in the Des Moines metro area.

Ms. Hardman gives her gifts, time and talent to support non-profit organizations that focus on elevating and empowering girls and young women. She is a Past President of the Chrysalis Foundation. For nine years, she chaired the GEMS (Growing &

Empowering Myself Successfully) program which mentors young girls from the age of 14- 16 years of age. She has been a seventeen year volunteer for Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Greater Des Moines, both as Board member and a Big Sister. She serves on the Board of Character Counts of Iowa and is a committed Board member of Dress for Success. She is an active participant in United Way's Women Leadership Early Childhood initiatives and volunteers for Girl Scouts of Greater Iowa.

Ms. Hardman's life has been committed to accepting women and youth in the "place that they are at" and uses her life and resources to providing hope, encouragement and opportunity to the "voiceless". Renee's life of giving has been an inspiration to many and she is truly a woman who is a role model whose motto is to - "Always reach back and give another person a hand up."

## 2014 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Mary Agnes O'Keefe

*"Mary is a leader of great accomplishment in our region, who is as comfortable at high corporate board meetings, as she is in rolling up her sleeves and working with young people. She is respected by leadership at all levels because her genuineness and work ethic are apparent in all she does. She is often the only woman at corporate or community leadership tables. Yet, she never forgets the learning experiences of her own early years and the need to mentor and lead young women in opportunities to realize their dreams."*

- Martha Willits, 2013



Mary A. O'Keefe is a retired senior vice president and chief marketing officer of the Principal Financial Group. For twenty five years, she was responsible for corporate marketing, branding, communications, corporate giving and community relations. In addition, O'Keefe has had responsibilities for Human Resources and Strategic Development at The Principal. In 1990, O'Keefe joined the Principal Financial Group as media relations manager. She was promoted to vice president in 1994 and became the company's first female senior vice president in 1997. The first female member of the senior management strategy cabinet, she has overseen corporate and board of directors strategic planning. Her marketing expertise has helped build The Principal global brand and contributed to the recognition

of Des Moines as a world class city.

During her time at The Principal, Mary mentored countless young women (and men) at The Principal and throughout the community. She was always open to meetings to help those new to the community, people looking to advance in their careers, and women looking to find solutions to the age old conflict between being the primary family caregiver and meaningful careers. Mary has been an advocate for flexibility in the workplace, particularly during women's early years of parenthood. She has given her staff opportunities to develop innovative worksite and home solutions.

Just a few of her many accomplishments include: developing the vision and leading the team for the completion of the Principal Riverwalk; being a key driver in downtown development in Des Moines; and raising millions in charitable donations for Iowa non-profit organizations through the Principal Charity Classic, United Way, and the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines. She is a co-founder and volunteer member of Maddie's Circle, a program to mentor women in community leadership and inspire more philanthropy among women. As chairperson of the Principal Charity Classic, she led the event to raising in excess of \$1 million per year for children's

charities and being recognized at the top event and the top charity on the PGA Champion's Tour. Mary also developed the Hire Our Heroes program, to encourage the hiring of military veterans. Those who spoke of Mary's accomplishments commented that she is an "action-oriented doer," not just a name on the board roster.

O'Keefe was born the seventh of eleven children to Bill and Celeste O'Keefe in Chicago's south side where she learned the values of hard work, community service, faith, love and family. Her parents worked multiple jobs to support their large family and the medical bills of her younger brother, who died after a three year illness. Due to her parents' financial stress, the family moved frequently and Mary attended seven different grammar schools and worked to put herself through parochial high school and college. During high school and college she volunteered to help adults with disabilities, completed a full time internship in juvenile probation and worked on a suicide prevention hot line at a county mental health center. She graduated from Northern Illinois University with a bachelor degree in Family Social Services and relocated to Iowa in 1978. In 1993, she earned the APR designation (Accreditation in Public Relations) from the Public Relations Society of America.

## 2014 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Margaret "Maggie" Tinsman

*"..her moral compass never wavered. She stood up for what she thought was right and never doubted the ability of women like herself to be agents of progressive action and examples for other women, of whatever political background. I deeply admire her commitment to supporting other women's leadership, to bi-partisan cooperation, and to the simple, profound principle that good government and strong communities require civic involvement, especially by women."*

--Heidi Tinsman, 2014



Maggie Tinsman grew up in Moline, Illinois, and earned a BA degree in Sociology from the University of Colorado in 1958. She went back to school in the 70s and earned a MS in Social Work from the University of Iowa in 1974 while she had three young children. She was the first woman appointed and elected to the Scott County Board of Supervisors. She served as a Supervisor from 1978-1989, first appointed to fill a vacancy, then elected after winning in a primary contest with five men and one other woman as candidates.

Ms. Tinsman was elected to the Iowa State Senate in 1988. She served 18 years, from 1989-2007. Maggie introduced legislation making human trafficking a felony in Iowa, which was signed by Gov. Tom Vilsack in April of 2006. She was active with the National Conference of State Legislatures, serving on the NCSL Executive Committee. Also, she was President of Women Legislative Network, participated in Women in Government, and the Midwest Council of State Government. Working as a model to other women, she was always encouraging women to be participants in decision-making and policy setting leadership positions. After leaving the legislature, Maggie Tinsman formed Braking Traffik, an organization dedicated to eradicating sex trafficking in Iowa and Illinois. The focus of the organization is on educating the populace and law enforcement personnel about prevalence of human trafficking in the Midwest, coordinating a victim center response, and advocating to ensure justice for victims. Maggie advocated for a second bill in the 2014 Iowa Legislature to strengthen penalties for human trafficking and further protect victims.

In 2010, Maggie Tinsman co-founded 50-50 in 2020, a statewide, bi-partisan, issue neutral initiative to achieve political equity for women in Iowa by 2020- the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage. The program is envisioned as a statewide network of women who would recruit, train, and mentor women to achieve 50% of the elected positions in the Iowa Legislature and U.S. Congress, plus Governor.

Ms. Tinsman's honors include recognition as Quad Cities Women of the Year, Citizen of the Year, Iowa Social Worker of the Year, Governor's Volunteer Award, Child Abuse Council Priorities Award, and Coalition of Family and Children Services Award, as well as others. In 2008, she received an Honorary Doctor of Public Service Degree from St. Ambrose University.

## 2014 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Christie Vilsack

*"As a teacher, as First Lady of Iowa, as a Director of a non-profit organization to reduce unintended pregnancy, as a candidate for the U.S. Congress, and as the U.S. AID leader in efforts to promote child literacy throughout the world, Christie uses her considerable influence to open doors and foster equality for women and girls."*

-Sally Pederson, 2014



Christie Vilsack joined the U.S. Agency for International Development as the Senior Advisor for International Education in March 2013. Christie supports USAID's Education Strategy goals to improve children's reading skills, strengthen workforce development, and provide equitable access to education in crisis and conflict settings.

Christie has committed her life to education and public service. For 25 years, she taught secondary and college English and journalism. Her experience inside the classroom led to a focus on education as Iowa's First Lady, as a candidate for Congress and now as the spokesperson for USAID Education.

In her role at USAID, Christie works with education sector partners and education leaders worldwide to build understanding of and support for international education solutions. She travels the world visiting and learning about USAID programs so she can tell the story of USAID Education to anyone she meets from Main Street to the halls of Congress.

Born and raised in Mount Pleasant, Iowa, Christie is a graduate of Kirkland College in Clinton, New York. She earned a master's degree in journalism from The University of Iowa. She and husband Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack have two married sons and two grandchildren. They have enjoyed a lifetime of public service together.

2015

## 2015 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Joyce Boone Chapman

*“Joyce has had an outstanding career as a woman leader in the banking industry. She rose through the ranks to leadership positions on the merit of her work and the strength of her leadership skills at a time when few women were represented at the highest levels of the industry. She has served as a positive role model for women over the years serving unselfishly as coach and mentor to many colleagues. Always a strong advocate for women leaders, she has been a voice of support and leadership throughout the Central Iowa community.”*

--Written by Ambassador Mary Kramer



Joyce Boone Chapman has excelled in the male-dominated banking industry while making her mark on the Greater Des Moines community as a civic leader. She was named a Business Record Woman of Influence in 2001. She also was the first female president of the West Des Moines Chamber of Commerce, the West Des Moines Development Corp. and Rotary Club of Des Moines Foundation. The first female executive vice president at West Bank, she has served as a director of West Bank since 1975. 2015 marks her 40th anniversary on West Bank's board.

A lifelong Iowan, Chapman started her career in banking directly after graduating from high school, taking an entry-level position at Plaza State Bank in Des Moines and then working at a bank in Iowa City while her husband attended college. She started her career at West Bank as auditor in 1971, continuing to advance until she retired as executive vice president in 2006.

Not only has her guidance contributed to the success of West Bank, which is currently rated as one of the top 30 banks in the country, her influence has guided the culture of the company. Today, fully half of the officers of the company are women.

Chapman completed courses with the American Institute of Banking and graduated from the Graduate School of Banking, University of Wisconsin at Madison. She has been involved on numerous committees and boards of directors, and helmed several community projects over the years. She currently is the only female outside director on the board of American Equity Investment Life Holding Company, is president of Winefest Des Moines 2015, and serves on the Attorney Grievance Commission of the Iowa Supreme Court. She assisted in forming the West Bancorporation Foundation and the United Way of Central Iowa's Women's Leadership Connection. She also is a founding member and past president of the Nexus Executive Women's Alliance.





## 2015 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Lt. General Michelle D. Johnson

*“During my over 32 years in the aerospace and defense industry...I can think of no woman more deserving of this honor. From 1981, as the first female Cadet Wing Commander at the Air Force Academy (the senior ranking cadet) and the Academy’s first woman Rhodes Scholar, to today, as the first woman to lead a United States Department of Defense Service Academy, Michelle has left an enduring legacy of positive impact, continuously elevating the status of girls and women.”*

--Written by Honorable Sue C. Payton, Former Assistant Secretary of the Air Force/Acquisition and Former Deputy Under Secretary of Defense/Advanced Systems



Lieutenant General Michelle D. Johnson is the superintendent of the United States Air Force Academy, a four-year undergraduate institution of nearly 4,000 students that graduates officers ready to lead in the United States Air Force. In her role as Superintendent, she serves as both college president and military installation commander, overseeing a rigorous program of military training, academics, athletics, and character development, whereby students earn a Bachelor of Science degree and a commission as a second lieutenant in the Air Force.

Prior to becoming the Superintendent, General Johnson served as an airlift and tanker pilot, was an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science at the Air Force Academy, and held a variety of senior military executive jobs. She served as the Deputy Director for Information and Cyberspace Policy on the Joint Staff where she led a team developing Cyber policy and a new military Cyber Command. Serving as the Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations and Intelligence for the military headquarters of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) she supported crisis and operations planning and execution for multiple NATO missions including those in Afghanistan, Kosovo, in the Mediterranean Sea, off the coast of the Horn of Africa, and in the skies over Libya. She also had the privilege of serving as the Director of Public Affairs for the Air Force and as aide to both President George H.W. Bush and President Bill Clinton. She has also been the commander of the 9th Air Refueling Squadron where she led over 200 people; was the commander of the 97th Operations Group leading over 1,000 people; and served as a wing commander responsible for more than 3,600 people, both civilian and military.

Lt. General Johnson was a distinguished graduate from the United State Air Force Academy in 1981, where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Operation Research. She attended Brasenose College at Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar, earning a Masters of Arts in Politics and Economics. In 2014, she was named an Honorary Fellow for Brasenose College. She holds a Master of Science degree in National Security Strategy from the National War College in Washington, D.C., and has attended multiple senior executive programs to include both the Senior Executive Fellows program and Seminar for new Presidents at Harvard University, the Fellows Seminar on Foreign

Politics, International Relations and the National Interest at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and the National Security Management program at Syracuse University. In 1995, General Johnson was inducted into the GTE/CoSIDA (College Sports Information Directors of America) Academic All-American Hall of Fame. This award is given to distinguished student-athletes who perform well both in the classroom and their respective sport. She was also a member of the Air Force Sports Hall of Fame inaugural class and was inducted into the Colorado Springs Sports Hall of Fame for the Class of 2014. In addition to numerous other awards, she is a sought after speaker and often gives invited remarks on her leadership philosophy, overcoming challenges, and future opportunities.

