

A Special Salute to Women Who Choose to Challenge



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WOMEN'S HISTORY ACHIEVERS RECOGNITION EDITION

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Choose to Challenge



KAMALA HARRIS
Vice President
United States of America



DR. JILL BIDEN
First Lady
United States of America

March is known as Women’s History Month – a celebratory time to commemorate and encourage the observance of the accomplishments of women. However, before we can discuss Women’s History Month, we must first acknowledge International Women’s Day.

Inspired by America’s National Women’s Day, February 28, 1909, and first officially celebrated in the U.S on March 19, 1911 as a day of rallies against the war, International Women’s Day was created. The day would later change to an annual celebration on March 8th and was designed to support working women’s rights and give women an opportunity to express international solidarity and bring attention to the social, political, economic and cultural issues of women.

The inaugural celebration of International Women’s Day attracted more than a million women into the streets to protest for the right to vote, the right to hold public offices and the right to gender parity.

Each year for International Women’s Day a theme is announced. The theme for 2021 is **Choose to Challenge**. Women are encouraged to challenge the status quo by challenging gender bias and inequality, because even today, gender equality does not exist anywhere in the world. According to a Columbia University and Earth Institute study, one in three women will experience gender-based violence in their lifetimes, women are still paid less than men for the same work, and they do 2.6 times more unpaid care and domestic work.

In many countries, women do not have equal access to land, credit or economic and educational opportunities, so when disaster strikes, it’s usually women who often suffer the most.

Since 1987, Women’s History Month has been observed annually in March in the United States to coincide with International Women’s Day on March 8 (plus, March is also when Title IX was passed in 1972, which protects people from sex discrimination in federal education programs). Women’s History Month is legally declared by a presidential proclamation and reserved for recognition of women for their numerous but often-overlooked contributions to American history, culture, community and society.

Each year for Women’s History Month, the National Women’s History Alliance selects and publishes a theme. In 2020, the theme was “Valiant Women of the Vote.” But since so many events and celebrations were canceled due to COVID-19, including the celebrations of the 100th anniversary of the Suffrage Movement, the Alliance kept the theme and expanded it to include “Refusing to Be Silenced.” Therefore, the Women’s History Month theme for 2021 is “Valiant Women of the Vote: Refusing to Be Silenced.”

PAULA MCCRANEY
Special Consultant
Research & Development for the
“Salute to Women” Achievers
Recognition Edition

PHILANTHROPISTS



CHRISTY BROWN
Co-founder
Center for InterFaith Relations
& The Envirome Institute of U of L



ALICE HOUSTON
Owner
HJI Supply Chain Solutions



BROOKE BROWN BARZUN
Community Supporter

One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.

Have you ever heard the term “born to lead?” This theory assumes that great leaders are simply born with the necessary internal traits that make them natural-born leaders; that great leaders are born, not made. These types of leaders are often portrayed as heroic, mythic and destined to rise to leadership when needed. Just as some people are born leaders, some people are born with a philanthropic heart. These warmhearted souls have an inherent instinct to share what they have, no matter how much or how little they have. It is a matter of the heart. Their innate sense of giving back to help others is indicative of the caring nature they possess.

It is through giving that philanthropists like the generous women featured here today experience a sense of total wellbeing. They walk in their purpose and live by the creed that says only by giving are you able to receive more than you already have. To watch these women in action, is to witness that it is not how much they give but how much love they put into giving.

“Work for a cause, not for applause. Live life to express, not to impress. Don’t strive to make your presence noticed, just make your absence felt”



MARY HARVILLE
President/CEO
Kentucky Lottery Corporation



CAROLLE JONES CLAY
Senior Vice President
Managing Director,
Community Relations
Republic Bank



TRACEY JOHNSON
Vice President
Group Brand Director
Woodford Reserve
Brown-Forman Corporation

CORPORATE

“A strong woman looks a challenge in the eye and gives it a wink”

“Well behaved women rarely make history”



ANN GEORGEHEAD
Senior Vice President
Regional Banking Director
PNC Wealth Management



**NIKKI
ROBINSON LANIER**
Vice President &
Regional Executive
Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis



KIMBERLY HALBAUER
Region President
Fifth Third Bank, N.A.



JANE MORREAU
Executive Vice President
Brown Forman Corporation



**EDEN
BRIDGEMAN SKLENAR**
CMO, Manna, Inc.
Owner, Ebony/Jet

**“A woman
Is like a
Tea bag;
you never
know how
strong she is
until she’s in
hot water”**
— Eleanor Roosevelt

“Great minds discuss ideas, average minds discuss events, small minds discuss people”
(Eleanor Roosevelt)

Powerful. Confident. Ambitious. Determined. Adaptable. Creative. Emotionally Intelligent. These are just a few of the attributes of a female corporate executive, just like the ones featured today in the corporate executive category. These dynamic women are savvy, sophisticated, topnotch and victorious. They have blazed the trail and are conscious of the tremendous obligation to serve as an example for those who aspire to follow in their footsteps.

