



## **Ruth Wicker Tribute to Women**

### **Dr. Alma Adams (inducted in 2019)**

Adams served as an art professor at Bennett College and as a legislator at the City, state, and federal levels.

### **Elreta Melton Alexander (2019)**

In 1947, Alexander became the first Black woman to practice law in North Carolina and later became the first Black woman elected district court judge. During her tenure, she created the controversial Judgment Day program that sought to rehabilitate young, first-time offenders.

### **Carolyn Allen (2019)**

Allen was the City of Greensboro's first female mayor when she was elected in 1993. She was an instructor at NC A&T State University and UNC Greensboro.

### **Dorothy Bardolph (2019)**

Bardolph (1918-1990) served as a Greensboro City Council member from 1979-89 and mayor pro tem from 1987-89. She was an early and effective advocate for the environment, racial justice, and women.

### **Joanne Bluethenthal (2023)**

The Philadelphia native lived from 1928 to 2019 and was a tireless champion of school desegregation and integration. She served on the Guilford County Board of Education and provided vital leadership to local colleges and the Greensboro Jewish Federation.

### **Josephine Boyd Bradley (2019)**

Bradley (1940-2015) was the first Black student to integrate a whites-only high school in North Carolina, and she did it alone in a school of nearly 2,000 students. In 1958, she became the first Black to graduate from an integrated public high school in the state.

### **Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown (2019)**

Born in 1883 in Henderson, NC, this granddaughter of former slaves was a lecturer, social worker, and religious leader. She founded the Palmer Memorial Institute, a day and boarding school for African Americans in Sedalia.

### **Claudette Burroughs-White (2019)**

Burroughs-White served on the City of Greensboro City Council from 1994-2005 and as a member of the

Governor's Crime Commission, the United Way, the Girl Scouts, and the YWCA. She participated in the Greensboro lunch counter sit-ins and later co-chaired the 40th-anniversary commemoration of the event.

**Dr. Goldie Byrd (2019)**

Byrd has been a professor, department chair, and dean at NC A&T State University, her alma mater. She specializes in Alzheimer's research and founded the Center for Outreach in Alzheimer's, Aging, and Community Health. She directs the Maya Angelou Center for Health Equity at the Wake Forest Baptist School of Medicine.

**Willena Cannon (2019)**

Cannon fights for racial and class justice and champions affordable and safe housing for the community's most vulnerable through her work with the Greensboro Housing Coalition.

**Carolyn Coleman (2019)**

A Georgia native, Coleman has been a civil rights activist working with the NAACP. She served four terms on the Guilford County Board of Commissioners and previously served as a special assistant to NC Governor Jim Hunt.

**Bertha Cone (2023)**

The wife of textile magnate Moses Cone, she established the trust that ultimately funded the construction of Greensboro's Cone Memorial Hospital in 1911. She lived from 1858-1947.

**Betty Cone (2019)**

Cone advocated for Old Greensborough's historic designation, saved the Carolina Theatre from demolition and oversaw the annual Fun Fourth and Festival of Lights community events.

**Laura Weil Cone (2023)**

The local philanthropist graduated from the State Normal and Industrial School (now UNC Greensboro) before becoming a teacher and leader in the women's suffrage movement. She served decades as a board member of local and state universities. She lived from 1888-1970.

**Robin Davis (2023)**

The Kernersville, NC, native and founder of Maxie B's Bakeries has been honored for her commitment to sustainability and the environment.

**Dr. Katie Dorsett (2019)**

Dorsett was the first Black woman elected to the Greensboro City Council. She also served as a Guilford County Commissioner and NC State Senator. She was the Secretary of the NC Department of Administration, the first Black woman to hold a cabinet post in the state's government.

**Cynthia Doyle (2019)**

Doyle was a long-time community volunteer and leader who helped start United Day Care Services (now

Guilford Child Development), Child Abuse Prevention Services, Reading Connections, Leadership Greensboro, and the Greensboro Children's Museum.