Lieutenant General Johnson hails from Spencer, Iowa. She graduated from Spencer High School as a National Merit Scholar and as an avid athlete who excelled at basketball and track. General Johnson is married to John Hargreaves, a retired aviator. They are the proud parents of 12-year old twin boys, Preston and Mitchell.

## 2015 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: The Honorable Linda K. Neuman

*"While no career is defined by a single contribution, a single achievement can be, at times, so transformative that history can never be told again without including the achievement. Justice Neuman made such a contribution by becoming the first woman to serve on the Iowa Supreme Court."*

--Written by Chief Justice Mark S. Cady, Supreme Court of Iowa



Linda Kinney Neuman was born in Chicago, Illinois on June 18, 1948. Her family moved to Denver, Colorado when she was eight years old. Neuman worked her way through college and law school at the University of Colorado where she met her future husband, Henry Neuman of Davenport, Iowa. Upon their graduation from law school in 1973, the Neumans moved to Iowa to establish a permanent home and raise their family. They went to work at Betty, Neuman, McMahon, Hellstrom & Bittner, a law firm established in 1906, where Henry's father was a partner. In 1977, Linda Neuman became the first woman admitted to partnership in the firm. Three years later, Neuman became the first woman to serve as a part-time judicial magistrate in Scott County. In 1982, Neuman was appointed by Iowa Governor Robert D. Ray to serve as a district court judge for the 7th Judicial District of Iowa, only the second woman in Iowa history to be appointed to such a position. In 1986, after several years as a trial judge, Neuman was appointed by Governor Terry Branstad to the Iowa Supreme Court, the first woman to serve as a member of the court in its

150-year history.

Justice Neuman retired from the Supreme Court in 2003. She returned to private practice where she has focused on mediation and arbitration. She also joined the adjunct faculty of the University of Iowa Law School where she taught courses on Professional Ethics, Appellate Court Practice and Procedure, and designed and taught a course for law students serving as judicial interns in the state and federal courts.

Throughout her career Neuman has devoted herself to professional and civic organizations, both in her community and nationally. She has represented Iowa as a director of the National Association of Women Judges, the Judicial Division of the American Bar Association, and the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws. In 2014 she received a President's Award for her service to the Iowa State Bar Association. Closer to home she has served on many boards, including the Quad-Cities United Way, The Edgerton Maternal Health Center, Marriage and Family Counseling Service and, for 15 years, as a trustee of St. Ambrose University. She is currently a director on the boards of the Community Foundation of the Great River Bend, Quad-City Bank and Trust, and QCR Holdings. She serves, pro bono, as counsel to the Episcopal Diocese of Iowa, has held many leadership positions in her church, and volunteers as a reader for the blind on APRIS, the Augustana Public Radio Information Service.

## 2015 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Marsha K. Ternus

*"I have had the privilege of knowing Marsha Ternus since our high school days in Vinton, where she showed early signs of intellectual curiosity and ethical integrity. Over the years, I have seen Marsha break many barriers to women in the field of law. She was the first woman to become partner in her firm, she was the first woman to become president of the Polk County Bar Association, she was the first woman to become Chief Justice of the Iowa Supreme Court."*

--Sally Pederson, former Lt. Governor of Iowa



Marsha Ternus is a native of Iowa, growing up on a farm in northern Benton County. She graduated from Washington High School in Vinton, and received her bachelor's degree with honors and high distinction, Phi Beta Kappa, from the University of Iowa in 1972. She earned her law degree with honors, Order of the Coif, from Drake University Law School in 1977. While at Drake, Ms. Ternus served as editor-in-chief of the Drake Law Review. She has received honorary degrees from Iowa Wesleyan College (2005), Simpson College (2010), Coe College (2011) and Drake University (2015). She is admitted to practice law in the State of Iowa (1977) and the State of Arizona (1984, inactive status).

After law school, Ms. Ternus worked for sixteen years in the private practice of law in Des Moines, with a primary emphasis on civil litigation and insurance law. Ms. Ternus was appointed to the Iowa Supreme Court in 1993 by Governor Terry Branstad. The members of the court selected her as Chief Justice in 2006, the first woman to serve in that role. Her court service ended on December 31, 2010. During her seventeen years on the supreme court, Ms. Ternus worked on a number of court initiatives and other efforts to improve the administration of justice, including improving access to the courts and improving the courts oversight of cases involving abused and neglected children. In May of 2012, Ms. Ternus and two of her former colleagues on the court received the 2012 John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award. Ms. Ternus currently practices law in Des Moines, lectures and teaches nationally and internationally on various subjects, including judicial independence, and serves as the Director of The Harkin Institute for Public Policy and Citizen Engagement at Drake University.

2016

## 2016 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Grace Obata Amemiya

*“All of this may sound ‘ordinary.’ But the way Grace went about it – in fact, the way she goes about her whole life – is extraordinary. Grace would tell you that she is really ordinary, and that is about the only untrue thing she would ever say. Grace has taken what life has given her – whether confinement in a camp during World War II or caring for a son with profound disabilities – and used it to educate and make life better for the people around her.”*

--Written by Michael Davis, PhD, in a letter of support



Grace Obata Amemiya was born on October 26, 1920, in Vacaville, California, the youngest of six children born to Japanese immigrants. At ten years old, her father died and Grace decided to dedicate her life to service by becoming a nurse. On December 7, 1941, as a 21 year old nursing student at the University of California, School of Nursing in San Francisco, she heard radio news that the Japanese had bombed Pearl Harbor. Within hours Japanese citizens were being picked up, investigated, and told not to travel more than five miles from their home. Two months later President Franklin Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 that authorized the incarceration of more than 120,000

Japanese/Japanese Americans. Grace's family was hurried off to Turlock assembly center, then on to Gila, Arizona, where one of the country's ten internment camps was located. They were given only a few days to dispose of their homes, businesses, pets, and possessions. While Grace was in Gila, she used the nursing skills she had learned in nursing school. She was desperately needed for this service since even persons who had been in nursing homes and hospitals were taken away to internment camps.

Grace was determined to complete her education when internment ended, and she wrote to nursing schools around the country. Many of them told her they didn't need any more of "her kind" in their school and she was rejected. Finally she was accepted at St Mary's School of Nursing in Rochester, Minnesota. She spent her final six months of nurses training as a senior cadet nurse in the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps, working at Schick General Army Hospital at Clinton, Iowa.

Throughout her life, Grace has made two great commitments based on her experiences in the internment camp, and with a disabled son. She has volunteered at Woodward Resource Center, the YWCA and the Special Olympics for many years, and has committed to sharing her story of internment with all who are not aware of this injustice. At the age of 95, she continues to tell this story of grace, forgiveness, and service through hundreds of speeches across the state of Iowa and beyond.

## 2016 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Angela Connolly

*“Angela is known as someone who gets things done. She is feisty, fearless, and tenacious. But she is also in equal measure, thoughtful, compassionate, and patient. Those powerful traits have helped Angela weather tremendous challenges and actualize her goal of making Iowa a better place.”*

--Written by Henny Ohr, nominator



Angela Connolly is a native Iowan, born to second-generation Italian immigrants. Her parents owned a small Italian restaurant, which was like a second home for Angela and her three brothers. The restaurant is where Angela learned the value of hard work. She attended Kansas University after high school to study liberal arts. She returned to Iowa to marry her husband Tom in 1974 and together they have three children and four grandchildren.

Angela began her career in the Polk County Public Works Department as a Zoning Enforcement Officer where she was a dedicated employee for nearly 20 years. She was first elected as a Polk County Supervisor in 1998. Angela is one of three female Supervisors to be elected to the Polk County Board of Supervisors in more than 150 years. She represents the 2nd District which includes the northwestern area of the City of Des Moines, a portion of unincorporated Polk County, and the suburb of West Des Moines.

Community engagement has always been a priority for Angela and she enjoys participating regularly in neighborhood organizations and civic activities. Angela currently serves as Co-Chair of The Tomorrow Plan and Tri-Chair for Capital Crossroads: A Vision for Greater Des Moines and Central Iowa and is the Chair of Rebuilding Together. In addition, she represents the Board of Supervisors on the following boards: Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority – DART, Greater Des Moines Convention and Visitors Bureau, Polk County Health Services, Riverfront Development Authority, Des Moines Arts Board, Polk County Housing Trust Fund, and the Homeless Coordinating Council.

Angela has played a leadership role in many significant far-reaching efforts that have improved life for Polk County residents and strengthened the communities and economy of Central Iowa. For example, she is an advocate for our most vulnerable citizens facing mental illness and is a leader in enhancing crisis services in our community, such as the Crisis Observation Center which opened in 2014; she championed a referendum to update three downtown courthouse facilities which will centralize court services and enhance safety; she was one of the strongest supporters for the construction of Wells Fargo Arena at the Iowa Events Center, which has been a key driver in the revitalization of downtown Des Moines; she championed a centralized intake system for over 20 homeless outreach providers; she encourages regional collaboration for increasing affordable housing; she advocates for Polk County Crisis and Advocacy Services for victims of crime, the majority of whom are women; and she leads efforts to increase linguistic and culturally appropriate basic human services for refugee families.

## 2016 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Dr. Michele Devlin

*"I have had the deepest pleasure of knowing and working with my nominee, Dr. Michele Devlin, for the past 20 years in Iowa. It is important to remember that 80% of the poor in Iowa, the United States, and around the world are women and children. In Iowa, female minorities and immigrants are disproportionately represented among these poor families. Dr. Devlin has devoted her career and private life in Iowa to promoting the wellbeing of these at-risk minority women and their families. I am not exaggerating when I say that there is no other professional I know that has contributed more to addressing the health needs of these populations than Dr. Devlin...she is a true agent of change and advocate for the public health needs of women."*

-- Written by Dr. Mark Grey, nominator



Dr. Michele Devlin is Professor of Global Public Health and Chair of the Division of Health Promotion and Education at the University of Northern Iowa. She is also Director of the Iowa Center on Health Disparities, a model organization established by the National Institutes of Health to improve health equity for underserved populations. Dr. Devlin completed her doctorate degree in international public health at the University of California at Los Angeles. Her primary areas of specialty include cross-cultural emergency and disaster response with refugee and minority populations, with a particular focus on women and children. She has published nearly 100 articles, reports, and books including "Health Matters: A Guide to Working with Diverse and Underserved Populations" and "Postville USA: Surviving Diversity in Small-Town America."

In addition to her academic expertise, Dr. Devlin has more than 30 years of field experience working with public safety, law enforcement, public health agencies, non-profits, and disaster relief organizations around the world that serve women and at-risk populations in multicultural communities. Dr. Devlin is the Cultural Awareness Trainer for the Iowa Department of Public Safety and the Iowa Law Enforcement Academies. She is an International Disaster Relief team member with the American Red Cross, and has served in Haiti and the Philippines. She has led and/or participated in multiple medical missions around the world in Latin America, Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. Dr. Devlin is a licensed Emergency Medical Responder, and member of the Star One Search and Rescue Team in Iowa; the Iowa Disaster Medical Assistance Team; Disaster Mortuary Operational Team; multiple FEMA Community Emergency Response Teams; and the Medical Reserve Corps. She has provided training and technical assistance on human rights topics and cultural terrain issues to thousands of law enforcement, public safety, search and rescue, disaster response, public health, and emergency management professionals at the federal, state, and local level. Dr. Devlin is the recipient of the One Iowa Award, Richard Remington Award, the Iowa Civil Rights Award, and other local, state, and national honors for outstanding teaching, scholarship, and service. She has extensive travel experience in over 50 nations around the world, and also served with the U.S. Army Corps of Civilians in Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom.



