

Maryland Women's Hall of Fame & Maryland Young Women Leaders Awards

# CELEBRATING WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP: Honoring Maryland's Firsts



www.marylandwomen.org Monday, March 10, 2025



Select Maryland Women's Hall of Fame inductees on cover in order of appearance:

- ★ Billie Holiday
- ★ Clara Barton
- ★ Harriett Tubman
- ★ Henrietta Szold
- ★ Rachel Carson
- ★ Mary Young Pickersgill
- ★ Rosa Parks
- ★ Susan B. Anthony
- ★ Marie Curie
- ★ Susan Ahn Cuddy

# TABLE of CONTENTS



#### **About the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame**

Established in 1985 by the Maryland Commission for Women and the Women Legislators of Maryland, the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame seeks to honor Maryland women who have made unique and lasting contributions to the economic, political, cultural, and social life of the state and to provide visible models of achievement for tomorrow's female leaders.

Their inspiring stories and contributions are preserved and shared through biographies available on the Maryland State Archives website. The Maryland Women's Hall of Fame exhibit is located in the Knott Science and Innovation Center at Notre Dame of Maryland University.

#### **About the Maryland Commission for Women**

The Commission was first established in 1965 and set in state law in 1971. It is the state agency dedicated to working with women's organizations to improve the lives of women in Maryland.

For 60 years the Commission has been:

- a hub for information on women's rights advocacy,
- an incubator for innovative women's rights programs,
- and a catalyst for positive change.



#### Our 25 Gubernatorial appointed

Commissioners are from across the state, both individuals and representatives from a wide range of women's organizations.

#### Together we:

- Study the status of women in our state by bringing together experts from across the state
- Direct attention to critical problems confronting women
- Recommend methods of overcoming discrimination against women
- Recognize women's accomplishments and contributions
- Empower women to run for elected office
- Support the development of skills development, training and education for women
- Provide informed advice to the executive and legislative branches of government on all issues concerning the women of our state
- Serve as a clearinghouse and hub within the Maryland state government to support the women's rights community.



## **2025 Maryland Commission for Women Commissioners**



CHAIR

LaShaune Stitt, Ed.D.



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- Lenita Walker, Prince George's County\*
- Monica Watkins, MBA, Baltimore City\*

\* Denotes members of the Outreach, Awards and Recognition Subcommittee



#### The Outreach, Awards and Recognition Subcommittee



CHAIR

**Pier Blake, MBA** Outreach, Awards, and Recognition Subcommittee



**AWARDS CHAIR** 

Gloria Dent, Ph.D. MBA Awards Chair

The Outreach, Awards, and Recognition Subcommittee chaired by Commissioner Pier Blake plays a vital role in advancing the mission of the Maryland Commission for Women. The subcommittee works to address critical issues facing women in their various roles. It encourages women to pursue public office, and promotes skill development and education for women. Additionally, the subcommittee ensures that women's achievements receive appropriate recognition, and acts as a clearinghouse for women's rights activities. Through these initiatives, the subcommittee fosters a more equitable and inclusive environment for all Maryland women. The Awards Chair Gloria Dent leads our awards programming, including the Maryland Hall of Fame Awards and the Young Woman Leadership Awards.





www.marylandwomen.org

## The Maryland Women's Hall of Fame

Established in 1985 by the Maryland Commission for Women and the Women Legislators of Maryland, the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame honors women who have made significant and lasting contributions in fields such as the arts. athletics, business, education, government, humanities, human rights, law, medicine, philanthropy, and science. Each year, organizations and individuals across Maryland are invited to nominate both historical and contemporary Maryland women whose achievements have had a profound impact on our state. Among those honored are legislators, political and social activists, scientists, medical professionals, educators, writers, and spiritual and community leaders. Their inspiring stories and contributions are preserved and shared through biographies available on the Maryland State Archives website. The Maryland Women's Hall of Fame exhibit is located in the Knott Science and Innovation Center at Notre Dame of Maryland University.