**Dr. Claudia Femenias (2019)**

Femenias is the president of Casa Azul of Greensboro, which aims to promote Latino art and culture through free events that highlight local Latino artists. She is a professor at High Point University.

**Dr. Mazie Ferguson (2023)**

This legal scholar was the first Black woman to pastor Baptist churches in both Siler City, NC, and Greensboro. She earned a Juris Doctor from the University of South Carolina School of Law and was an officer with the NC Conference of the NAACP and the Pulpit Forum of Greensboro. She lived from 1944 to 2021.

**Shirley Frye (2019)**

She has been a leader with the local YWCA, NC A&T State University, High Point University, and local foundations.

**Florence Fraser Gatten (2019)**

Gatten has been active in Greensboro arts, civics, and political life. She has served on many boards, including Bennett College, Young Artists Opera Theatre, Governor's Conference on Library and Information Services, Belle Meade Society of Greensboro Historical Museum, Moses Cone-Wesley Long Community Health Foundation, and Greensboro City Council.

**Rhiannon Giddens (2019)**

Raised in Greensboro, Giddens is an accomplished banjo and violin player and vocalist. She founded the Grammy Award-winning Carolina Chocolate Drops and is the first woman and person of color to win the Steve Martin Prize for Excellence in Banjo and Bluegrass and the BBC Radio2 Folk Singer of the Year Award.

**Mary Hines Griffin (2023)**

Griffin (1935-2022) was a special education instructor in Alamance and Guilford counties who also advised the Special Needs Division of the NC Department of Instruction. The graduate advisor to three local colleges was active in the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church and with many other civic and professional organizations.

**Erika Hendrix (2023)**

Left legally blind by a series of mini-strokes, the Greensboro native founded the Lady E Specs eyewear company. The consultant also manages a local beverage company and is CEO of Creative Management Source, which benefits adults with mental illness and intellectual and developmental differences.

**Mary Mendenhall Hobbs (2019)**

Hobbs (1852-1930) was a Quaker leader, teacher, writer, advocate, and mentor who championed women's education in North Carolina.

**Tabitha Anne Holton (2019)**

In 1878, Holton was the first woman licensed as a lawyer in North Carolina and the southern United States.

**Sandra Hughes (2019)**

Hughes joined WFMY-TV in 1972 and was the first Black woman in the Piedmont to host a daily talk show. She was also the first African American to host the entertainment show PM Magazine in the southeast.

**Aggie “Jean” Jackson (2019)**

Jackson was the first female and first Black athletics director for the City of Greensboro’s Parks and Recreation Department. She dedicated her 25-year career to improving opportunities and access for girls and women in sports.

**Rosella Jarrell (2023)**

The civil rights leader lived from 1925-2008. She was part of the Greensboro Association of Poor People and the Tenant Council President of Ray Warren Homes.

**Yvonne Johnson (2019)**

Johnson has served on the Greensboro City Council for more than 20 years. She was the City’s first African American mayor.

**Culey “Vickie” Kilimanjaro (2019)**

Kilimanjaro and her husband founded the Carolina Peacemaker, Greensboro’s long-running African American newspaper.

**Yolanda Leacraft (2019)**

She developed many programs for women in Greensboro. She is the former administrator of the Greensboro Commission on the Status of Women and has served on the Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro board.

**Captain Pam McAdoo-Rogers (2019)**

McAdoo-Rogers served the City of Greensboro as a police officer for over 30 years and has been involved in community projects such as the Citizens Advisory Council, Operation PASS, and Operation Yuletide. She was awarded the Guilford Merchants Association Distinguished Service Award in 2015 and North State Law Enforcement Officer of the Year in 2009.

**Mary Webb Nicholson (2019)**

Nicholson, a Greensboro native, became North Carolina’s first woman to earn a private pilot’s license, a commercial license, and a transport license. During World War II, she was among a group of American women pilots who assisted the British Air Transport Auxiliary. She died in 1943 in a plane crash in England.