## 2016 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Viola Gibson

*“[Viola] Gibson changed the Cedar Rapids community by promoting human rights and fostering peace. One summer day in 1942 Viola’s nephew was denied entry to the Ellis Park pool due to his race. Gibson protested the fact that her nephew was unable to enter the pool. On June 17, 1942, Gibson started the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. After Gibson’s successful protest, the rules were changed to allow African Americans entrance to the pool.”*

--Written by Stephanie Wenclawski, daughter of nominator



Mrs. Viola Gibson was born in Bethel Springs, Tennessee on September 6, 1905 and was one of five children. Her Father was a minister and farmer and her mother a school teacher. After her mother’s death, at the age of nine, the family moved to Cedar Rapids, Iowa. In Cedar Rapids, Viola left school when she was 14 to work to help support the family, later returning to complete high school several years later. After graduation, Viola got married, became the mother of six children, and pursued a nursing degree to become a practical nurse and a Red Cross Home Nursing Instructor. Viola also studied at the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, Illinois and was ordained as a minister in 1954 by the board of the Christ Sanctified Holiness Church. Viola later became the Pastor and served in this capacity for more than twenty years, where she

served the Cedar Rapids community in numerous roles.

Viola Gibson’s faith and her lifelong work in the Church gave purpose and determination to the numerous civic and community activities in which she became a part. This community involvement, spanning more than seventy years, made her a true champion in the area of human and civil rights for all.

Her many accomplishments include founding the Cedar Rapids Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in 1942; setting up the first adult evening classes on Black History within the State of Iowa; advocating and pushing for the teaching of African American History in the Cedar Rapids community schools; serving on numerous Cedar Rapids Mayor’s committees for the Oak Hill – Jackson area; serving as a member of the Cedar Rapids-Marion Council on Human Relations since its inception in 1961; and serving as a member of the Jane Boyd Community House Board of Directors; among other community service roles. She was also the recipient of numerous civic awards and honors including Outstanding Citizen of Iowa (by the U.S. and Cedar Rapids Jaycees), Churchman of the year (by the Cedar Rapids-Marion Area Council of Churches), Outstanding Older Iowan (by the Governor’s Conference on Aging), and Outstanding Black Woman (by the Black Women’s Civic Organization), among other honors. In 1970, the Viola Gibson Park was dedicated to her namesake, and in 2002, the Cedar Rapids Community School District opened the Viola Gibson School in her honor.



2017

## 2017 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Jane Boyd (1869 - 1932)

*“Over the course of her work, Jane Boyd expanded the role of women as instigators of social change, out of the home and into the community. She empowered women of diverse cultures and socio-economic status to step up and out of the home to engender social, political and financial change.”*

--Written by nominator Dorothy S. Gordon from Cedar Rapids, Iowa in her nomination of Jane Boyd



*Photograph republished with permission ©2017 The Gazette, Cedar Rapids, Iowa*

Jane Boyd (1869-1932) was born and raised in Tipton, Iowa. She became certified as a teacher, taught grade school in Iowa and Minnesota. In 1894, she moved to Cedar Rapids, where she worked as an educator and social worker for nearly 40 years until her death in 1932. In the late 1800s, Cedar Rapids was a manufacturing center, with a financial and social chasm between the factory owners and the immigrant families who worked there. Jane was inspired to serve those with the highest need, effecting social changes and community based services that would endure to the present day.

Jane started by supporting the installation of ventilation doors to Tyler School in Cedar Rapids, which was attended by the children of immigrant families. The school had no sewer or ventilation and was an unhealthy, unsanitary environment. The plight of the many immigrant children, brought Jane Boyd into the sphere of social work, as she reached out to hundreds of children and families to help provide necessities such as food and medical attention. There was also a need for cultural and social community support and education, as up to 22 different immigrant cultures were represented in the Oak Hill area of Cedar Rapids and the Tyler School at this time, including freed slaves coming north after the civil war.

In 1918, Jane moved from teaching to devoting her time to social work. Her efforts gathered many diverse families together in a community ministry. Part of the First Christian Church, she was also on the Board of the Missionary Society, the general board, taught Sunday school, and became a deaconess.

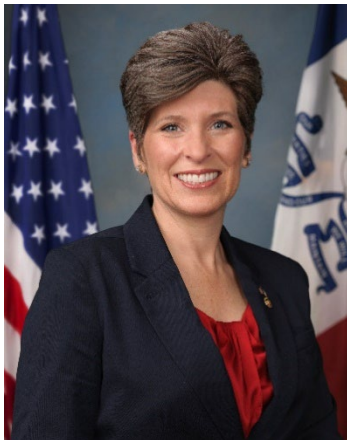
From 1918 to 1929, Jane worked as a social worker at Tyler School. She provided hands-on care to the sick children and drew community support for needed medical care and services. She paved the way for the Perkins Law and basic health care through the University of Iowa. In 1921, she founded the Community House in Oak Hill (now Wellington Heights). In 1924, a board was assembled to run the House and this community organization, now the Jane Boyd Organization, has carried on serving thousands of diverse families: women, children, and

individuals to improve their quality of life and that of their families, through community services and education.

## **2017 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: U.S. Senator Joni K. Ernst**

*“In an era when women in the military are being given the same advantages and opportunities, including combat positions, Senator Ernst led the way...in each of her elected positions, Senator Ernst has been a leader. She has not been afraid to enter an unfriendly room of citizens. She has always conducted her discussions with respect for her opponents, her critics and her constituents.”*

--Written by nominator Mary Whisenand from Des Moines, Iowa in her nomination of U.S. Senator Ernst



U.S. Senator Joni Kay Ernst is not only a military veteran, she is the first female combat veteran to serve in the U.S. Senate. Born in Red Oak, Iowa, she graduated as valedictorian at Stanton High School and went on to earn her undergraduate degree at Iowa State University. While earning her degree, she joined the R.O.T.C. and upon graduation embarked in a 23-year career with the U.S. Army Reserves and the Iowa National Guard where she retired with the rank of Lt. Colonel. During her tenure with the Iowa National Guard, she led convoy missions from Kuwait into Iraq as the company commander of the 1168th Transportation Company.

In civilian life, Senator Ernst served as the Montgomery County Auditor, elected in 2004. In 2011, Senator Ernst ran and was elected in a special election to the seat vacated by Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds. She went on to win re-election to the seat in 2012 and then, in 2013, she announced her intent to run for the seat being vacated by Senator Tom Harkin, later winning that seat.

After being elected to the U.S. Senate, Senator Ernst resigned from the Iowa National Guard to focus on her new duty assignments. She currently sits on the U.S. Senate committees for Armed Services, Environment and Public Works, Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, and Small Business and Entrepreneurship. As a freshman Senator, with only days in office, she was chosen to deliver the Republican response to President Barack Obama's State of the Union address and was a featured speaker at the 2016 Republican National Convention.

In her private life, she is married to Gail Ernst, a retired U.S. Army Ranger. They have one daughter, Libby. She continues to be an active community member in her local church, the Montgomery County Republican Party, a lifetime member of the National Rifle Association, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2265. She is also a member of the Montgomery County Farm Bureau.



## 2017 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Christine Hensley

*“Her professional life was successful long before it was common to see women in leadership roles in the business community and therefore she was a role model to many young women just entering the business world. She set a beautiful example of integrity, hard work and success.”*

--Written by Connie Wimer of Des Moines in a letter of support



Christine Hensley was elected to the Des Moines City Council in January 1994 and serves Ward III (downtown, west and southwest areas) of Des Moines. She is serving her sixth-term, and will have served 24 years at the end of this term. She is the longest-serving member and has participated in the most significant renovation of the downtown area in the history of the city. She has played a role in the development of \$2.5 billion in projects.

Councilwoman Hensley has been active on numerous boards, serving as president of the Iowa Student Loan board, the Neighborhood Finance Corporation, Bravo Greater Des Moines, the Des Moines Symphony, the Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority (DART), the Iowa League of Cities (inducted into the Iowa League of Cities Hall of Fame), the YWCA and Rebuilding Together. She has also served on the boards of the Polk County Housing Trust Fund, the Greater Des Moines Partnership, the Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation, Midwest Housing Equity Group, Junior Achievement, the Des Moines Art Center, the Iowa Bankers Association, Lutheran Hospital, the Des Moines Social Club, the Metropolitan Planning Organization and the Des Moines Civic Center.

In her professional career, Councilwoman Hensley retired in 2012 from Bank of the West as the Regional Community and Government Affairs Officer covering Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin. Previously, she was the Executive Director of the YWCA of Greater Des Moines, Regional Recruitment/Personnel Director at Deloitte and Touche and worked at the Des Moines company Coopers and Lybrand.

Councilwoman Hensley was born on August 12, 1949 and raised in Des Moines. She attended St. Joseph's Academy and Drake University.

## 2017 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Governor Kimberly K. Reynolds

*“She has proven over and over again that she has the tenacity, the perseverance, the heart and the dedication to the State of Iowa and to her family to show women and girls that anything is possible with hard work.”*

--Written by Gloria Mazza of Clive, Iowa in her nomination of Governor Kim Reynolds



Kim Reynolds is a fifth generation Iowan, born and raised in St. Charles. It's a small town, but it had a big impact on her life. Growing up in St. Charles, she learned the importance of community, love of country, discipline, fiscal responsibility and penny pinching. All of these attributes have played a positive role throughout her 23 years of leadership in public service.

During high school, Kim met her future husband (Kevin Reynolds). Kim and Kevin later married on April 3, 1982. In the years ahead, the couple welcomed three daughters (Jennifer, Nicole and Jessica), their spouses and nine grandchildren to the family. Her parents (Charles and Audrey Strawn) also taught Kim that with hard work, high expectations and a passion for what you do, anything is possible. That drive to make a difference is what drives her today.

Kim didn't set out to become a politician or elected official. But, when the Clarke County Treasurer decided to retire in 1994, she saw an opportunity to take her ideas and turn them into action. Kim was elected County Treasurer and served 14 years. Then, she was elected as a State Senator and later Lieutenant Governor. While serving as Lt. Governor, Kim went back to school. At age 57, she finally earned her college degree from Iowa State University. It had been a life-long, personal goal.

As Iowa's lieutenant governor, she led international trade missions to China, Germany, Brazil, South Korea, Vietnam, the Philippines and Thailand. Kim helped attract more than \$14 billion in private investment to the state. She also led many important state initiatives including: Iowa Partnership for Economic Progress; Future Ready Iowa Alliance; Governor's STEM Advisory Council; and the Iowa Energy Plan.

On May 24, 2017, Kim became the Iowa's 43rd governor and the first woman to hold this position. As Governor, Kim is focused on building a better Iowa through four key priorities: creating a competitive business environment; developing the most innovative energy policy in the country; educating our children for the knowledge economy; and training Iowans for the jobs of tomorrow.

Kim is a member of the National Governors Association's Executive Committee. She also serves as Honorary Chair of the EPIC Corporate Challenge and national Honorary Chair of Million Women Mentors. Kim remains a passionate advocate for women in leadership and Iowans of all ages.

2018

## 2018 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Dianne G. Bystrom, PhD

*“Dianne’s willingness to share her knowledge, give her time, and to help promote an engaged, informed public leads to justice, fairness, and equal opportunity for women. The dedication and actions that Dianne lives and breathes daily improve our local and national political arena and provide guidance to hundreds of women seeking their rightful place in the American political landscape.”*

--Written by Dr. Deborah Ann Turner, Omaha, NE in a letter of support



Dr. Dianne Bystrom served as the director of the Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics at Iowa State University since 1996 and will retire in August 2018. She established Iowa State’s interdisciplinary undergraduate Leadership Studies Program; taught courses on leadership, women and politics, and political campaigns; and speaks frequently to university and community organizations throughout the state and nation on women’s leadership and political status.

A frequent commentator about political and women’s issues for state, national and international media, her research interests have focused on (1) the styles and strategies used by female and male political candidates in their television advertising, websites and social media and (2) the coverage of women candidates and political leaders by the media.