#### THE HONORABLE KATHLEEN KENNEDY TOWNSEND

**Kathleen Kennedy Townsend** has had a distinguished career in both the public and private sectors. Her influence and leadership has made a lasting impact on crime reduction, women's rights, workforce development, and public service.

As Maryland's first female Lieutenant Governor, she spearheaded initiatives such as the Hot Spots crime reduction program, launched Character Education in public schools, initiated microfinance lending, and mandated domestic violence training for state employees. She chaired the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Task Force, the Office of Crime Control and Prevention, the Governor's Office of Workforce Development, the Governor's Office of Children, Youth and Families, and the Task Force on Drug Treatment.



Previously, as Deputy Assistant Attorney General, she played a key role in training 100,000 community police officers and contributed to the establishment of the Peace Corps and Civic Works, a Baltimore-based community service corps. She founded the Maryland Student Service Alliance, successfully leading the effort for Maryland to be the first state to make Service-Learning a high school graduation requirement. She developed curricula for grades K-12 and Special Education, and trained over 2,000 teachers in service-learning techniques. She also co-founded Civic Works, an urban service corps in Baltimore.

Following her tenure as Lieutenant Governor, Townsend became a Managing Director at Rock Creek, one of the largest women-owned asset management firms in the U.S. She also launched Maryland Saves, co-founded the Center for Retirement Initiatives, and led retirement reform efforts under President Biden's administration. Additionally, she served as a Senior Advisor to the Secretary of the Navy and a Special Advisor at the Department of State.

In the 1980s, Townsend founded the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award and chaired the Institute of Human Virology, which provides treatment to over one million patients in Africa through PEPFAR. She also chaired the Global Virus Network and the Robert Kennedy Memorial.

An honors graduate of Harvard University, Townsend earned her law degree from the University of New Mexico, where she was a member of the Law Review. She has received 14 honorary degrees in recognition of her contributions. She has served on the boards of the Export-Import Bank, Johns Hopkins SAIS, the Wilderness Society, the YMCA, the Points of Light Foundation, and the Center for Popular Democracy.



#### THE HONORABLE JOSELINE PEÑA-MELNYK

Delegate Joseline Peña-Melnyk has built a career dedicated to justice, healthcare access, and equity. Representing Maryland's Legislative District 21, she serves as Chair of the Health and Government Operations Committee, where she has been a leading force in shaping policies that improve the lives of Marylanders. She is the highest-ranking Latina in the Maryland General Assembly and has passed over 100 bills into law, many of them the first of their kind in the nation.

Joseline's journey began in the Dominican Republic. As a child, she immigrated to the United States with her single mother and sister, settling in New York City. Her mother worked long hours in the garment industry, and at times, the family relied on welfare due to financial struggles. Despite these hardships, Joseline

thrived in school, learning English and later becoming the first in her family to attend college through the Equal Opportunity Program.

During law school, she dedicated her summers to representing death row inmates in Alabama and advocating for migrant farm workers in Ohio. After earning her law degree, she took on court-appointed cases, defending abused children and low-income defendants, before transitioning into work as a public defender. Her dedication led her to the U.S. Attorney's Office, where she collaborated with police officers, witnesses, and victims to prosecute violent crimes.

Determined to serve her community in elected office, Joseline won the College Park City Council seat before launching a grassroots campaign for the Maryland House of Delegates in 2006. She won the election and became one of Maryland's most effective legislators. She has spearheaded major legislative efforts that have gained national recognition. She was instrumental in creating the Prescription Drug Affordability Board, led the passage of the Maryland Easy Enrollment Health Insurance Program, and played a key role in ensuring the continuation of Maryland's state-operated reinsurance program.

She was the driving force behind the Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and she also championed the Shirley Nathan-Pulliam Health Equity Act. Through every stage of her career, from her work as a public defender to her leadership in the General Assembly, Delegate Peña-Melnyk has remained committed to fighting for Maryland's most vulnerable communities. Her passion for justice, equity, and public service continues to shape policies that build a stronger, healthier, and fairer Maryland for all.

