



Howard County Government News Release

Office of Public Information
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

410-313-2022 / FAX 410-313-3390 / www.howardcountymd.gov

Deidre N. McCabe
Director of Communications
dmccabe@howardcountymd.gov

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Media Contacts:

Deidre McCabe, Director of Communications, Office of Public Information, 410-313-2022
Jacqueline Scott, Executive Secretary, Commission for Women, 410-313-6400

19th annual Howard County Women's Hall of Fame to induct five outstanding women

ELLICOTT CITY, MD – Howard County Executive Allan Kittleman and the Howard County Commission for Women announced today the 2015 inductees into the county's Women's Hall of Fame. Inductees will be honored at the 19th annual Women's Hall of Fame ceremony on Thursday, March 12, at 7:30 p.m. in the Banneker Room of the George Howard Building, 3430 Court House Drive in Ellicott City. Admission is free and the event is open to the public.

Since 1996, the Commission has inducted up to five women into the Howard County Women's Hall of Fame as part of Women's History Month each March.

"These five outstanding women have dedicated many years to making Howard County a better place to live," said County Executive Allan Kittleman. "They are role models. Through their significant contributions in philanthropy, advocacy and leadership, they help promote a brighter future for Howard County."

This year the Commission has selected five outstanding Howard County women for induction into the Women's Hall of Fame:

- **Lenore Gelfman** – Throughout Judge Gelfman's 25 year judicial career, she has distinguished herself in the practice of law and now serves as the Administrative Chief Judge for the Circuit Court for Howard County. Judge Gelfman is also a mentor for young female attorneys, a dedicated community volunteer and a role model for women in the workforce.
- **Mavis Polson Lewis** – For more than 20 years, Lewis has served as the Campaign Chairperson for the Howard County Foundation for Black Educational and Cultural Achievement, Inc., helping to ensure a brighter future for Howard County youth by providing funding for higher education and helping older adults plan for a sound financial future.

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19th annual Howard County Women's Hall of Fame to induct five outstanding women *(continued)*

- **Colette Roberts** – In 1995, Roberts founded the Howard County chapter of PFLAG – Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. In the years since, she has worked tirelessly to help keep families together, promote equality and end discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.
- **Courtney Watson** – As an insurance professional, Watson has forged a successful career protecting the rights of small businesses. As a member of the Howard County Council and the Howard County Board of Education, Watson carried on her family's legacy of public service, advocating for education and human rights and improving the lives of all Howard County residents.
- **Margaret "Peg" Whyte** – Co-founder of the Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center and a tireless advocate for the Linwood Center, Whyte has spent a lifetime supporting, advocating for and inspiring the mental health and disabilities communities in Howard County. Most recently, as Linwood's Director of Development, she helped raise funds for the construction of a new building which now addresses the needs of nearly 100 individuals on the autism spectrum.

The March 12th induction ceremony will be immediately followed by a reception. An interpreter for people who are deaf or hard of hearing will be available, if requested, seven days prior to the event. Call the Department of Citizen Services at 410-313-6400 (voice/Relay) between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

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**** Note to Media: Biographies and photographs available upon request. ****