Bystrom is a contributor, co-author or co-editor of 25 books – including “An Unprecedented Election: Media, Communication and the Electorate in the 2016 Campaign” (2018); “Gender and Elections: Shaping the Future of American Politics” (2018, 2014, 2009 and 2006); “The Handbook of Political Advertising” (2017); “Media Disparity: A Gender Battleground” (2013); “Women & Executive Office: Pathways and Performance” (2013); “Cracking the Highest Glass Ceiling: A Global Comparison of Women’s Campaigns for Executive Office” (2010); “Legislative Women: Getting Elected, Getting Ahead” (2008); “Gender and Candidate Communication” (2004); and “Anticipating Madam President” (2003) – and has written journal articles on women and politics, youth voters and the Iowa caucus.

Her work at Iowa State was recognized with the 2016 Martin Luther King Jr. Advancing One Community Faculty/Staff Award, the 2015 Faculty/Staff Inspiration Award from the Alumni Association, and the 2014 Institutional Service Award from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. She was the first recipient of the Iowa Network for Women in Higher Education’s Distinguished Higher Education Leadership Award in April 2016. In August

2017, Bystrom was honored as one of seven Women of Influence by the Des Moines Business Record.

Before joining Iowa State, Bystrom worked for 17 years at the University of Oklahoma in public relations, higher education administration and political communication. She earned a B.A. in journalism in 1975 from Kearney (NE) State College and an M.A. in journalism and mass communication in 1982 and a Ph.D. in communication in 1995 from the University of Oklahoma.

After retirement, Bystrom will reside with her husband, Keith, at their lake house south of Plattsmouth, NE. She plans to continue her research on women and politics and work on some consulting projects. The Bystroms have two children, Chris, an entrepreneur in New York City, and Beth, a veterinarian in Avon Lake, OH.

An interview with Dianne Bystrom, PhD:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=DkEy073Mjlk>



## 2018 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Ruth R. Harkin, J.D.

*“Ruth has been an outstanding leader and a trailblazing female role model for many of us. Ruth led investment mission trips to places where host delegations were not exactly accustomed to engaging in international finance, law, and diplomacy with a woman as head of delegation.”*

-- Written by Judyth Gilbert, Bethesda, MD in a letter of support



Ruth R. Harkin was born on August 27, 1944 in Vesta Minnesota into a family who believed in women having their own careers. Growing up Ruth learned that "everything is possible." Her life has proved that claim.

Ruth graduated from the University of Minnesota and Catholic University Law School and then dedicated her career to one of public and private service. She was County Attorney for Story County, Iowa from 1973 to 1979 and the first woman to be elected Story County prosecutor. From 1979 to 1981 she became the first female to serve as the Deputy General Counsel at the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington D.C. While in Washington, D.C., Ruth also worked for the Akin Gump Strauss Hauer and

Feld law firm working with U.S. companies.

In 1993 President Bill Clinton chose Ruth Harkin to be President of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, becoming the first female President and CEO in its history. OPIC is a government agency that encourages mutually beneficial American private investment in developing countries and newly emerging free market economies. Under her leadership OPIC increased its activity to the highest levels in the agency's history. She also served as the first female Senior Vice President at United Technologies; the first woman on the Board of Directors of Conoco Petroleum Company; and was the first woman on the Board of Directors of Bowater Company.

In 2013, Ms. Harkin led the effort to establish the Harkin Institute for Public Policy and Citizen Engagement at Drake University, helping to convene a bipartisan national advisory board and raising private funds for its educational mission. Throughout her life, she has encouraged, inspired, hired and promoted women and sought equal rights and opportunities for women in both her professional and personal fields of influence.

She is the wife of former U.S. Senator Tom Harkin. Ruth and Tom have two daughters Amy and Jenny, and three grandchildren.



## 2018 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Jean Y. Jew, MD

*“Although the individuals and facts of the cases are different, it has always been clear to many of us, that while the United States had Anita Hill, the state of Iowa had Jean Y. Jew. Jean Jew modeled incredible courage and personal perseverance in the face of inequity and injustice. She has actively served as a mentor to others who desire to raise their voices, and she has provided both an inspiration and a map for girls and women who seek legal redress.”*

-- Written by Susan Buckley, Iowa City, in a letter of support



Born in Greenwood, Mississippi on October 7, 1948, Dr. Jean Jew obtained her Bachelors of Science in Biology from Newcomb College at Tulane University and earned her M.D. from the Tulane University School of Medicine. Dr. Jew moved to Iowa City to serve as a post-graduate associate when she was 24 years old in the College of Medicine at the University of Iowa, later becoming a tenured professor.

During her tenure in the University of Iowa's College of Medicine, she carried out research focusing on the brain and autonomic nervous system. She taught human anatomy, neuroscience, and neurology to medical, physical therapy, dental, graduate and other health professional students and medical residents. She also

chaired and served on numerous College, University and national committees related to education, research, administration, diversity and faculty governance.

In addition to her accomplishments as a professor and researcher, Dr. Jean Jew set a precedent for girls and women in the state of Iowa to obtain fair treatment and to defend themselves against sexual and racial harassment. After a decade-long legal battle in the Federal court system against the University of Iowa and the Board of Regents starting in the 1980s, Dr. Jew faced great personal and professional consequences. But in the face of adversity, she did not give up until she won. This federal case marked a major victory not only for Dr. Jew, but for other women throughout Iowa and the United States at a time when workplace harassment was not only commonplace and accepted, but the laws on sexual harassment were virtually unwritten.

At the same time that she was enduring ongoing harassment and the subsequent legal battle, Dr. Jew also carried out extensive research, taught classes, and served as a leader for gender equity. She was a founding member of the Iowa Women's Foundation (where she remains an active member), and she served on numerous committees that provided service to both the University and women everywhere. Her tireless work and many achievements were recognized in 1992, when the Council on the Status of Women at the University of Iowa and the Women's Resource and Action Center created the Jean Y. Jew Human Rights Award to honor those who commit themselves to the selfless work that Dr. Jew herself has. This work will not be forgotten, as she will always

serve as a role-model for women, girls, and everyone else who wishes to see justice prevail.

Dr. Jew retired from the University of Iowa in 2010 and is now an Emeritus Professor at the University.

## 2018 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Peggy A. Whitson, PhD

*“Peggy is a record breaker. Over the course of her career, she has spent 665 days in space: more time than any other woman in the world, and more time than any American in space, man or woman. She has taken ten spacewalks, holding the record for spacewalks taken by a woman. No longer must young women and girls wonder if there is a place for them in STEM fields or professions like that of an astronaut. Peggy is living proof that women can have brilliant success in whatever profession they choose.”*

-- Written by Governor Kimberly K. Reynolds, in a letter of support



Peggy A. Whitson (Ph.D.) was born February 9, 1960 in Mt. Ayr, Iowa and on the family farm near Beaconsfield. She graduated from Mt. Ayr Community High School in 1978 and then went on to receive a Bachelor of Science in Biology/Chemistry from Iowa Wesleyan College in 1981 and a Doctorate in Biochemistry from Rice University in 1985. Following her work at Rice University, she began her scientific career at NASA Johnson Space Center (JSC), Houston, Texas, as a National Research Council Resident Research Associate. From there, she went on to serve as the Supervisor for the Biochemistry Research Group at KRUG International, Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine and Department of Human Biological Chemistry and Genetics at University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, Texas,

Adjunct Assistant Professor at Rice University in the Maybee Laboratory for Biochemical and Genetic Engineering, Research Biochemist in the Biomedical Operations and Research Branch at NASA's Johnson Space Center, Technical Monitor of the Biochemistry Research Laboratories in the Biomedical Operations and Research Branch, and Deputy Division Chief of the Medical Sciences Division at Johnson Space Center.

In April 1996, she was selected as an Astronaut Candidate and started training in August 1996. Upon completing two years of training and evaluation, she was assigned technical duties in the Astronaut Office Operations Planning Branch and served as the lead for the Crew Test Support Team in Russia from 1998 to 1999.

In 2002, with Dr. Whitson aboard, the Expedition 5 crew launched aboard the Shuttle STS 111 and docked with the International Space Station. She was named the first NASA Science Officer during her stay and conducted 21 investigations in human life sciences and microgravity sciences as well as commercial payloads. She performed 1 spacewalk in the Russian Orlon space suit. Completing her first flight, Dr. Whitson logged 184 days in space.

During Whitson's second six-month tour of duty aboard the International Space Station, Expedition 16, she served as the first female Commander in 2007-2008. Whitson has also performed a five space walks, with a career total of 39 hours and 46 minutes.

From October 2009 to July 2012, Whitson served as Chief of the Astronaut Corps and was responsible for the mission preparation activities and on-orbit support of all International Space Station crews and their support personnel. She was also responsible for organizing the crew interface support for future heavy launch and commercially-provided transport vehicles. Whitson was the first female, nonmilitary Chief of the Astronaut Office.

Whitson's third long duration mission launched on November 17, 2016. Originally planned for 6 months in duration, the mission was extended, and she returned to Earth on September 3, 2017. During the mission she contributed to hundreds of experiments in biology, biotechnology, physical science and Earth science, welcomed several cargo spacecraft delivering tons of supplies and research experiments, and conducted an additional four spacewalks for maintenance and upgrades to the station. Whitson participated in four spacewalks, bringing her career total to ten, more than any other woman in the world. With a total of 665 days in space, Whitson holds the U.S. record (male and female), placing eighth on the all-time space endurance list.

Dr. Whitson is married to Clarence F. Sams, Ph.D.

**An interview with Peggy A. Whitson, PhD:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=X2votGwY3zE>

2019

## 2019 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: The Honorable Ruth B. Klotz

*“In a time when men dominated the legal field, she became the first probate judge in the State of Iowa in 1978. To have such a role model and mentor opened many women to the possibility of law and the judiciary as an intended profession. However, it was more than just her unique status as a female judge which made her stand out among her peers. It was her dedication, her mental acuity, and warm disposition which was admired. Further, she actively mentored interns and law clerks to encourage the next generation of lawyers and judges.”*

--Written by nominator Celene Gogerty



Born November 10, 1922, in Mason City, Iowa, Ruth Klotz grew up in her grandparent's home while her mother and grandfather worked to support the family. At the age of 17, she graduated high school in her hometown of Iowa Falls and then worked her way through Ellsworth Junior College. In 1942, she moved to Des Moines and, as she later put it, “started working.” She worked several clerical jobs including serving as the secretary for American Institute of Business (AIB) President E.O. Fenton and for the state of Iowa. In 1952, she was admitted to Drake Law School while she continued to work part time. She graduated from Drake Law School in 1955 as the only female graduate that year. Just prior to graduation, she was suddenly widowed while eight months pregnant, but she still managed to graduate on time and at the top of her class. While in law school, she was elected to the Order of the Coif and was the Assistant Editor for the Drake Law Review.

Judge Klotz served as Special Counsel to the Iowa Department of Revenue, worked in private practice, and as a trust officer and assistant vice president to a large local bank. In 1978, she was appointed as probate referee for the Fifth Judicial District, and eventually became associate judge for probate. Throughout her 34 years on the bench, she sponsored judicial interns and was an instructor at Drake Law School.

An active participant since 1955 in the Des Moines chapter of Soroptimist International, a service club for women, she served as president of Soroptimist of the Americas from 1974 to 1976. As president during the International Women's Year, she initiated the Women Helping Women program which has since grown to become the mission of the group as an organization dedicated to improving the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment.

She was named Drake Law School's Alumna of the year in 1999 and received a Recognition of Lifetime of Service award from the Polk County Bar Association that

same year. She was given the Women of Distinction Award from Soroptimist International in 2000. In 2004, she was given a Commendation of Distinguished Service from the Iowa Supreme Court and the Arabella Mansfield Award from the Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys. She was the recipient of the Willie Glanton Award from the Polk County Women Attorneys in 2013.

In 2013, she retired from the bench at the age of 90. She is active in her church, serving as the treasurer for the Plymouth Church Foundation for over 30 years. She continues to be an active member of Soroptimist International.

<https://youtu.be/x32kK1IrtQ8>

## 2019 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Mona Kadel Martin

*"I believe the ideals my mother espoused for me and my role as a woman in the world reflects how she lives life and how she strives to improve the world for women as a whole. As an educator, a community leader and an involved citizen, she sets the bar high for what a woman can do."*

-- Written by her daughter Beth Martin in a letter of support.