#### THE HONORABLE MAGGIE MCINTOSH

Delegate Maggie McIntosh represented Baltimore City in the Maryland House of Delegates from 1992-2023. She was appointed Chair of the Appropriations Committee in 2014, the first woman in Maryland history to serve as Appropriations Chair. Previously, she chaired the Environmental Matters Committee from 2003-2013. She was the Majority Leader in the House of Delegates from 2001-2003 as the first woman to serve in that post in Maryland. Maggie began her political career as the State Director for U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski from 1988-1992 and was the Campaign Manager for Senator Mikulski's 1992 Senate campaign.



In addition to being enshrined in the Maryland Daily Record's Circle of Excellence as one of Maryland's Top 100 Women,

Maggie has received numerous awards and honors in her 30year legislative career. In 2022, she received the Casper R. Taylor Founder's Award in the Maryland General Assembly, was inducted into The Baltimore Sun Business and Civic Hall of Fame, and saw the establishment of the Maggie McIntosh School Arts Fund by the Maryland General Assembly. She received an honorary doctorate from the Maryland Institute College of Art. In 2015, she was named an Admiral of the Chesapeake, the highest honor a governor can give a Maryland resident for their contributions to the health of Maryland's environment. She is the first openly LGBTQ member of the Maryland General Assembly and was the lead on legislation to enact marriage equality and to protect Marylanders from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. In 2013, she was honored by the Mautner Project for her leadership on the Question 6 Campaign to secure marriage equality.

Maggie is a former middle school art teacher in the Baltimore City Public Schools. She was born in Quinter, Kansas, receiving her Bachelor of Arts Education from Wichita State University and her Master of Science Degree from Johns Hopkins University. She resides in the Baltimore Inner Harbor neighborhood, where she lives with her wife, Diane Stollenwerk, and their Labrador Retriever Obie Jane. Currently, she is a board member of the Maryland Stadium Authority, the Waterfront Partnership, and the National Aquarium. Maggie also treasures traveling with Diane and spending time with family and friends.



#### **CHIEF DONNA WOLF MOTHER ABBOTT**

Donna Abbott grew up in lower Dorchester County, MD in the small community of Robbins near the Little Blackwater River. She is a single mom to Jerry, an electrician, automations specialist, and programmer, and pet parent to a Leopard Appaloosa named Spot and a 165 lb Newfoundland dog named Saffron. Donna graduated from Chesapeake College in Wye Mills, MD, with a degree in Allied Sciences. She pursued a career as a Radiologic Technologist, which she has been for over 30 years. Her most recent place of employment is Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, MD.

In 2005, Donna became an enrolled member of the Nause-Waiwash Band of Indians, Inc. A non-profit organization made up of descendants of the Choptank and Nanticoke Indians. Donna

has served as Treasurer and Secretary of the organization. She worked closely with her predecessor, Chief Sewell Fitzhugh. In 2014, the tribe suffered a tragic loss: Chief Fitzhugh suddenly crossed the veil while at home with his wife Kathy. Elders of the tribe asked Donna to run in the Chief's election. Being a matrilineal society, the women of the Nause-Waiwash voted Donna to lead the organization and continue the mission of preserving the history, culture, and traditions of the tribe. In the last 10 years, the Nause-Waiwash has made huge strides and accomplishments.

As Chief, Donna has served on the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs for 6 years. She was included in the Women of Dorchester mural in Cambridge, MD. Donna has had the honor of meeting Governors Wes Moore, Larry Hogan, and Martin O'Malley. Chief Donna has built relationships with other tribes in Maryland as well as Maryland state agencies. While under her leadership, the tribe continues to have the most successful Native American festivals in tribal history, and there has been much progress made in renovating the tribe's two churches using no government funding. One church was granted the prestigious honor of being added to the National Registry of Historic Places and will be used as a resource center upon completion. The Maryland Department of Transportation erected a historic road marker in Dorchester County acknowledging Indian Lands, the last known village of the Choptank Indian Reservation.

Chief Donna's goals for the Nause-Waiwash are to continue preserving the tribe's culture, history, and traditions, get more young people interested in their heritage, and protect Mother Earth.



