



Governor Announces 2008 Ohio Women's Hall of Fame Inductees

Columbus, OH – Ohio Governor Ted Strickland today announced that 13 Ohio women will be inducted into the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame on Thursday.

"I congratulate these remarkable women on the valuable contributions they have made to their communities and businesses," Strickland said. "It is my hope that these inductees inspire other Ohio women to follow their aspirations and actively pursue their professional, community and civic goals."

The Ohio Women's Hall of Fame was established in 1978 by the women's division of the Ohio Bureau of Employment Services (now part of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services) to publicly recognize the many outstanding contributions Ohio women have made to their state and nation. Members of the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame have diverse backgrounds, but each has demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to excellence, achievement and service to others.

The Ohio Women's Hall of Fame serves as a daily tribute to these women who are an ongoing source of pride and inspiration for all Ohioans, especially the state's next generation of leaders.

The 2008 Ohio Women's Hall of Fame inductees are:

Dorothy Champion Baunach, Cuyahoga County – Among her many accomplishments, Baunach is the president and CEO of NorTech, founding president of the Edison BioTechnology Center and treasurer of the Ohio Fuel Cell Coalition. She is currently leading a \$2 million campaign for a women's center in the Cleveland neighborhood where she grew up.

Carrie Nelson Black, Franklin County, (1858-1936) – In 1906, Black founded and became the volunteer chief executive of the Columbus Society for the Prevention and Control of Tuberculosis (now the Breathing Association). She also launched a visiting nurses program in 1898, which is now the LifeCare Alliance. Black was a Columbus native and her legacy lives on in the work of the agencies that she founded more than 100 years ago.

Caro Bayley Bosca, Clark County, (1922-2007) – Bosca was one of the first women to fly during World War II and a former president of the WASP club. She became an International Women's Aerobic Champion and set an official altitude record in 1951. She was named Aviation Woman of the year by Mademoiselle Magazine. Bosca, a Springfield native, was the mother of four children and a role model for many young women.

Yvette McGee Brown, Franklin County – Brown was a leader in creating the Center for Child and Family Advocacy at Nationwide Children’s Hospital. She was the first African American judge in the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas, Division of Domestic Relations and Juvenile Branch. Brown is active on numerous community boards and dedicated to promoting healthy lives for children and families. She is a native of Columbus and a graduate of Columbus City Schools.

Loann Crane, Franklin County – Crane is a dedicated philanthropist and supporter of the arts and equality in Ohio . She helped found the Women’s Fund and has greatly impacted the Columbus community through her work with the Ohio State University Foundation, CCAD, Columbus Museum of Art, GCAC, and ProMusica. A Martins Ferry native, Crane is one of Columbus ’ most respected community leaders.

Joan Durgin, Lucas County – Durgin is a force for the support and advancement of young women and girls in Toledo and northwest Ohio . She developed the School Based Health Clinics in Toledo Public Schools, which provide various services, including disease prevention and primary health care. In 2003, Durgin founded the Polly Fox Academy , an alternative school for pregnant and parenting teen girls. Durgin has lived in northwest Ohio for most of her life and currently works for Toledo Public Schools.

Carol Gibbs, Hamilton County – Gibbs is the founder of Accountability and Credibility Together, Inc. (ACT), serving poor families with children. She is the president of the Cincinnati Council of PTAs and in 2007 began dedicating time and effort to the prevention of lead poisoning. Born in Dayton and raised in Cincinnati , Gibbs has committed herself to improving the lives of people in her community.

Billie A. Johnson, Lucas County – As executive director and CEO of the Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Johnson is above all an advocate for the elderly. She established online services for seniors and has been an active member of local and national advocacy groups. Johnson has been serving older Ohioans in northwestern Ohio for more than three decades.

Dr. Jih-Fen Lei, Cuyahoga County – Director of Research and Technology Directorate at NASA’s Glenn Research Center , Lei is a leader in propulsion, microgravity research, instrumentation and controls, nanotechnology and biotechnology. She has developed sensors and protective coating for aircraft and rocket applications. Lei actively mentors women and minorities in science and research careers.

Elizabeth Stewart Magee, Cuyahoga County, (1889-1972) – An advocate of women’s and children’s rights in the workforce, Magee was executive secretary of Ohio’s Commission on Unemployment Insurance and held numerous other national and political positions, which was unusual for a woman in her era. She created the Ohio Plan, the foundation for today’s national unemployment program, and campaigned to prevent child labor and to improve the status of migrant workers.

Dr. Kasturi V. Rajadhyaksha, Delaware County – As an advocate working toward equality and understanding for women and Asians in Ohio, Rajadhyaksha has worked in maternal and child health, family planning and the empowerment of women for more than 60 years in the United States and India as well as 20 other countries. She founded the Women of India Support Group (WISSIG), and co-founded the Asian American Commerce Group (AACG) as well as the Women to Women Mentoring Group.

Julie Salamon, Adams County – An esteemed author and journalist, Salamon has been a reporter for the Wall Street Journal, a movie critic, and a weekly columnist. Among her many award-winning books, her novella, *The Christmas Tree* (1996), became a New York Times Bestseller, has been translated into eight languages, and received an Audie Award for Best Inspirational/Spiritual Book. Salamon is active in organizations that provide care for the homeless who suffer from addiction or mental disease. A native of Seaman, Ohio, she currently resides in New York with her husband and children.

Michele G. Wheatly, Ph.D., Greene County – As dean of the College of Science and Mathematics at Wright State University, Wheatly is active in recruiting and ensuring the success of women in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math. Since moving to Ohio in 1994, she has been using her expertise to further the involvement of women in science and mathematics in Ohio.

The Ohio Women's Hall of Fame program is administered by the Ohioana Library Association in partnership with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and the Governor's Office for Women's Initiatives and Outreach. Through this partnership, the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame will continue to honor Ohio women who emerge as leaders in their fields, often against great odds, with courage, determination and compassion.

The Friends of the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame, a group of private organizations and individuals who provide financial support to the program, has been established to help the program grow. For more information, contact the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame at (614) 466-3831 or Ohioana, 274 E. First Ave., Suite 300, Columbus, OH 43201.

The 2008 Ohio Women's Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will be held at 5 p.m. September 18 at the Ohio Statehouse Atrium.