Mona Lea Kadel Martin was born on October 22, 1934, in Taylor Ridge, Illinois, and has been a resident of Davenport, Iowa, since 1959. She received a B.S. in 1956 from Western Illinois State College in Macomb, Illinois, and did graduate work at both Iowa State University and the University of Iowa.

In her personal life, Mona became a feminist in 1956 when she was fired while working as a reporter for the Rock Island Argus in Rock Island, Illinois. When Mona told the newspaper editor that she was expecting a baby, he fired her saying, "The City Room is no place for a pregnant woman." She spent the rest of her career advocating and working on behalf of women who faced similar challenges.

Throughout her life, Mona's career has encompassed work as a newspaper reporter, biology/earth science teacher, community leader, and state legislator, serving in the Iowa House of Representatives from 1993 to 2001. Mona has also served as president of the League of Women Voters of Iowa and on numerous national advisory panels for the League of Women Voters U.S. Mona was named to leadership roles in the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) where she chaired the 198-member Committee on Children, Families and Health, and represented NCSL at national forums and at several conclaves in Germany. From 1986 to 1990, Mona served as President of the Iowa Chapter, United Nations Association of the United States of America (UNA-USA). She was appointed to the U.S. Department of Energy's Consumer Affairs Advisory Committee which she chaired from 1979 - 1981.

As a state legislator, Mona went against insurance companies in 1996 when she pushed the "Maternity Stay" bill through the legislature, securing the Governor's signature. The law improved the lives of women and newborns by stopping "drive-by deliveries." Mona was lauded by colleagues from across the nation for leadership in orchestrating this change, which became a model for the national law. Beginning in 1997, Mona pushed through reforms aimed at safeguarding Iowa's older citizens from abuse and neglect in nursing homes. The final reform was her foresighted bill consolidating the state's six criminal and abuse registries into a single database, an achievement which garnered the State of Iowa the Smithsonian National Museum's prestigious Laureate Award for Technology Innovation in 2000. As a legislator, Mona

also scuttled a movement to sunset the Iowa Department of Human Rights and the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women in 1997 when a male legislator disliked the Department because “there was no Commission on the Status of Men.” Mona sponsored and floor-managed the Equal Rights Amendment to Iowa’s Constitution and was instrumental in the amendment’s passage in 1998. In 2000, Mona was the chief House sponsor and floor manager of the “Pill Bill,” a measure requiring insurance companies to provide coverage for prescription contraceptive drugs, devices and services.

In all of her endeavors, Mona has touched people’s lives – motivating, inspiring, advocating and striving to make her community, the state of Iowa and the nation a better place.



## 2019 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Lone Genevieve Shadduck, PhD

*"To meet Lone is to know you have met a woman who has passion in every cell of her body for every woman and girl to be able to reach their potential and to live a life feeling safe and supported for their gifts and goals in life."*

--Written by Dianne Fagner, nominator



Lone Genevieve Shadduck was born on October 28, 1923, in Mattoon, Wisconsin, and has four older half siblings. She grew up on an 80-acre farm attending a one-room school (a two-mile walk) that had grades 1-8. In her first job at an electric company, she experienced her first discrimination as a woman when she requested equal pay and was refused. She quit and became a "Rosie the Riveter" as a tester of steel drums. When World War II ended, so did that job. Being bored with secretarial work, she wanted to serve her country, so she joined the Women's Army Corps in May 1949 and served during the Korean conflict. Under the GI Bill, Lone pursued her BS degree at the University of Wisconsin, majoring in Physical Education. This was the beginning of her advocacy efforts of fighting for women athletes

to be able to compete in sports, travel to other colleges, mix their teams, and just have fun under the "Women's Recreational Association" program. After a few years of teaching, she decided to pursue her master's degree and then her PhD at Michigan State University. Ever mindful of the imbalance of opportunities, she noted that the best assistantships went to male students.

As Lone was completing her PhD, she was recruited by Drake University to head the Women's Physical Education Program. She soon encountered the tradition of the girls' basketball program in Iowa, which was celebrated by sold-out crowds in Vets Auditorium. As Iowa and Oklahoma were the only states that still played six-player (half court) basketball, Lone knew that Iowa players would be at a disadvantage and did not have the necessary experience in the five-player game to compete for scholarships to play at the college level. She was one of the professionals that lobbied and advocated for the transition to five-player girls basketball in Iowa.

As structural changes were taking place at Drake related to her program, Lone worked with leaders to create a coordinated program for which she was trained and wanted to lead. This ended as another experience in which a male was then given the position. She decided to file a discrimination complaint against the university, redirected her focus and at the encouragement of a member of the law school staff, she enrolled in Drake Law School. The female law students in her class experienced resentment from male students who were fighting for the slots the women filled in the quota system. She passed the Iowa Bar exam the first time she took it in January 1977 and prepared to embark on a new career.

lone initiated the practice of hiring expert witnesses on economics to testify on the value of the economic contribution of a homemaker to a marriage in divorce cases. Eventually, others began to see the value of this type of testimony. During her years as an attorney, she appeared before the Iowa Supreme Court on a 1983 case that set the precedent on joint custody. Her argument for joint custody based on the need for the child to continue contact with the mother and father was in the "best interest of the child."

As more women became attorneys, lone decided they needed to organize, support women's role in law, and help promote women attorneys. She was a founding member of the Iowa Women Attorneys Association. Additionally as an attorney, she served for 12 years at the Iowa Civil Rights Commission. She was a member of the Governor's Committee to remove sexism from the Iowa Code. She also served many communities as Administrative Law Judge. lone represented Iowa in the National Women's Political Caucus prior to its first organizational meeting in Houston, Texas. She was a founding member of the Iowa Women's Political Caucus and was a leader in the Older Women's League. Her political efforts included a run for the Iowa legislature in 1980.

**To listen to an interview with lone Genevieve Shadduck, PhD  
visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kfauKVQk4JI>**

## 2019 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Florine Mary Schulte Swanson

*“Woven throughout these activities, 4-H and other rural programs have been a constant for Florine, from the local to the international levels. Whatever the program, she was a teacher, a coach, and organizer, facilitating the program so that others could participate and grow. When she was out of her home state, she was always, among her other endeavors, the proud Iowa Farmer, proclaiming the virtues of the great agricultural contributions from Iowa, and especially her beloved Iowa State University that have made a difference in the world.”*

--Written by Kathleen Wood Laurila, in a letter of support



Florine Mary Schulte Swanson was born on September 26, 1942, in Cedar Rapids and grew up on a farm outside of Norway, Iowa. Throughout her youth, Florine was very active in her local 4-H club and in various leadership capacities as a student at Iowa State University where Florine graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Home Economics Education in August 1964. She then married Ronald Swanson and found herself back on the farm in Wright County, Iowa, where they raised three sons.

Her professional career restarted when her children went to college. She started as a program assistant at Iowa State University with Women in Science and Engineering in 1986. In that position, she developed the prototype for the first “Taking the Road Less Traveled” career day for girls on the campus of Iowa State University. She also established the first data bank of professional women in science and engineering in Iowa. Her next career change took her back to her 4-H roots when she became Executive Director of the Iowa 4-H Foundation where she previously served as a trustee for eleven years. Her responsibilities included the coordination of a 40-member board. She was the director from 1987 to 2005. The organization went from being nearly bankrupt to an annual budget of nearly two million dollars and increased assets seven-fold. Her fundraising experience increased the database from a couple hundred individuals to over 25,000 individuals. This increased fund raising base allowed 4-H to continue offering camping and educational programs to young people in Iowa as well as awarding over \$100,000 in college scholarships annually to former 4-H’ers.

As a volunteer, she has been very active and committed to the American Association of University Women (AAUW). She joined her local branch over 50 years ago and served in many of the local elected offices, including three times as branch president. Her demonstrated leadership skills resulted in her serving on the Iowa board for 15 years which included being elected President of the Iowa board in 1984-86. She moved to the national level of AAUW as chair of the Research and Projects Committee. She continued her commitment to helping women by serving on the board of AAUW

Educational Foundation, as the Upper Midwest Regional Director, and on the AAUW Association board. Her fundraising skills were put to good use as she chaired two major national gift campaigns for AAUW, including the Founding Leader's Campaign and Breaking through Barriers Campaign.

Florine's international leadership roles include serving on the Board of Directors of the Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund (VGIF). In 2006, Florine was elected as the founding president of Graduate Women-USA, an affiliate of Graduate Women International (GWI). She promoted women through GWI as she participated in the Base Camp for Women in Developing Countries at the 1998 Conference in Austria and as a voting delegate to the Mexico conference in 2012. Her work in the U.S. has included serving at the U.N. Commission of the Status of Women Conference as a GWI delegate and giving a workshop on Women in Agriculture in 2012.

In 2010 Drexel University selected Florine as one of two women delegates from Iowa for Vision 2020. Each delegate was to select a project on equity for women. In collaboration with Phyllis Peters, former Chair of the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women, it was determined that the Friends of the Commission would fund a graduate student at the Carrie Chapman Catt Center at Iowa State University to create a base line on the number of counties and cities in Iowa who had gender equity in all key appointed boards and commissions. Since then the data has been gathered several times. After each update, Florine visited those county boards of supervisors (7) and city councils (over 30) that achieved the goal of gender equity. She presented certificates of recognition, press releases, and did radio and newspaper interviews to highlight these governments achieving gender equity. Her project was highlighted at the National Conference of Vision 2020 in Portland.

[https://youtu.be/2\\_QxDsAAryk](https://youtu.be/2_QxDsAAryk)

2020 and 2021

**2020 and 2021 Women's Hall of Fame Virtual Celebration**

**<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=574972713725262>**

## 2020 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Betty Jean Dillavou Durden



**Betty Jean Dillavou Durden** is one of the founders of the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women, a lifetime member of the American Association of University Women, community volunteer, World War II veteran of the WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service); author, mother, mentor and educator. Posthumous Award. (1923-2017)

In regards to health and safety during the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame recipients were celebrated virtually. You can watch the 2020 and 2021 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Virtual Celebration. \*Betty Jean Dillavou Durden's honors begin at 8:39.\* <https://youtu.be/2Je1iXilz9Q>

## 2020 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Ann Fry Jorgensen



**Ann Fry Jorgensen** is an agricultural trailblazer and pioneer; leader in business, government and higher education; over 50 years as an influential force for reshaping the lives of Iowa's women and girls; entrepreneur; author and public speaker; served two U.S. Presidential appointments and was Iowa's Outstanding Young Women (1976); Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame (1983); Iowa Master Farmer (2014) and Life Member of Farm Foundation (2016).

In regards to health and safety during the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame recipients were celebrated virtually. You can watch the 2020 and 2021 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Virtual Celebration. \*Ann Fry Jorgensen's honors begin at 12:12. <https://youtu.be/2Je1iXilz9Q>

## 2020 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Helen Miller



**Helen Naomi Miller (Fort Dodge/Des Moines, Iowa)** is a Former Iowa State Representative for the 9th House District representing the Fort Dodge area of Iowa. Helen Naomi Miller has dedicated over 30 years of leadership as an attorney, legislator, volunteer, arts educator, non-profit organizations' executive director and serves on the national board of Women in Government as a former Chair. An inspiration for all, Rep. Miller is noted for her leadership abilities to bring people together.

In regards to health and safety during the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame recipients were celebrated virtually. You can watch the 2020 and 2021 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Virtual Celebration. \*Helen Naomi Miller's honors begin at 16:06 time mark. <https://youtu.be/2Je1iXilz9Q>



## 2020 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Mary Elizabeth Young Bear



**Mary Elizabeth Young Bear (Tama, Iowa):** Born with the Meskwaki name of Bo na bi go, her contributions as an artist and art conservator, educator, cultural historian, civic leader and political activist, humanitarian, community leader and mentor inspire, empower, and motivate all those around her, especially young women and girls. Her pride is as a mother and grandmother with a family heritage of Iowa ancestry since the 1840s.