## The Maryland Women's Hall of Fame Honorees 1985-2024

- Hon. Rosalie Silber Abrams
- Diane L. Adams, M.D.
- Victorine Quille Adams
- Bertha Sheppard Adkins
- Annie Armstrong
- Dorothy F. Bailey
- Florence Riefle Bahr
- Susan P. Baker
- Sophia Arabatzis Balis, D.D.S.
- Mary Elizabeth Banning
- Sandra I. Barnes, Esq.
- Clara Barton
- Constance Urciolo Battle, M.D.
- Virginia Walcott Beauchamp
- Constance Ross Beims
- Rosalyn Blake Bell
- Hon. Helen Delich Bentley
- Hon. Marielsa A. Bernard, Esq.
- Major General Janeen L. Birckhead
- Maureen Black, Ph.D.
- Dorothy Toplitzky Blum
- Elizabeth Bobo
- Margaret Brent
- Oretha Bridgwaters-Simms
- Harriet Elizabeth Brown
- Hon. Beverly B. Bryon
- Agnes Kane Callum
- Shoshanna Shoubin Cardin
- Lois Green Carr
- Anna Ella Carroll
- Rachel Carson
- Augusta T. Chissell
- Eugenie Clark
- Edith Clarke
- Mary Cleave, Ph.D., P.E.
- Lucille Clifron

- B. Olive Cole
- Marsha Coleman-Adebayo, Ph.D.
- Carolyn W. Colvin
- Rita R.Colwell
- Lillian C. Compton
- Hon. Charlotte M. Cooksey
- Hon. Jean B. Cryor
- Evelyn O. A. Darden
- Hon. Rita C. Davidson
- Dominique Dawes
- Brigadier General Annette M. Deener
- E. Gail de Planque, Ph.D.
- Liebe Sokol Diamond, M.D.
- Hon. Kathryn J. DuFour
- Charlene Mickens Dukes, Ed.D.
- Margaret Dunkle
- Sol del Ande Mendez Eaton
- Emily Edmonson
- Hon. Donna F. Edwards
- Elizabeth King Ellicott
- Madeleine L. Ellicott
- Hon. Lavinia Margaret Engle
- Ethel Llewellyn Ennis
- Eleanora Fagan "Billie Holiday"
- Kathleen Feeley SSND, Ph.D.
- Ilia Fehrer
- Mary S. Feik
- Renee E. Fox, M.D.
- Claire M. Fraser, Ph.D.
- Sonia Pressman Fuentes
- Bea Gaddy
- Mary Elizabeth Garrett
- Marilyn Hughes Gaston, M.D.
- Katharine Blodgett Gebbie, Ph.D.
- Catherine R. Gira, Ph.D.
- Mary Katherine Goddard



## The Maryland Women's Hall of Fame Honorees 1985-2024

- Susan K. Goering
- Mary C. Goodwillie
- Sally T. Grant
- Nancy Grasmick, Ph.D.
- Anne Catharine Hoof Green
- Jill Moss Greenberg
- Carol W. Greider, Ph.D.
- Diane E. Griffin, M.D., Ph.D.
- Hon. Ana Sol Gutierrez
- Virginia Hall
- Frances Ellen Watkins Harper
- Elaine Danforth Harmon
- Margaret Briggs Gregory Hawkins
- Ramona McCarthy Hawkins, R.Ph.
- Elaine Ryan Hedges
- Ellen Moses Heller
- Rebecca Alban Hoffberger
- Barbara Holdridge
- Edith Houghton Hooker
- Mabel Houze Hubbard
- Lillie Carroll Jackson
- Josephine Jacobsen
- Elizabeth Fran Johnson
- Adrienne A. Jones
- Joanne Katz, Sc.D.
- Florence P. Kendall
- Misbah Khan, M.D.
- Irene Morgan Kirkaldy
- Ruth L. Kirschstein, M.D.
- Hon. Nancy Kopp
- Helen L. Koss
- Charmaine Krohe, SSND
- Rose Kushner
- Henrietta Lacks
- Mary Elizabeth Lange
- Hon. Gloria Lawlah

