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Media Contacts:
Natalie Rudd, Program Manager
bookclub@womenofthehall.org
303-263-9197

Sandy Sloane, Events Consultant
Sandy.Sloane@SolutionsbySloane.com
954-707-2652

National Women’s Hall of Fame Virtual Induction Series
Inaugural Event December 10, 2020
Aretha Franklin, Singer, Activist

Seneca Falls, NY: On December 10, 2020 the National Women’s Hall of Fame will launch its inaugural virtual induction, the first in a new series showcasing under-represented women of achievement, posthumously. The Virtual Induction Series will serve as a way to innovate the way the NWHF operates and reflects on the past, honoring women posthumously that were deceased prior to the establishment of the NWHF, overlooked in their lifetime, or passed away before they were able to be inducted.

We begin this series of virtual posthumous inductions with six prominent Black women who have shaped our nation. During the research process it became apparent that the NWHF lacked diversity within its nomination pool, most notably of historic Black women and other women of color. In order to openly acknowledge and amend the disparities within the nomination pool, the Virtual Induction Series will recognize and induct other marginalized women of achievement including those from the Latinx, Asian, Native American, LGBTQ+ sisterhoods, as well as additional Black women. An outreach effort to organizations involved in these communities is being undertaken to identify and nominate more candidates.

The first of our Virtual Induction Series will showcase six Black women who shaped our nation. With this first step, the NWHF engages in an on-going process of learning, educating, and honoring the women throughout our nation’s history to whom we are indebted.

Aretha Franklin (1942-2018) Aretha Franklin was an American singer, songwriter, actress, pianist, and civil rights activist. Her multi-octave voice moved millions of people around the world during an expansive career that spanned six decades and rewarded her with every achievement and honor imaginable. From her time growing up in the home of a prominent African-American preacher to the end of her life, Franklin was immersed and involved in the struggle for civil rights and women's rights. She provided money for civil rights groups, at times covering payroll, and performed at benefits and protests. Many of her songs, such as “Respect,” and "(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman" became anthems for movements for social change. Additionally, her music became inspiration for many artists to come. By the end of the
1960s, Aretha Franklin had come to be known as the "Queen of Soul".

Fellow 2020 Inductees

Mary Church Terrell, Suffragist
Barbara Hillary, Adventurer
Barbara Rose Johns, Activist, Librarian

Henrietta Lacks, Medical Research Revolutionizer
Toni Morrison, Author

About the NATIONAL WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME

The National Women's Hall of Fame was founded in 1969 and is the nation's oldest membership organization and museum dedicated to honoring and celebrating the achievements of distinguished American women. In pursuit of its mission of "Showcasing Great Women...Inspiring All," the National Women's Hall of Fame honors the women of the past, relates the history of women's struggles, prepares the women of the future and serves as the voice celebrating the value of women.

Situated in Seneca Falls, NY, the birthplace of women's rights, the Hall tells women's stories by focusing on the leadership lessons from its Inductees throughout American history. The Hall recently completed revitalizing the former Seneca Knitting Mill as its new home. The new building is a vibrant, state-of-the-art facility serving as a leadership center and an educational venue where visitors can discover and be inspired by the stories of great American women. For information about our 2020 Inductees, please go to https://www.womenofthehall.org/introducing-2020-nwhf-virtual-inductees/.

For registration to the virtual induction: https://www.eventinterface.com/NWHFVirtualInduction2020/

DISCLAIMER: The views, beliefs and opinions expressed by Inductees do not necessarily represent the views, beliefs and opinions of the National Women's Hall of Fame, its members, affiliates, Board, donors or volunteers, or induction sponsors or attendees.

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