In regards to health and safety during the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame recipients were celebrated virtually. You can watch the 2020 and 2021 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Virtual Celebration. Mary Elizabeth Young Bear's

honors begin at the 20:26 time mark. <https://youtu.be/2Je1iXilz9Q>

2021

## 2021 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Cornelia Clarke



**Cornelia Clarke (Grinnell, IA)** offered her talents as a Nature Photographer, Academic Contributor, and Book Illustrator. Cornelia Clarke's photographic legacy appeared in children's books, scientific journals, newspapers, science magazines, and encyclopedias all throughout the nation. Posthumous Award (1884-1936)

In regards to health and safety during the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame recipients were celebrated virtually. You can watch the 2020 and 2021 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Virtual Celebration. \*Cornelia Clarke's honors begin at the 31:56 time mark. <https://youtu.be/2Je1iXilz9Q>

## 2021 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Jan Mitchell



**Jan Mitchell (Des Moines, IA)** is a celebrated educator, the 1997 Iowa Teacher of the Year, 2019 Iowa Latino Hall of Fame Robert D Ray Award for Equity and Justice recipient and more. Over the course of her career, Jan Mitchell has been instrumental in assisting the education and social mobilization of hundreds of Iowa's Latinx students, championing women's rights, and prioritizing service-led compassion into her work with the community.

In regards to health and safety during the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame recipients were celebrated virtually. You can watch the 2020 and 2021 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Virtual Celebration. \*Jan Mitchell's honors begin at the 40:20 time mark. <https://youtu.be/2Je1iXilz9Q>

## 2021 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Donna Reed



**Donna Reed (Denison, IA)** Actress, Academy Award Winner, Advocate for Peace. Donna Reed is celebrated for her successful career in entertainment, as a trailblazer for women in television, as well as a humanitarian who advocated for social justice and world peace. Posthumous Award (1921-1986)

In regards to health and safety during the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame recipients were celebrated virtually. You can watch the 2020 and 2021 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Virtual Celebration. \*Donna Reed's honors begin at the 49:26 time mark. <https://youtu.be/2Je1iXilz9Q>

## 2021 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Dr. Roxanne Marie Ryan, PhD



Dr. Roxann Marie Ryan, Ph.D. (Cresco, IA) served as the Iowa Commissioner of Public Safety, Assistant Iowa Attorney General, Educator and Scholar. Dr. Ryan is noted for her vast contributions in academia, groundbreaking work in public service, and celebrated leadership among students, colleagues, and citizens across the country.

In regards to health and safety during the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame recipients were celebrated virtually.

\*Dr. Roxann Marie Ryan, Ph.D. induction honors begin at the 58:10 time mark. <https://youtu.be/2Je1iXilz9Q>

2022

## 2022 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Elizabeth Bates Cowles

*"In 1925, Elizabeth Cowles, along with Mrs. Gertrude Shloss and Mrs. Elsa Neumann, founded Civic Music Association of Des Moines (CMA). These civic-minded women believed strongly in the intrinsic and social value of music and in the idea that the citizens of Des Moines and central Iowa should have access to the same world-class artists performing in the concert hall of Chicago, Philadelphia, and New York. And they believed that K-12 students should have access to these artists as well, through masterclasses and special performances."*

Peter Stevenson, Executive Director – Civic Music Association of Des Moines

### Elizabeth "Betty" Bates Cowles

Elizabeth Morley Bates was born May 4, 1900 in Oswego, New York, the eldest child of Norman and Florence Morley Bates. Elizabeth attended preparatory school at Rosemary Hall in Greenwich, Connecticut, and upon graduation in 1918 enrolled at Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts. She did not graduate from Smith because of travels in Japan and China and having met John Cowles, son of an Iowa newspaper publisher, while she was a student at Smith and he was at Harvard. They were married in Oswego on July 18, 1923 and settled in Des Moines where their four children were born – daughters Morley (1925) and Sarah (1926) and sons John, Jr., (1929) and Russell (1936). Only Russell survives today.

Although only 23, she became active in Des Moines civic and social life immediately and was a founder of the Civic Music Association which offered its first full season of world-class performances in 1925 and celebrated its 95<sup>th</sup> season in Fall of 2020.

In 1934, she led the development of the Iowa Maternal Health League in Des Moines, which opened its free birth control clinic for "needy married women: that December and later became Planned Parenthood of Iowa. The free clinic was made available to all women, regardless of race. Elizabeth's contributions to women, children and social justice through the arts, and health, continued throughout her life.

The Cowles family expanded its newspaper holdings in 1935 by buying the Minneapolis Star, and John would shuttle between Des Moines and Minneapolis while Elizabeth remained in Des Moines caring for the children and keeping active in civic and social activities. As her daughter Sarah would note in a eulogy with regard to their hometown: "She remained always fiercely loyal to the places and the people whom she had known and cared about – those whom she had worked with, played with, suffered with, and loved...."

Nonetheless, John's father, Gardner Cowles, mandated that the family move to Minnesota, so they did in 1938, while maintaining Des Moines ties and support through family foundations. In Minneapolis and Des Moines, Elizabeth was active in many organizations including the League of Women Voters, the Minneapolis Fair Housing Program, the American Civil Liberties Union, the American Association of University Women and the Episcopal Church. Betty Cowles passed away on December 17, 1976 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

She was inducted in to the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2022.

## 2022 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Mary Elaine Richards

*“Mary is everywhere in our community of Ames and Story County: moderating a League of Women Voters discussion on global warming; singing with the women’s Chorus; acting in a play performed by the local community theater group; working with a state group on sentencing reform; solemnizing a wedding at her church; teaching a class at the Ames/ISU adult education program. Mary contributes a great deal to this community and beyond every day.”*

Johnie Hammond, 2005 Hall of Fame Inductee

### **Mary Elaine Richards**

Mary Richards was born February 21, 1936, in Butler, Ohio. She earned a BA in Education at Ohio University, married Bob Richards, then earned a MS in Special Education from Wayne State University. While living in Michigan she learned about state government as she became active in the League of Women Voters and was soon a volunteer lobbyist at the Michigan statehouse.

In 1969 the family moved to rural Story County, Iowa and the following year when the youngest of their three daughters was in first grade, she commuted long hours from rural Story County to Ames and Des Moines, completing school work along with being an active volunteer in the community and a mother. She earned a degree in Political Science from Iowa State University and a Law degree from Drake University. Her prior volunteer work in the Michigan legislature and in Iowa and her newly earned degrees caught the attention of lawmakers. They soon employed her to work for the Iowa Legislative Services Bureau where she was assigned to staff a study committee revising the Iowa juvenile code.

Mary’s work with youth caught Story County Attorney Ruth Harkin’s attention and Ruth invited her to become Assistant County Attorney with particular focus on vulnerable youth and justice. When Ruth retired in 1980, Mary was elected Story County Attorney, a position she held for 16 more years. This was at a time when there were few female attorneys, fewer female county attorneys and even fewer female prosecutors. In her first years her position as County Attorney expanded to full time and over the next years she added several assistant positions including Victim Witness staff.

Her colleagues in other counties highly regarded her work in Story County. She was active in the state and national association of county attorneys. In Iowa she was the first women president of the Iowa Association of County Attorneys. She also was selected to serve on committees of the National Association of Counties (NACO).



In 1983 her life changed abruptly when her husband Bob died. She moved the family to Ames and became deeply involved in the life of the community. She continued her professional career and enriched her life and others through her many and varied initiatives. The accompanying description of her many and varied involvements testify to her love and passion for everyone in the community.

Mary formally retired as county attorney in 2000. She was immediately recruited to a national level job, Fight Crime, Invest in Kids that built on her knowledge and experience working with young people, specifically teenage girls. Returning to Ames she worked for a short time at Youth and Shelter Services in their Passages program, again with young women. Her knowledge and experience working with youth and the law has brought much to the groups in which she is active, groups such as the League of Women Voters of Iowa Sentencing Reform committee, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship outreach and support programs for vulnerable populations and to community radio programming.

Mary is a model citizen. Just this year she received a prestigious recognition, Making Democracy Work Award, from the Ames/Story County League of Women Voters. Mary Richards is a friend and adviser to so many of different ages, races and backgrounds. She is pragmatic and yet visionary.

Iowa State Attorney Tom Miller in 2022 appointed her to the twelve member Iowa Natural Resources Climate Action Rate Assessment Board.

Mary's impact upon the justice system began prior to her formal training as a lawyer, continued as Story County Attorney and continues into her eightieth decade.

She was inducted in to the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2022.

## 2022 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Laurie Schipper

“Mrs. Schipper has proven to be a local, state and national leader within the anti-violence community. From her start as the director of Assault Care Center Extending Shelter and Services (ACCESS) – a victim service agency in Ames serving five central Iowa counties – to her work as executive director of the state’s leading nonprofit against intimate partner violence, ICADV, she has stood firm with the belief that everyone should be safe in their relationships and have the ability to thrive”.

Roxanne Conlin, Attorney at Law



Laurie Schipper was born on December 4, 1962 in Waverly, Iowa, and raised on her family’s farm in Shell Rock. After graduating high school where she excelled at track and field, softball and the debate team, she attended Iowa State University where she received her degree in Social Work in 1985.

After graduating from college and serving for several years as a volunteer, Ms. Schipper became an advocate with the Story County Rape Crisis and Advocacy Center (now known as Assault Care Center Extending Shelter and Services – ACCESS), a victim service agency in Ames that provides comprehensive services to survivors before becoming the executive director of the organization. During her time at ACCESS, she advocated, organized and established the agency’s first shelter for survivors of violent crime to seek safety and support outside of their homes. She spent countless hours working one-on-one with survivors, listening to their stories and fighting for policy and systems change that empower victims to live a life free from violence.

In 1993, Laurie was appointed as the executive director of the Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ICADV), the state’s leading agency to prevent intimate partner violence. For the next 27 years, her leadership helped the agency grow to a membership of 23 direct service providers with more than 350 advocates that serve all 99 Iowa counties. In 1995 during *State vs. Griffin*, she became Iowa’s first domestic violence advocate to serve as an Expert Witness in the trial of a survivor, setting the legal precedent in the state for all advocates who support victims of violent crimes to become/be seen as experts in trials moving forward.

Laurie has developed a reputation as an advocate who works to ensure that the most vulnerable and marginalized communities who experience violence are served with equitable, culturally relevant services. In response to these beliefs, Laurie has boldly used her position and expertise to create programming and to encourage new

partnerships that fill in critical service gaps for BIPOC. These include hosting one of the state's first AmeriCorps programs focused on housing and economic justice; coordinating MUNA Legal Clinic to support undocumented survivors and to apply for immigration remedies at the first opportunity; organizing the Leadership Institute for Tomorrow (LIFT), a program to mentor and support leaders in the Black community; and having the Coalition serve as an incubator for two culturally specific victim advocacy programs supporting the Latino/a and Hard of Hearing communities that are now their own 501c3 organizations – L.U.N.A and Deaf Iowans Against Abuse (now known as Thrive Together).

In 2013, she spearheaded efforts to change Iowa's model of service delivery from shelter to Housing First, a move that is survivor-centered and removes barriers such as transportation, emergency shelter, advocacy and legal assistance for victims. The model was a first of its kind in the country, and over the past eight years has become the prime example of service delivery for survivors nationally.

In January 2021, Laurie stepped down from her role at ICADV to join GALvanize USA, a national nonprofit focused on bringing women together to lift up the experiences and values of all people for social and political change. As she moved into this new journey, she continues to support social justice organizations, causes and communities that are dear to heart, all while continuing to strive to elevate the experiences and stories of women and girls across the state.

Laurie was inducted in the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2022.

## 2022 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Mary Swander

*“Mary’s most recent contributions to our state’s artistic community have come through her work with AgArts, based in Kalona, Iowa. Since founding AgArts, Mary has developed a series of rural artist residencies that bring talented writers and artists to our state, further advancing our state’s reputation as fertile creative ground and building new bridges between Iowa and other cultural hubs.”*

David Schmitz, Administrator, Iowa Arts Council



Mary Swander was born November 5, 1950 in Carroll, Iowa. Her mother’s family fled the Irish potato and homesteaded near Manning. Swander graduated from Davenport Central high school and the University of Iowa (MFA, Iowa Writers Workshop). She taught at Iowa State University for 30 years, reaching the rank of Distinguished Professor. She was the Poet Laureate of Iowa from 2009-2019.

