



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MA Women's Commission Announces the Commonwealth Heroine Class of 2023

Boston, Mass (May 18, 2023) - The Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women (MCSW) will be celebrating the 20th Annual Commonwealth Heroines Class of 2023 on Friday, June 23, 2023, at the Massachusetts Statehouse in the Great Hall of Flags. Opening remarks will be made by MCSW Chairwoman Dr. Sarah Glenn-Smith, followed by a special recognition of all 125 honorees.

“The Commonwealth Heroines are women who don’t make the news, but make all the difference in their communities,” said MCSW Chairwoman Dr. Sarah Glenn-Smith. “Thousands of women in every community across the Commonwealth perform unheralded acts on a daily basis that make our homes, neighborhoods, cities, and towns better places to live. Commonwealth Heroines use their time, talent, spirit, and enthusiasm to enrich the lives of others in their community. They are mentors, volunteers, and innovators - they are the glue that keeps a community together.”

Each year the Commission partners with state legislators to identify women who make outstanding contributions to their organizations and in their communities. Each legislator is encouraged to submit one woman from their constituency as a means of recognizing their invaluable efforts and extraordinary acts of service, who are making a big difference in their communities but not necessarily making the news.

We are proud to announce the following women as this year’s Commonwealth Heroines Class of 2023 and look forward to publicly recognizing them at our event on Friday, June 23rd, 2023:

Melinda Alexander of Milton

Lee Blake of New Bedford

Amy Barrett of East Bridgewater

Mary Boyd of Bolton

Paulina Bastidas Yale of Revere

Lara Brait of Marshfield

Rosa Bentley of Lynn

Julie Beennan of North Easton

Anne Bergen of Franklin

Debora Bridges of Amherst

Karen Blais of Auburn

Franceana Brown of Springfield



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Karen Buck of Malden

Anne Marie Burns of Peabody

Roberta Cameron of Medford

Maritza Cedeno of Leominster

Becky Coletta of Pembroke

Gay Corey of Dracut

Stephanie Crawford of Canton

Mary Cringan of Fitchburg

Maribel Cruz of Fitchburg

Bridget Curley of Linwood

Kristie Dean of West Bridgewater

Norieliz DeJesus of Chelsea

Justine DeOliveira of Edgartown

Mary Dionne of Springfield

Kathleen DiPasqua-Egan of
Hanson

Kathleen Dunn of Plymouth

Terri Evans of Natick

Julie Fenn of Lexington

Maria Ferreira-Bedard of Fall River

Donna Flannery of Spencer

Joyce Flynn of South Yarmouth

Erin Forbush of North Adams

Tracy Fuller of Haverhill

Ellen Panarese Gibson of Newton

Sandra Giroux of North Billerica

Anabela Gomes of Brighton

Barbara Govoni of Hampden

Kavita M. Goyal of Andover

Amanda Grow of Norwood

Rev. Myrlande P. Guillaume-
DesRosiers of Everett

Heather Hamilton of Brookline

Jeannie Hebert of Whitinsville

Karen Hinds of East Falmouth

Lisa Howard of Winthrop

Janet Jameson of Watertown

Shantell Jeter of Brighton

Dr. Jacqueline Johnson of
Springfield

Kimberlee Johnson of Woburn

Robin Jorgensen of Malden

Kaye Kelly of Franklin

Stella Ko of Acton

Kathleen Kretz of Medford

Vedna Lacombe-Heywood of
Plymouth

Lori LaFrance of Ipswich
Chartis Langmaid Tebbetts of
Cohasset

Erin LeBlanc of Millis

Diane Legg of Amesbury

Helen Lemoine of Framingham

Amy Shelter Less of Newton

Anika Lopes of Amherst

Enilda Lovo of East Boston

Katie Macdonald of Taunton

Stephanie Marchetti of
Ashburnham

Lynn Margherio of Cambridge

Jenn Martin of Waban

Eileen Mathieu of Marblehead

Shawna McCloskey of Andover

Joan Medeiros of Fall River

Christine Menard of Harwich

Kristin Michel of Gloucester

Wendy Mickel of Westborough

Robin Joyce Miller of Mills

Sherri Minch of Plainville

Janice Mitchell of Holden

Lili Mitchell of Ipswich

Carla Monteiro of Dorchester
Vivien Morris of Mattapan

Julia Murphy of Boston

Beth Murray of Shrewsbury

Juliet Najjumba of Waltham

Karen Nascembeni of Lynnfield



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Heidi Nortonsmith of Northampton	Susan Riccio of Methuen	Mary Steele of Norton
Carolyn Panofsky of Rehoboth	Kecia Rideout of Lynn	Kennedy Steiner of Beverly
Maria Partida of Nantucket	Kris Rodolico of Melrose	Emily Teller of Westford
Michelle Pateras of Quincy	Anne Rousseau of Jamaica Plain	Stacey Thompson of Lowell
Liliana Patino of Lynn	Karen Rousseau, PhD, RN of Chicopee	Alanna Thompson of Lakeville
Debra Peczka DiGiulio of Revere	Sue Rushfirth of Sudbury	Susan Trotta Clark of Milford
Carolyn Perkins of Groton	Liz Sandemann of Medfield	Erin Truex of Salem
Domenica Perrone of Worcester	Patricia Sanon of Brockton	Cynthia Villanueva of Framingham
Sharon Potter of Westport	Lori Scales of Attleboro	Marissa Walsh of South Boston
Suzanne Ranieri of Bellingham	Fran Schofield of Brewster	Susan Webb of Wellesley
Mary Redington of Berlin	Jan Singer of Watertown	Heather White of Westfield
Patti Rego of Fall River	Lura Smith of Lowell	Jeanne Widmer of Belmont
Karen Riani of Holden	Christina St. Onge of Methuen	Susann Wilkinson of Somerville
April Ricci of Hyde Park		Alma Wright of Dorchester

The Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women (MCSW) is an independent state agency legislatively created in 1998 to advance women of the Commonwealth to full equality in all areas of life and to promote their rights and opportunities. The MCSW provides a permanent, effective voice for the women of Massachusetts.

The MCSW invites all members of the community and all elected officials to attend and participate in our Commonwealth Heroines Celebration of the Class of 2023. The program book with bios of each Commonwealth Heroine will be available on our website for public viewing after the event concludes. For additional information regarding this event, please contact the MCSW at 617-626-6520 or email mcsw@mass.gov.

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The Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women ([MCSW](#)) is an independent state agency created in 1998 to provide a permanent, effective voice for women of the Commonwealth and to promote their rights, opportunities, and equality for all. Follow MCSW on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), or [LinkedIn](#) to learn more and get engaged.