**Mary Petty (2019)**

Petty pursued higher education and an academic career in the sciences when those were rare choices for women. In 1893, she established the chemistry program and mentored women in the sciences at Woman's College (now UNC Greensboro). She was also an early organizer and president of the Greensboro Women's Club, a leader in the NC Federations of Women's Clubs, and a leader within the Society of Friends in North Carolina.

**Dr. Willa Player (2019)**

Player was a former president of Bennett College and a significant behind-the-scenes force in civil rights in Greensboro. She welcomed the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. to speak on campus when no one else in the city would.

**Ruth Revels (2023)**

A high school teacher and small business owner, Revels (1936-2016) tirelessly championed the cause of the state's Native Americans and their communities.

**Dr. Gladys Ashe Robinson (2019)**

Robinson, a Deputy Minority Leader of the NC Senate, advocates for education, small businesses, jobs, women's rights, and ensuring health and quality of life for low-income, minority, disabled, and elderly populations. She was one of the authors of the state's breast-density legislation, introduced legislation on lupus, and has worked on issues of domestic violence and homelessness.

**Martha Josephine Oxford Sebastian (2023)**

Guilford County's first Black public librarian, Sebastian (1896-1948) directed the Carnegie Negro Library for 24 years. She shaped it into one of the South's best African American libraries and a meeting place for civil rights activists.

**Liz Seymour (2019)**

Seymour founded the Interactive Resource Center, which serves homeless residents in downtown Greensboro.

**Gladys Shipman (2023)**

The Greensboro native protested the segregated lunch counter at Woolworth's as a youth and continued her activism throughout her life. She was the first female president of the Greensboro NAACP and the first female vice president of the organization's NC Conference. She lived from 1945-201.

**Angeline Smith (2023)**

An English teacher at Greensboro's Dudley High School, Smith (1908-1991) fought for the desegregation of the city's restrooms and water fountains. She served on leadership groups for many different nonprofit organizations, including NC A&T State University, and the Hayes-Taylor YMCA.

**Estella Marie Stamey (2019)**

Stamey was a neighborhood leader and advocate for Eastside Park. She helped neighborhood children with homework after school in her living room. This led to the creation of Eastside Park Community

Center, a private center intended to serve the community through positive programming.

**Leah Tannenbaum (2023)**

Tannenbaum (1915-2002) was a noted philanthropist who made her mark in the arts community and as a supporter of children's issues. A leader with the Eastern Music Festival and Weatherspoon Art Museum, she helped organize United Day Care Services, a forerunner of the region's Head Start Program.

**Teresa Vincent (2023)**

Guilford County's first Black woman to serve as chief district court judge, Vincent has been a district court judge since 2000. She received the Elon University Law School's Women's Law Association's 2013 Outstanding Woman in the Profession Award for her efforts to end domestic violence.

**Goldie Wells (2023)**

District Two's Greensboro City Council representative since 2017, Wells holds a doctorate from UNC Chapel Hill and is an accomplished educator. She founded Citizens for Economic and Environmental Justice, a Greensboro organization that addresses hunger and food access.

**Greensboro Commission on the Status of Women (2019)**

The mission of the City's Commission on the Status of Women is to improve the quality of life for women in Greensboro. The commission recommends to the City Council actions it deems necessary to improve and uphold opportunities for all people, regardless of gender.

**Greensboro Woman's Club (2019)**

The Greensboro Woman's Club, established in 1909, is Greensboro's oldest community service organization.

**League of Women Voters of the Piedmont Triad (2019)**

The nonpartisan, grassroots league provides voter registration, voter guides, and candidate forums to the community. It also raises awareness of critical issues, such as the environment, fair elections, health, and public education.

**Women's Resource Center of Greensboro (2019)**

This nonprofit organization helps women navigate life's hurdles, access community services, develop new skills, and move their lives forward.