Mary Swander is the co-founder and executive director of AgArts (based in Kalona, IA), a non-profit that imagines and promotes healthy food systems through the arts. She is the host of the podcast “AgArts from Horse & Buggy Land.” Swander has established residencies for artists on farms throughout Iowa and around the U.S., and she has hosted numerous international artists, touring them throughout the state.

She is also the artistic director of Swander Woman Productions, a theatre troupe that has toured the country performing dramas about food, farming and the wider rural environment. She has written and produced *Farmscape*, *Vang*, and *Map of my Kingdom*, plays that have taken on topics such as the Farm Crisis, immigrant farmers, and farmland transition, with performances in venues including the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, Mayo Clinic, and the U.S.D.A.

In addition, Swander has performed her own work and given readings, workshops, retreats, keynote lectures, academic papers and panel presentations in the U.S. and abroad, from Harvard Law School to the University of Warwick. Swander’s most recent books are *The Maverick M.D.: Nicholas Gonzalez and his Fight for a New Cancer Treatment*, a biography; *The Girls on the Roof*, a Mississippi River poetry flood narrative, and *Adeste Fideles*, non-fiction prose about her experiences among the Amish.

Swander has published two memoirs, *The Desert Pilgrim* (Viking, 2003, a Barnes and Noble Discover Great New Writers selection). and *Out of this World* (Viking, 1995). She is the author of three additional books of poetry, *Heaven-and-Earth House* (Alfred Knopf, 1995), *Driving the Body Back* (Alfred Knopf, 1986), *Succession* (University of Georgia Press, 1979), as well as the co-author of a book of literary interviews, *Parsnips in the Snow* (University of Iowa Press, 1990).

Swander has edited three books: *The Healing Circle: Authors on Recovery from Illness* (Plume, 1998, with Patricia Foster); *Bloom and Blossom*, a collection of garden literature from Ecco Press (1997); and *Land of the Fragile Giants*, an edited collection of non-fiction and art work on the Loess Hills (with Cornelia Mutel, University of Iowa Press, 1994).

Ms. Swander has won numerous awards including a Whiting Award (The Mrs. Giles Whiting Foundation, 1994), a National endowment for the Arts grant for the Literary Arts (1986), two Ingram Merrill Awards (1980, 1986), the Carl Sandburg Literary Award (The Chicago Public Library, 1981), and the nation-Discovery Award (The Nation magazine, 1976).

Swander has dual U.S. and Irish citizenship and taught for ten years in an ecology seminar on Inishbofin Island, Ireland. Swander lives in an old Amish schoolhouse, raises geese, goats and a large organic garden.

Mary was inducted in the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2022.

2023

## 2023 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Honorable Romonda D. Belcher



**Honorable Romonda D. Belcher** – Des Moines, Iowa  
(originally Plymouth, North Carolina)

Romonda D. Belcher, the daughter of Viola G. Belcher and the late Willie S. Belcher, Jr., graduated from the former Plymouth High School in Plymouth, North Carolina. From a young age, she always only wanted to be a judge so she could ensure people were treated fairly. She earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree, cum laude, from Howard University in 1990, with a minor in Broadcast Journalism. She credits Howard for allowing her to gain self-confidence and built upon the most valuable lessons learned from her mother, the importance of: her faith, the pursuit of higher education and treating people the way she wanted to be treated. After graduating, she made a difference as a training coordinator with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority helping bus operators, who lacked basic remedial skills, rise through the ranks.

With her big dream of becoming a judge and unaware of the area of law she wanted to practice, she came to Des Moines in 1992 to attend Drake University Law School on a partial scholarship. While at Drake, she was thankful for the opportunities that exposed her to many legal career paths. She interned with Parrish & Kruidenier; Drake Legal Clinic; Polk County Attorney's Office; and the Iowa Department of Transportation and clerked for then Iowa Supreme Court Justice Louis Lavorato.

Judge Belcher earned her Juris Doctor Degree from Drake Law School in May 1995, passed the Iowa State Bar and was licensed to practice law in June 1995, and began working as an Assistant Polk County Attorney in September 1995. Dedicated to servant leadership, she spent the next 15 years prosecuting juvenile and criminal matters and representing county officials and department heads in civil matters. Along the way, she applied several times to become a judge and was told she was too young, or that she did not have enough experience, but she was not deterred. She remains most appreciative of the County Attorney's Office for allowing her to matriculate throughout the office to garner both jury trial and civil experience.

Though deferred, her dream was not to be denied. On August 20, 2010, her dream not only became a reality, but it also changed the trajectory of Iowa's legal history. Appointed as a District Associate Judge in the Fifth Judicial District, Judge Belcher became the first, and remains the only, African American female appointed as a judge in the State of Iowa. She has presided with distinction over criminal cases, civil appeals

and currently, over juvenile dependency and delinquency matters and Polk County's Family Treatment Court.

Continuing in her spirit of service, Judge Belcher is an Adjunct Professor at Drake Law School, shaping future generations of legal practitioners. In addition, she served as Project Coordinator for the Iowa National Bar Association's "A Monumental Journey" public art project dedicated to the founders of the National Bar Association. She demonstrates leadership and makes a difference in the community through her service on committees to address racial disparities in the juvenile and criminal justice systems; conducts training on being trauma informed to help the judiciary and other disciplines reduce revictimization of those experiencing trauma; and serves selflessly as a mentor to law students and youth.

Judge Belcher has been published twice in the Journal of the University of Iowa College of Law. In March 2022, she was selected by LexisNexis to author an Iowa Criminal Law Practice and Procedures Treatise (December 2023) that will continue to leave a lasting legacy. She is renowned for bringing historic civil rights figures to life in dramatic one-woman vignettes of Gertrude Rush, Edna Griffin, Rosa Parks, Sojourner Truth, Mrs. Willie Glanton and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s I Have a Dream, just to name a few.

#### Most Notable Honors and Awards:

- *Community Hero*, Prevent Child Abuse Iowa, May 2022
- *Unsung Hero*, Mount Mary University and the Empowering Youths of Iowa, Inc., February 2022
- 2020 Women of Influence, *Des Moines Business Record*, August 2020
- *Words of Wisdom and Dedicated Service Award*, Drake Law School, April 2022; September 2017 & 2019
- *Women Breaking Barriers*, Young Women's Resource Center, November 2018
- Portrait commissioned and placed in the Sutton Gallery of Drake Law School continuing to make history as the first African American to join other distinguished alumni, March 2015
- "One of 14 People to Watch in 2014," *The Des Moines Register*
- *History Makers Award*, African American Museum of Iowa and Gubernatorial Proclamation, September 2011
- Delivered Drake Law School Commencement Address, May 2011, described by Dean Jerry Anderson as one of the "most compelling, memorable addresses we have ever had"
- Inaugural Willie Stevenson Glanton Award, Polk County Women Attorneys Organization, March 2011
- "Citizen of the Year," Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, November 2010
- *Gertrude Rush Award*, Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys and the Iowa National Bar Association, June 2008

Judge Belcher's trailblazing accomplishments have been recognized on the floor of the 116<sup>th</sup> United States Congress.

## 2023 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Honorable Paula S. Dierenfeld



**Honorable Paula S. Dierenfeld** –  
Johnston, Iowa

Paula S. Dierenfeld, like so many women, has had to balance the roles of wife, mother and grandmother, while at the same time pursuing a career in law and public service. She put herself through college and law school as a single mom of two young children, being the first in her family to receive a college

degree. Paula spent 15 years working in federal and state government - serving nearly 10 of those years as legal counsel to Governor Terry Branstad. In that job, she provided legal advice to the Governor on a wide range of issues, including the Great Flood of 1993, the crash of Flight 232, the adoption of Baby Jessica and the commutation of Katherine Sallis. Paula also worked for U.S. Senator Charles Grassley, served as a staff director in the Iowa Senate, and served as an Iowa Utilities Board Commissioner. Following her work in the public sector, Paula spent 22 years in the private sector building a successful law practice at the Nyemaster Goode Law Firm, the largest and oldest law firm in Iowa.

Paula was first elected to the Johnston City Council in 1999 and served two terms. She was elected mayor in 2008 and has served as Johnston's mayor since. Paula is currently the longest serving female mayor in the state of Iowa.

During the nearly quarter century that Paula has led the city of Johnston, it has experienced significant growth and prosperity. Johnston's population has grown from about 8,000 to over 26,000 and its land area has expanded by twenty five percent. During her tenure, a new public safety building and city hall have been built, as well as a 200-acre city park and 50 miles of recreational trails. Johnston has been recognized several times by national publications for being one of the best and safest cities in the United States to live.

Paula has a reputation for being a preeminent public servant. She is known for being responsive to her constituents and is everywhere, participating in all community events and activities. While politics these days have become partisan and divisive, Paula takes pride in being able to keep partisan politics out of the decisions that are made for her community. She is effective in bringing people together to support initiatives and projects that make Johnston an even better place to live, work and raise a family.



Paula has led efforts at the local level to wipe out sex-trafficking massage parlors in Iowa cities. She drafted and implemented the first city ordinance authorizing a city to license massage therapy businesses. The ordinance allows Johnston officials to investigate and verify the legitimacy of a massage business before it begins operating in the community. The Johnston ordinance has proven to be effective in keeping illicit operations out of Johnston and has become a model for other Iowa cities to follow. Paula enjoys spending time and engaging with young people. She regularly goes into the Johnston schools to visit with students and meets with scout groups to talk about civic engagement, responsibilities of being a citizen and the importance of public service. She believes that seeing a strong woman in a leadership role is one of the most important duties she has as an elected official.

Even though there were no girls' sports in Paula's high school, she has become an inspiration to females of all ages to participate, compete and excel in sports. She has been a runner since her early 20's and has run over two dozen marathons. She has used her love of running as a major fundraising activity for her local food pantry. Over the past nine years, she has raised nearly \$58,000 and has run over 5,700 miles in her annual Mayor's Run for Food. She does this by challenging Johnston residents to contribute to the Johnston food pantry in the month of December - for every \$10 donated, she will run one mile beginning New Year's Eve Day. As if her running isn't enough, at age 60, Paula learned to swim and has become an advocate for people of all ages to learn this life saving skill.

Paula credits her faith in God and the love and support she has always received from her husband Dave Roederer, her children and grandchildren, for her motivation and success in life. Without them giving her strength and purpose, Paula is certain that her life would have turned out much differently. Paula also loves her state and country and believes that if she had been born and lived anywhere else, she would not have been able to achieve what she has. Paula is retired from her law practice and now manages her family's farm in Sac City, Iowa. She continues to enjoy serving as Johnston's mayor and now has more time to spend with her husband, three children, 13 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

## 2023 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Honoree: Bridget D. Reed



**Bridget D. Reed** - Waterloo, Iowa

Bridget D. Reed was born in Waterloo, Iowa. She earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing, and Master's Degree in Public Health. She is a registered nurse who has accepted the call to serve and has made a significant impact on the community serving others. She started an initiative called Focus on Diabetes that partners with accredited doctors to share education and new treatment options coupled with world-class healthcare organizations to introduce new technologies, and free screenings for diabetic patients, their families, and the community. In 2022, she started an initiative called Project Health, a prostate cancer study, to study disparities in the most common cancer among men. Specifically studying why, the death rate for black men is two times higher than their peers when prostate cancer is almost 100% curable. She is presenting the data from her study at the Iowa Public Health conference and partnering with the University of Iowa and the Iowa Cancer Consortium to expand this research.

