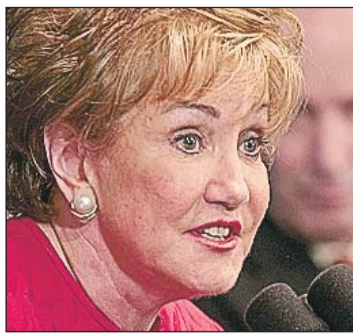


ELIZABETH DOLE

U.S. senator

Dole's public service career stretches over almost four decades, serving under five presidents. The popular and admired leader was the first woman to serve as the departmental head of a branch of the military, the U.S. Coast Guard.



MARY EASLEY

First lady of North Carolina

Being the governor's wife comes with its own perks and honor. But Mary Easley, as a professor of law at N.C. Central University, was the first first lady to work in her own job. She also has been one of the most visible of state first ladies, supporting the arts and leading the effort to end underage drinking.

PAM VALVANO STRASSER

Humanitarian

Inspired by her late husband, N.C. State coach Jim Valvano, to find a cure for cancer, Valvano Strasser has carried on the fight through her work with the Jimmy V Foundation and the popular Jimmy V Golf Classic.



KIT GRUELLE

Activist and educator

She's a tireless court advocate (and advocate outside court) for victims of domestic violence in Chatham County. Gruelle is such an expert on the topic that she trains police all over the state.

NNENNA FREELON

Jazz singer

The Durham performer's imaginative approach to song is sensual and unique, earning her six Grammy nominations.



ETTA PISANO

Physician and scientist

As the designer of the first digital mammography device, which helps detect breast cancer earlier, the UNC-Chapel Hill radiologist could be responsible for saving thousands of lives.

NORA LYNN FINCH

Sports administrator

As senior associate director and senior women's administrator at N.C. State University, she's probably one of the most powerful women in sports in the state. She's responsible for women's basketball, men's and women's golf, men's soccer, postseason appearances, equipment room operations and outdoor facilities operations.



MILDRED COUNCIL

Cook and author

She's "Mama Dip" to us, and her cooking is renowned. She has cooked her way into our hearts and stomachs with her down-home Southern delicacies, such as fried chicken, sweet potato biscuits and those m-m-mmm smothered pork chops.

MAYA ANGELOU

Poet and author

With a voice as mesmerizing and moving as her prose, Angelou is a legend in American literature.



TRES CHICAS

Rock band

The all-female rock/country band – Caitlin Cary, Lynn Blakey, and Tonya Lamm – is making a name for itself rocking in sisterhood.

BARBARA GOODMON

Community activist

Goodmon helped launch the Healing Place of Wake County for men, and then women, providing a home and treatment for people with significant substance abuse issues. She also runs the A.J. Fletcher Foundation, a charity that contributes to various causes.



KAY YOW

College basketball coach

On the court, she's the force behind the fighting Wolfpack women's team. But she's a fighter in her own right, battling against breast cancer. She does both with grace and dignity.

MURIEL T. SUMMERS

Elementary school principal

Her approach to education is through character, as advocated by Stephen Covey's "7 Habits of Highly Effective People." It's the foundation of A.B. Combs Leadership Magnet Elementary in Raleigh, the first leadership elementary school in the nation.

JACKIE HELVEY

Graphic designer and community volunteer

Credit her with just about everything artsy going on in Carrboro. On the list: the Carrboro Arts Committee, her efforts to get Carrboro Music Festival, Carrboro Film Festival, Carrboro Poetry Festival, Carrboro Day and the Community Dinner off the ground.

JESSIE COPELAND

Community activist

President Clinton's Point of Life award is only one of numerous honors that recognize this courageous volunteer's dedication to community and the concerns of women, particularly in the old Chavis Heights neighborhood.

Celebrate the women in your life

Pages can't hold all of the names of women worthy of recognition. But you know who they are. She could be your foster mom or a special teacher. She could be the PTA president. Go to forums.triangle.com, in the "general discussion" area, to tell us about women who deserve a thank you for their hard work and unselfish devotion to their family and others.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE



How much do you know about women's history? Go to www.nwhp.org/whm/test.php and take the online quiz. Here is a sample question: Who was the first woman poet laureate of the United States?