National Women’s Hall of Fame Virtual Induction Series
Inaugural Event December 10, 2020
Toni Morrison, Author

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.

Toni Morrison (1931-2019) Toni Morrison, was an American novelist, essayist, book editor, and college professor. Her first novel, The Bluest Eye, was published in 1970. The critically acclaimed Song of Solomon (1977) brought her national attention and won the National Book Critics Circle Award. In 1988, Morrison won the Pulitzer Prize for Beloved (1987); she gained worldwide recognition when she was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1993. Toni Morrison broke barriers, by becoming the first Black woman to be an editor for Random House, and the first Black woman to win a Nobel Prize in Literature. Morrison indelibly put into the public imagination the image that great literature is neither bound to be written by men nor exclusively by people of European descent. She has been unapologetic about her focus on Black
people's experiences, and the power with which she has brought this focus has earned her the moniker, "The Conscience of America."

Fellow 2020 Inductees

**Aretha Franklin**, Singer, Activist

**Mary Church Terrell**, Suffragist

**Barbara Hillary**, Adventurer

**Barbara Rose Johns**, Activist, Librarian

**Henrietta Lacks**, Medical Research Revolutionizer

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/](https://www.womenofthehall.org/introducing-2020-nwhf-virtual-inductees/)

For registration to the virtual induction: [https://www.eventinterface.com/NWHFVirtualInduction2020/](https://www.eventinterface.com/NWHFVirtualInduction2020/)

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