Bridget elevates that status of women as an organizer. When Bridget volunteers you don't just see her, most often she is joined by her peers who are also healthcare workers. As a group they are visible in the community offering free healthcare services, serving on committees and boards. As a clinic supervisor, Bridget has increased the number of black women working in healthcare, having recently hired a single mother that graduated as a certified medical assistant years ago and experienced difficulty in the job market. In another instance, Bridget helped a single mother gain admission into nursing school and even bought her a new computer so that she could do her class work. Additionally, Bridget serves as a Janette Rankin Foundation scholarship reviewer, where she reviews scholarship applications for women 35 and older, who are returning to college.

Bridget has helped open new frontiers for society in general by her willingness to serve others. Bridget's community service is not limited to hosting healthcare events as she has been actively engaging elected officials about the burden of healthcare disparities and how laws can be made to help the most vulnerable. She has served as a precinct captain in 2016 and 2020 presidential election cycles as well as hosted house parties so that candidates could have personal experience with candidates in their neighborhood.

She has volunteered for Empower Northend, a grassroots candidate forum that invites political candidates to participate in forums in the heart of the black community.

As a history maker, Bridget hosted a house party for Senator Elizabeth Warren when she ran for President. This was historic because Senator Warren was the top

Democratic candidate, and her house party marked the first time in the history of Waterloo that a tier 1 presidential candidate held a house party in a predominately black neighborhood.

Bridget's story of grit and perseverance is an inspiration. Living in the Salvation Army's Women shelter with four kids under 20, she could have chosen a different path.

Bridget's story is being written as we speak. Young women need to see the acknowledgement and uplifting of women like Bridget, a young black woman, serving others, overcoming personal challenges. Bridget has invested in our community and the state of Iowa without asking for anything in return.

Focus on Diabetes, is her most well-known accomplishment, today, she is known as a community resource that helps others. On social media, one lady described her as "the lady that gives away free stuff". Focus on Diabetes does not charge patients or their family for education resources.

#### Honors and Awards:

- 2022 Iowa Cancer Consortium Spirit of Collaboration Award
- 2022 Cedar Valley United Way 100 Community Hero
- 2021 State of Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame Inductee
- 2021 Iowa Nurses Association Excellence in Leadership Lighting the Way Award
- 2020 LinkedIn Influential African American Businesswoman
- 2017 Jefferson Foundation Bronze Award
- 2016 WCF Courier's 20 under 40

## Cristine Wilson Medal for Equality and Justice

This medal recognizes and honors the accomplishments of Cristine Wilson, first chair of the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women. First appointed to the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women in 1969, Wilson was a key force in the passage of the legislation that established the Commission as a statutory agency in 1972. During her service as chair, major legislation was passed that reduced sex discrimination and enhanced women's rights.

Wilson's efforts were unceasing and her commitment was exemplary. The Cristine Wilson Medal for Equality and Justice is awarded selectively to an individual who has made significant contributions to the principles of equality and justice in the state of Iowa.

## Cristine Wilson Medal Award Recipients

Full Name	Last Name	Year of Award
Governor Robert D. Ray	Ray	1982
Mary Louise Smith	Smith	1984
Dr. Sue Follon	Follon	1985
Dr. Patricia Geadelmann	Geadelmann	1987
Minnette Doderer	Doderer	1989
Kappie Spencer	Spencer	1990
Dr. Charles H. Bruner	Bruner	1992
Louise Rosenfield Noun	Noun	1993
Mary Molen Wiberg	Wiberg	1994
Betty Talkington	Talkington	1995
Maude Esther White	White	1996
Naomi Christensen	Christensen	1997
Edna M. Griffin	Griffin	1998
Governor Terry E. Branstad	Branstad	1999
Suzanne O'Dea Schenken	Schenken	2000
Jane Elliott	Elliott	2001
Reverend Carlos Jayne	Jayne	2002
Rekha Basu	Basu	2003
Marie C. Wilson	Wilson	2004
Susan C. Buckley	Buckley	2005
Jane Jones Turner Burleson	Burleson	2006
Marilyn O. Murphy	Murphy	2007

Dr. Kesho Y. Scott	Scott	2008
Sister Mary McCauley, BVM	McCauley	2009
Brad Clark	Clark	2010
Marti Anderson	Anderson	2011
Elizabeth Barnhill	Barnhill	2012
Sharon Malheiro	Malheiro	2013
The Honorable Celeste F. Bremer	Bremer	2014
Alicia Parrott Claypool	Claypool	2017
Janice T. Edmunds- Wells, BS, MSW	Edmunds- Wells	2018
Mary Beth Tinker	Tinker	2019
The Honorable Chief Justice Mark Cady	Cady	2020
Honorable Ako Abdul- Samad	Abdul-Samad	2022
Teree L. Caldwell- Johnson	Caldwell- Johnson	2023

## 2017 Cristine Wilson Medal for Equality and Justice Medal Recipient: Alicia Parrott Claypool

*“Alicia is a passionate, strategic, tenacious and compassionate leader who understands and is committed to equality and justice for every person. Alicia is a visionary, always with the goal of creating a better world. When Alicia sets her mind to addressing and solving an injustice in the world, the “world” would always do well to acquiesce and ask how it can be of help, too.”*

--Written by Connie Ryan, Executive Director, Interfaith Alliance of Iowa, in a letter of support



Originally from Jacksonville, Illinois (born on November 1, 1946), Alicia Parrott Claypool graduated Phi Beta Kappa with a degree in psychology and elementary education from Illinois College in 1968. She began her career as an elementary school teacher and then went on to receive her master's degree in urban and regional planning from the University of Iowa in 1984. She served as manager of administrative services for Polk County Social Services, health planner with the Iowa Department of Substance Abuse, and housing planner for the cities of Des Moines, Iowa City and the Johnson County Regional Planning Commission.

Alicia was the founder and executive director of The Interfaith Alliance of Iowa, and co-founder of Iowa Safe Schools. She was also the president and owner of Claypool and Associates, a consulting firm which provided strategic planning, board development and fundraising for nonprofit organizations and public agencies.

She served as the Iowa Civil Rights Commission Chair (2005-2011) and Vice-Chair (2001-2005), where she led the drive to win passage in 2007 of significant advancements in Iowa civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in the workplace, housing, education and public accommodations, and prohibit bullying of all students in our schools. She is a member of Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ where she has served in various capacities from the board of deacons to the Cuba partnership team. She serves or has served in leadership roles with Planned Parenthood Voters of Iowa, Iowa Immigration Education Coalition, Latina Leadership Initiative of Greater Des Moines, Iowa Justice for Our Neighbors, United Way, Community Focus, City of Des Moines Housing Advisory Board, League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Des Moines, Education Campaign Coordinator for the Iowa Equal Rights Amendment Campaign, among other coalitions, and board member at One Iowa and the Des Moines Child and Adolescent Guidance Center.

Alicia was awarded the Matthew Shepard Scholarship Lifetime Achievement Award 2013, Iowa Safe Schools Lifetime Achievement Award 2010, Women of Achievement Award in 2009, Woman of Influence Award 2007, Illinois College Distinguished Service Award 2007, Interfaith Alliance Faith & Freedom Award 2006, Governor's Volunteer Award 2006, the 2003 Friends of Iowa Civil Rights Award in Education, and the 1998 Friends of Education Award from the Des Moines Public Schools.

She and her husband David Claypool live in West Des Moines. They have three children and seven grandchildren.



## 2018 Cristine Wilson Medal for Equality and Justice Medal Recipient: Janice T. Edmunds-Wells, BS, MSW

*“Her keen intellect, clever sense of wit, personal experience, and clear passion...helped train tens of thousands of Iowan professionals on culturally competent health care and ways to modify their programs to meet the needs of diverse populations, particularly when serving women of color.”*

-- Written by Dr. Michele Devlin, University of Northern Iowa, in her nomination



Janice T. Edmunds-Wells, BS, MSW began her work in minority health in Iowa in 1992 and in 2006, was able to codify the Office of Minority and Multicultural Health within an Omnibus Bill, serving as the office’s Executive Officer. She served until 2017, when the Office was eliminated from the Iowa Department of Public Health. During her time working in minority and multicultural health, she spearheaded some of the most important public health policy, research, and programming activities related to rapidly diversifying populations in the state of Iowa. Ms. Edmunds-Wells is a specialist in working with economically underserved and ethnically diverse populations, and has a particular focus on the needs of women and other at-risk individuals.

Originally from Philadelphia, she earned her Bachelor’s Degree in Individual Studies in the College of Human Development from Pennsylvania State University, and her Master’s Degree in Integrated Services MSW at the University of Iowa. She also completed a Public Health Certificate from the University of Iowa.

She has served in the Iowa Department of Human Rights, Division on the Status of African Americans, as a program planner, and has also worked with the Urban League of Philadelphia as part of her commitment to promoting civil rights for communities of color. Ms. Edmunds-Wells has served as Adjunct Faculty at Des Moines University and at the University of Northern Iowa. Janice Edmunds-Wells has provided extensive professional and community service to numerous state and national agencies on issues related to cross-cultural health and wellness, such as serving as Chair of the Iowa Minority Recruitment, Education, and Advocacy on Careers in Health Network and as the state and regional representative, Board member and currently member at large to the National Association of State Offices of Minority Health. Ms. Edmunds-Wells has won numerous state awards and national recognition for her outstanding contributions to promoting the wellbeing of diverse populations. In 2017, she was inducted into the Iowa African American Hall of Fame by the Black Cultural Center of Iowa State University.

**An interview with Janice T. Edmunds-Wells, MSW:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x4nznx0MRk>

## 2019 Cristine Wilson Medal for Equality and Justice Recipient: Mary Beth Tinker

*“In hearing Mary Beth speak about what she did several times, it is remarkable to hear her emphasize how important it is to take action on issues we care about even if it means there will be consequences for doing so.”*

-- Written by Stefanie Wager, in a nomination letter



Mary Beth Tinker was born on September 8, 1952, and grew up in Iowa. Her father was a Methodist minister, and the family also became involved with the Friends (Quakers). Her parents believed that religious ideals should be put into action, and the whole family became involved in the civil rights movement in the 1960s. Mary Beth grew up believing in equality and the importance of advocating and taking action when you see inequality. One of Mary Beth's early memories is of her parents going to Ruleville, Mississippi in 1964 as part of Freedom Summer, an effort organized by Robert Moses and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) to register African Americans to vote.

As a 13-year-old student in eighth grade at Harding Junior High School in Des Moines, Mary Beth was strongly affected by news of the war. She and her brothers and sisters, along with other students in Des Moines, decided to wear black armbands to school on December 16, 1965 to mourn the dead on both sides of the Vietnam War. They intended to wear them until January 1, 1966. The armbands were also in support of a Christmas truce called by Senator Bobby Kennedy that year. During a meeting for Des Moines School District principals on December 14, 1965, a policy was adopted that required all students wearing armbands in school to remove them. In this meeting, the principals agreed that students were to be suspended if they disagreed. Many of the students who wore them were suspended, including John Tinker, Mary Beth Tinker, Chris Eckhardt, Ross Peterson, Bruce Clark and Chris Singer. After being suspended, the Tinker family received many threats. This included having red paint thrown at their house, receiving death threat calls, hate mail, etc.

At a January 3, 1966 meeting, the school board voted 5-2 to uphold the principals' ban. On March 14, 1966, the Iowa Civil Liberties Union filed a formal complaint on behalf of Christopher Eckhardt, John Tinker, his sister Mary Beth, and their fathers in the U. S. District Court of the Southern District of Iowa. The District Court dismissed the complaint and upheld the constitutionality of the school actions, on the basis that the students disturbed learning in their schools. After that, the justices for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit were split, leaving the District Court ruling standing. The case reached the U.S. Supreme Court on November 12, 1968. In 1969, the Court ruled in a landmark decision that students in public schools do have First Amendment rights.

In 2000, the Marshall-Brennan Project at Washington College of Law at American University named its annual youth advocacy award after Mary Beth. In 2013, Mary Beth embarked on a tour across the United States to speak about student rights. During this time, she spoke to more than 20,000 students. Mary Beth continues to educate young people about their rights, speaking frequently to student groups across the country. She is an advocate for the rights of youth, particularly in the areas of health, education, and journalism. She is a retired pediatric nurse and holds master's degrees in public health and nursing.