- Kathleen Ledecky
- Lena King Lee
- Mary Digges Lee
- Susan C. Lee
- Harriet Legum
- Brigid G. Leventhal, M.D.
- Brooke E. Lierman
- Etta H. Maddox
- Alice Manicur, Ed.D.
- Helen Maroulis
- Hon. Lucille Maurer
- Claire McCardell
- Esther McCready
- Enolia Pettigen McMillan
- Pauline Menes
- Hon. Barbara A. Mikulski
- Sadie Kneller Miller
- Aruna K. Miller
- Juanita Jackson Mitchell
- Rev. Dr. Ruby Reese Moone
- Constance A. Morella
- Bessie Moses, M.D.
- Hon. Diana Gribbon Motz
- Pauli Murray
- Prasanna Nair, M.D.
- Mary L. Nock
- Amanda Taylor Norris, M.D.
- Mary Adelaide Nutting
- Katherine O'Brien, M.D.
- Toby Barbara Orenstein
- Sandra Williams Ortega, Ph.D.
- Susan R. Panny, M.D.
- Claire L. Parkinson, Ph.D.
- Nancy Pelosi
- Ligia Peralta
- Almira Hart Lincoln Phelps



## The Maryland Women's Hall of Fame Honorees 1985-2024

- Mary Young Pickersgill
- Emily Saunders Plummer
- Gertrude L. Poe
- Rosa Ponselle
- Estelle R. Ramey
- Margaret Byrd Rawson
- Lizette Woodworth Reese
- Ann Cipriano Rees
- Gloria Richardson
- Hon. Rosa Gumataotao Rios
- Mary Eliza Risteau
- Barbara Robinson
- Rita L. Robinson, Ph.D.
- Beatrice Rodgers
- Nancy Grace Roman, Ph.D.
- Edith "Jackie" Ronne
- Gwendolyn Rooks
- Karen H. Rothenberg, J.D.
- Bernice R. Sandler
- Hon. Ellen R. Sauerbrey
- Edyth H. Schoenrich, M.D.
- Alta Schrock, Ph.D.
- Hon. Margaret Collins Schweinhaut
- Hon. Audrey E. Scott
- St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
- Odessa M. Shannon
- Hon. Lorraine Sheehan
- Linda A. Shevitz
- Lillie D. Shockney
- Mary Shaw Shorb, Ph.D
- Eunice Kennedy Shriver
- Vivian V. Simpson
- Major General Linda L. Singh
- Lucy Diggs Slowe
- Mary Carter Smith

- Grace Snively
- Brigadier General Allyson R. Solomon
- Hon. Gladys Noon Spellman
- Jean Spencer
- Adele Hagner Stamp
- Rosetta Stith, Ph.D.
- Henrietta Szold
- Helen Brooke Taussig, M.D.
- Nettie Barcroft Taylor
- Martha Carey Thomas
- Beatrice P. Tignor, Ed.D.
- Mary Lemist Titcomb
- Sandra W. Tomlinson, Ph.D.
- Evelyn Williams Townsend
- Phyllis B. Trickett
- Pauline Woo Tsui
- Harriet Ross Tubman
- Martha Ellicott Tyson
- Carmen Delgado Votaw
- Emily Wilson Walker, M.D.
- Sue Fryer Ward
- Hattie N. Washington, Ph.D.
- Verda Freeman Welcome
- Nancy K. Welker, Ph.D.
- Lilian Welsh, M.D.
- Bernice Smith White
- June A. Willenz
- Euphemia Mary Goldsborough Wilson
- Celeste Revillon Winans
- Leslie R. Wolfe, Ph.D.
- Jeannette Rosner Wolman
- Anne St. Clair Wright
- Deborah A. Yow
- Hiltgunt Margaret Zassenhaus, M.D.

#### **Young Women Leaders**

**Zulema Delacruz Martinez** is an advocate for first-generation college students, with a special focus on Latinas. She also works to raise awareness about the treatment of Hispanic and Latina women in the workforce on Maryland's eastern shore. The daughter of Guatemalan and Mexican immigrants, Zulema is a certified community interpreter and a mentor to high school students considering college. She uses communication skills to dismantle fears and myths about the college application process. Zulema served as President of the Multicultural Student Union and founded the Hispanic/Latino Student Union at Chesapeake College before earning her Associate Degree and transferring to Towson University. Zulema was nominated by Dr. LaSella L. Hall, Director of Student Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at Chesapeake College.