According to Catalyst, a global nonprofit organization working with some of the world's most powerful CEO's and leading companies, in 2019, the proportion of women in senior management roles globally grew to 29%, the highest number ever recorded. In 2020 this percentage remained the same.

To no surprise, the higher up the corporate ladder, the fewer women. A 2020 analysis by Mercer of over 1,100 organizations across the world found a leaky pipeline for women in leadership. Executives: 23%, Senior Managers: 29%, Managers: 37%, Professionals: 42%, and Support Staff: 47%. Despite a record-high number of Fortune 500 women CEOs in 2020, there are still nearly 13 companies run by a man for every company run by a woman.

While we still have a long way to go before we see equity and equality in the C-Suite and boardrooms, the women featured in the corporate executive category understand that as women leaders, the onus falls on them to ensure the next generation of women have equal access to opportunity.



**SARAH
DAVASHER-WISDOM**
President/CEO
Greater Louisville Inc.

ORGANIZATION EXECUTIVES



THERESA RENO-WEBER
President/CEO
Metro United Way



AMY LUTTRELL
President/CEO
Goodwill Industries of Kentucky



JENNIFER HANCOCK
President/CEO
Volunteers of America Mid-States



TRACIE TEXAS SHIFFLETT
Executive Director
Louisville Metro Police Foundation



KIM BAKER
President/CEO
Kentucky Center for the Arts



YVETTE GENTRY
Executive Director
Rajon Rondo Foundation



**BARBARA
LYNNE JAMISON**
General Director/CEO
Kentucky Opera

**“I alone cannot
change the world,
but I can cast a
stone across the
waters to create
many ripples”**

—Mother Teresa

Nonprofit Organization Executives are charismatic.

They are intentional and enthusiastic in a way that makes donors happy to support their organization. They tend to have a clear idea of how the future should look and set goals to outline how to lead a team of people in that direction.

The nonprofit leaders featured in this special edition are bold risk-takers with a collaborative spirit and a keen sense of purpose. They oversee the daily operations of their organizations and are versatile and optimistic enough to orchestrate many moving parts.

They are Teflon-tough with the determination to break down barriers and institutions that have been in place for a long time and are no longer effective.

They are not easily intimidated, nor are they quick to take ‘no’ for an answer. Their fear is not failure, only of not trying hard enough. They are passionate about their organization’s mission and goals!

BUSINESS / ENTREPRENEURSHIP

LESA SEIBERT
CEO & Founder
Mightily & Xstreme Media



TAWANA BAIN
CEO
TBAIN & Co.



DAWN DILLARD URRUTIA
Owner
Georgia's Sweet Potato Pie Company



**PAMELA
FULTON BROADUS**
Owner/President & CEO
Splendid Events, LLC

Did you know that 33 years ago if a woman wanted to obtain a business loan, she had to secure the signature of a male relative? It's true. It was not until 1988 when H.R. 5050, known as the Women's Business Ownership Act, was passed that the discriminatory practice of not allowing women to obtain business loans without a male relative as a co-signer ended.

The number of women-owned businesses skyrocketed when the act passed, because it also eliminated discriminatory lending practices by banks that favored male business owners.

Women-owned businesses have now become a critical part of the U.S. economy, with:

- More than 12.3 million businesses owned by women
- Women-owned firms accounting for 40 percent of all privately held firms
- Women-owned small businesses employing more than 9.2 million people and generating an estimated \$1.9 trillion in revenue.

According to a report from SCORE, women are slightly more likely than men to start businesses today. The top reason for starting a business is to pursue passion, which 48 percent of female entrepreneurs cited as a motivator.

Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer announced during a Women's Work Business forum on March 22, that the number of female business owners in Louisville continues to grow. He stated that Louisville was ranked number 2 among large metro cities in a 2019 national study that measured the number of female business owners across the country.

Currently, the percentage of women owned businesses in Louisville is only 13%. Mayor Fischer shared that through the small business COVID-19 Relief Grant Program, Louisville Metro Government was able to give grants totaling 27.1 million to 824 small businesses to help mitigate the economic impact of the pandemic. Minority-owned businesses received 28% of the grants, and women-owned businesses received 34%.

Through the Small Business COVID-19 Relief Program, Louisville Metro approved 70 low interest loans totaling \$2.9 million. COVID-19 has forced many entrepreneurs to reimagine the way in which they run their businesses and find innovative ways to pivot during this crisis.

The bold and innovative business owners featured today define success in their own terms, trust their instincts and set high goals. They are survivors, determined to run on to see what the end will be.



