

1999 Inductees



Elizabeth J. "Betty" Cappella, Ph.D.:

Elizabeth J. Cappella makes dreams come true for people who don't think they have any. A child of a poor migrant family who grew into a distinguished scholar and administrator, her career and tireless public service are a beacon for the disadvantaged. Dr. Cappella has opened doors around the world by introducing literacy programs such as Project FLIGHT and she has enriched the lives of thousands with Books for Kids. Taking her expertise into the community, this Buffalo State College professor and department head has enlightened both town and gown.

M. Dolores Denman, 1931-1999:

M. Dolores Denman was outstanding in a profession in which she set the pace for those who have followed. Elected to New York State Supreme Court in 1976, she was the first woman to sit on the Appellate Division by designation of the governor in 1977 and the first woman to be named presiding justice in 1991. As presiding justice, she was the chief judge for administration of the courts in 22 counties of Western and Central New York and a member of the Administrative Board, which regulates and establishes policy for the courts throughout the state.



Susan Gaska:

Susan Gaska has touched so many lives that her impact will be felt well into the next century. In thirteen years as director of the YWCA of Western New York, her passion and commitment to its mission made her this community's most powerful voice on behalf of women, children and people of color. She built housing for the homeless, centers to care for children, networks to empower women and institutes to combat racism. This dynamic woman's achievements show us how much is doable.

Lois Marie Gibbs:

She was "just a housewife" in 1978, but today Lois Gibbs is known around the world. The leader of the Love Canal Homeowners Association is forever linked with the struggles of ordinary citizens dealing with pollution in their neighborhoods. Her commitment to a safe environment did not end with the evacuation of Love Canal residents and the containment of that area's toxic residues. As director of a national clearinghouse to assist grassroots groups, she remains a powerful figure in the environmental justice movement. She has received the Heinz Family Foundation Award for the Environment.



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Maria Maltby Love, 1830-1931:

A 19th Century pioneer in social service, Maria Maltby Love set an example that will inspire women into the 21st century. Motivated by a compassionate concern for women and their children, she set up the Fitch Creche, an early child care center, and the Church District Plan that reached into Buffalo neighborhoods to help the poor. She established convalescent homes for ailing working women and organized Buffalo's first kindergarten. Her spirit prevails in the work of the Maria Love Convalescent Fund Board and its service to needy families.

Sister Denise A. Roche, Ph.D.:

D'Youville College President Sister Denise A. Roche is a hands-on community worker and educator. Whether feeding infants afflicted with AIDS or giving bedside care to an ailing colleague, from orchestrating a faculty to creating a curriculum to balancing a budget, Sister Denise impresses with the multiplicity of her talents and the depth of her caring. It took her only a dozen years from graduation to rise to the presidency of her alma



mater, a college that has prospered under her leadership.



Carolyn B. Thomas:

Carolyn Thomas has waged a personal war on hunger. The first president of the Buffalo Food Bank, known today as the Western New York Food Bank, Mrs. Thomas was the Council of Churches' representative to the Community Action Organization when it initiated a campaign for a food bank. She spent several years helping to locate a site for the central storehouse that every month supplies 422 agencies in four counties with meals for more than 86,000 people. Mrs. Thomas' gifts are shared far beyond the city that in 1990 named her Buffalonian of the Year.