**Favour Gam** aims to amplify Black feminist thought through literature. She also conducts policy research and works to address period poverty. In the summer of 2024, she served as a policy research intern for the African American Policy Forum (AAPF), examining menstrual health disparities affecting Black girls and gender-expansive youth. She also received a grant from the Washington Women's Foundation Rock Star Fund to complete a book highlighting the lived experiences of young Black girls. Favour also serves as the historian for the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) University of Maryland chapter. Favour was recommended by Chika Onwuvuche, Program Officer for the Washington Area Women's Foundation.

**Kambria Kyle** is an advocate for women in the military who worked to break barriers in JROTC at Northern Garrett High School. To establish female leadership as not a rarity but the norm, Kambria has committed to surpassing standards once deemed far too high for "the girls" by earning a place in leadership positions, such as JROTC Battalion Commander and Raider Captain. She is elected President of the Garrett County Association of Student Councils. Kambria is also a fierce advocate for postpartum support for women and maternal mental health services. She has been accepted to the United States Military Academy at West Point. Kambria was recommended by MAJ (R ) Steven J. Hershfeldt, Senior Army Instructor, Northern Garrett High School.

**Ta'mira Thomas** draws on her compassion and resilience to advocate for young women in out-of-home (foster) care. Through her work with the Howard County Youth Advisory Board, Ta'mira advises policymakers at the local and state level about the needs of young women in out-of-home care. As President of the Board in 2022 and 2024, she led initiatives to support the houseless through hygiene bags, food supplies, and shelter resources. Passionate about women's health, she is currently pursuing a CNA certification and plans to become an obstetrician registered nurse. Ta'mira was recommended by Toya Spicer, LMSW, a social worker and Independent Living Coordinator with the Howard County Department of Social Services.

#### Thank you to the Maryland Commission for Women Foundation for providing \$2,000 Awards to each of the Young Women Leaders Awardees.



## **Future Trailblazer Awardees**

Gaargi Bora, Howard County. A passionate advocate for women's leadership and financial literacy. Recommended by Maryland Delegate Pam Lanman Guzzone (D-13).

Camilla Chi, Montgomery County. Works to elect women and mentor newcomers facing language barriers. Nominated by Rebecca Singhavong, Latinas Leading Tomorrow.

Alianna Hines, Prince George's County. The CEO and Founder of Junior Flips is dedicated to empowering women through economic independence. Recommended by Ben Fields, CEO of September Development, Inc.

Malaya Mason, Baltimore County. A dedicated political activist and advocate for women's rights who campaigned tirelessly to elect women to office. Recommended by Kyli Ross, President of the Morgan State Section of Black Girls Vote.

**Ryan Reed**, Prince George's County. Works to support women who have experienced abuse and address gender inequalities in athletics. Recommended by Daryl Dudley, CEO of She's My Daughter.

Daniela Renderos, Montgomery County. A passionate advocate for women in STEM and educational equity. Recommended by Wendy Ayala, Director, Scholars Program, Collegiate Directions, Inc.

Anushka Tyagi, Frederick, Maryland. A dedicated advocate for women in STEM and women's empowerment locally and internationally. Recommended by Caylee M. Winpiegler, Community Impact Manager and Frederick Youth Council Mentor at the Ausherman Family Foundation.

#### 2025 Young Women Leaders & Future Trailblazers Awards Selection Committee

Gloria Dent, Awards Lead, Maryland Commission for Women Pier Blake, Chair, Outreach, Awards and Recognition Subcommittee Judy Carbone, Maryland Commission for Women Joyce Roldan King, Project Safe Childhood Prosecutor, MSAA Special Victims Unit Co-Chair Gabriella Lemus, Latinos Unidos Angelique Salizan, Maryland Department of Human Services LaShaune Stitt, Chair, Maryland Commission for Women



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