JENISE SQUIRES
Owner
Louisville WOW Spa



PAMELA HAINES
Owner
Sweet Peaches, Soups,
Sandwiches & Specialties



JESSIE M. GREEN
Owner
Big Momma's Soul Food



**NACHAND
HYDE-TRABUE**
Owner
Manhattan on Broadway



CHELSEA A. ELLIS
President/CEO
Jim Reynolds Asphalt Contractors



SHAUNTRICE MARTIN
Owner
Black Market KY LLC

METRO COUNCIL



Jessica Green
Metro Councilwoman
District 1



Barbara Shanklin
Metro Councilwoman
District 2



Keisha Dorsey
Metro Councilwoman
District 3



Donna Purvis
Metro Councilwoman
District 5



Paula McCraney
Metro Councilwoman
District 7



Cassie Chambers
Armstrong
Metro Councilwoman
District 8



Cindi Fowler
Metro Councilwoman
District 14



Nicole George
Metro Councilwoman
District 21



Madonna Flood
Metro Councilwoman
District 24



Amy Holton Stewart
Metro Councilwoman
District 25

The elected officials featured today are valiant leaders who have proven by their accomplishments that they refuse to be silenced and are women who choose to challenge. These lawmakers understand that challenging the status quo can be risky; it often requires courage and a willingness to go against the grain. However, they courageously go face-to-face and toe-to-toe with those who are often resistant to change.

These women are trailblazers. They are forward thinkers. They possess a mindset that looks for insights on how things can be improved. These brilliant, passionate and socially conscious women consider all variables, including the resources that are available or not to implement ideas and effect positive change.

Today, we honor these and other women throughout our nation, and thank them for a life lived unselfishly.

“If the time is not ripe, we have to ripen the time”

—Dorothy I. Height

COMMUNITY ACTIVISTS



CARLA WALLACE
Co-Founder Showing Up for Racial Justice
& Base Building Team for Louisville SURJ



MATTIE JONES
Civil Rights Activist



MARSHA WEINSTEIN
Women’s Rights Activist
& Girl Leadership Advocate



DOLORES DELAHANTY
Founder, KY Women’s Political Caucus
& Founding Board of Directors of the
National Women’s Political Caucus



GRACIE LEWIS
Civil Rights Activist



RHONDA MATHIES
Freedom Fighter Activist

Activism (NOUN) – Taking action and using vigorous campaigning to bring about social, political, cultural, economic or environmental change. Often led by individuals, activism is also effectively done collectively through social movements.

The women featured in this category were and are valiant grassroots advocates with a winning attitude for raising awareness and changing lives in every part of the communities they serve. The commitment and bravery of these women is inspiring. They put a lot on the line, and in some cases, their lives. In most cases, these women engaged in activism through protests, strikes and demonstrations. Their form of activism is demand-driven with the aim of effecting change in policy, practice or operations. This generation of women know the importance of celebrating short-term victories, yet they are built for long-term sustainable campaigns.

They also realize their role as activists but understand that people who do not consider themselves as activists also are doing work to effect social change. They welcome all to the table. Today, stories are being told of activists and others who will fill tomorrow’s history books about needed changes in our society. A new generation of activists are building on the lessons learned and experiences of the women featured today.

This new generation of emerging activists will continue and widen the struggle for justice, and the women who have come before them know that the radical ideas of one generation are often the commonsense approaches that will be used by the next generation. These dynamic and fearless women who choose to challenge are willing and ready to pass the baton and cheer on their practical idealist successors who will carry the torch forward.

“I’m no longer accepting the things I cannot change. I’m changing the things I cannot accept”

– Angela Davis

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



LATASHA BUCKNER
Chief of Staff
General Counsel



JACQUELINE COLEMAN
Lt. Governor
Secretary, Education &
Workforce Development



GERINA D. WHETHERS
Cabinet Secretary
KY Personnel Cabinet

JEFFERSON COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS, STATE REPRESENTATIVES, STATE SENATORS



BOBBIE HOLSCRAW
Jefferson County Clerk &
Chairperson, Board of Elections



COLLEEN YOUNGER
Jefferson County Property
Valuation Administrator



Josie Raymond
State Representative
District 31



Tina Bojanowski
State Representative
District 32



MaryLou Marzian
State Representative
District 34



Lisa Willner
State Representative
District 35



McKenzie Cantrell
State Representative
District 38



Nima Kulkarni
State Representative
District 40



Pamela Stevenson
State Representative
District 43



Joni L. Jenkins
State Representative
Minority Floor Leader
District 44



Karen Berg M.D.
State Senator
District 26

SPECIAL NOTE:

The following elected officials were contacted and sent an official request for their participation, but they failed to respond by deadline: Attica Scott, State Representative, District 41; Denise Harper Angel, State Senator, District 35; Julie Raque Adams, State Senator, District 36, Majority Caucus Chair; and Marilyn Parker, Metro Councilwoman, District 18.

RECOGNIZING WOMEN HISTORY MONTH

WOMEN'S HISTORY ACHIEVERS RECOGNITION EDITION

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PUBLIC SAFETY



ERIKA SHIELDS
Chief of Police
LMPD



Jacquelyn Gwinn-Villaroel
Deputy Chief of Police
Chief of Staff LMPD

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the national average for sworn women police officers in county and city departments is approximately 13%, while state police organizations struggle to maintain half that number.

Slow but steady progress is being made across America in recruiting women in law enforcement, but smaller efforts still exist in advancing women to command positions.

Louisville, Kentucky recently shattered the blue ceiling when two female law enforcement professionals arrived in town to lead the Louisville Metro Police Department. They have inexhaustible mental agility to make tough decisions and possess bravery, courage, integrity and self-awareness.

They combine their savvy communications and problem-solving skills to lead in what is considered a male-dominated field that requires brute strength and strong tactical acumen.

They are authentically themselves and are comfortable in their own skin. In other words, these – women – are – FIERCE!

EDUCATION



Tori Murden McClure
President
Spalding University



Diane Porter
Chairwoman
District 1 Representative
Jefferson County School Board



Ronda Cosby
Principal
Grace M. James
Academy of Excellence

Good educators share knowledge. Great ones make an Impression that stays in their students' hearts forever.

Educators are extraordinary human beings, some of the most innovative, inspiring, dedicated, passionate, successful, loving and beloved people we can ever meet. Having a quality educator in our lives is one of the most important factors in determining our success in life. Educators guide us and make things easier by teaching us strong values that make us successful.

If you ask most educators, they may tell you that rarely do they know whether they made lasting impressions on students but finding out they did can be one of the most rewarding moments of their lives. Great educators, like the esteemed women featured in this category, understand that instruction does not consist only of lecturing to students and expecting them to listen and record what they hear, but it's offering every student a rich, rewarding and unique learning experience.

The influence of these great women spans far beyond a classroom. Their influence extends into homes, the community and around the world. What they share with others through their encouraging words and nurturing mannerisms molds minds and changes lives. We owe a great debt of gratitude to caring and professional women like our honorees, because their profession made all other professions possible.

In America, when we encounter a member of the armed services, many of us make a point To thank them for their service. We should all do the same when we encounter an educator?

“When you feel like quitting, think about why you started”



Help children reach their potential and overcome their obstacles.

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We Are Proud to Sponsor the 2021 Women's History Achievers Edition

“CONGRATULATIONS” 2021 NOMINEES

Thank You For Your Participation & Support!



“Congratulations to the accomplished women who are recognized in this edition. They walk boldly in their purpose and their drive and passion are infectious. I am honored to work with all of them in our quest to support Louisville as a wonderful place to live, work, play and raise a family.”

Paula McCraney
Special Consultant
Research & Development for the
“Salute to Women” Achievers
Recognition Edition



As the Associate Publisher/Editor of the Louisville Defender Newspaper, it gives me great pleasure to present our first special edition honoring Women's History Month. The Louisville Defender is honored to be a part of the celebration of the contributions women have made to history, culture and society.

When we made the request for information of those that were nominated, we are very proud of the fact that we received a response rate of over 99.5%.

It is our hope that our readers will enjoy this special edition highlighting and honoring the many achievements women are making in our community. Our plan is to make this edition one that will be published annually as part of the Louisville Defender Newspaper's community outreach engagements programs.

We extend our sincere thanks to Paula McCraney for the research, development and coordination of this edition and all the nominee participants, sponsors and the many others who have made this edition possible.

Yvonne Coleman-Bach
Associate Publisher/Editor
& Director of Community Affairs

“Muhammad Ali encouraged me to row alone across the ocean.”

In 1999, Louisville's Tori Murden McClure became the first woman and first American to row a boat solo across the Atlantic Ocean. She rowed from the Canary Islands to the Caribbean island of Guadeloupe, having traveled 3,333 miles and spending 81 days at sea. McClure, who was the first full-time employee of the Muhammad Ali Center, credits her mentor Ali for encouraging her to row the ocean.

Her rowing journey is the basis of a new stage musical, ROW, that will premiere on Audible in April.



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and overcome their obstacles.

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**We Are Proud to Sponsor the 2021
Women's History Achievers Edition**

Learn the history

you may not have been taught.

The first female self-made millionaire in America was Madam C. J. Walker, *a Black woman.*



Let’s build a better future by knowing more about our past.

In partnership with the DuSable Museum of African American History, we’re working together to shed light on untold stories of our country’s past.

Learn more at pnc.com/blackhistorymonth

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ANNUAL WOMEN’S HISTORY
ACHIEVERS RECOGNITION EDITION**