



KeyBank congratulates Cleveland Heritage Medal honoree Beth E. Mooney, KeyBank Chairman and CEO, 2011 – 2020.

We also congratulate fellow honorees Margot James Copeland, Richard J. Bogomolny, and Margaret W. Wong.

The remarkable leaders celebrated this evening have lifted neighborhoods across our region, making them more safe, vibrant and inclusive places to live, work, and play for all of our neighbors. We are forever grateful for the impact of their boundless energy and dedicated service.

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## The Cleveland Heritage Medal 2021



Over the past five years, the Cleveland Heritage Medal has been bestowed upon 21 individuals whose talents have been as varied as their backgrounds. The honor—Greater Cleveland's highest civilian award—recognizes selfless contributions that enhance and strengthen the fabric of our community.

The inaugural class of 2016—Morton L. Mandel; Rev. Dr. Otis Moss Jr.; Sandra Pianalto; Richard W. Pogue; and Senator George V. Voinovich—set the standard for this prestigious recognition, modeled after the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

The Class of 2021 is no less impressive, selected by the Cleveland Heritage Medal Committee utilizing the established process that focuses on merit, longevity and notable results.

Richard J. Bogomolny, Margot James Copeland, Beth E. Mooney and Margaret W. Wong each have an incredible story. Each has achieved the highest levels of success in their respective careers.

A supermarket executive whose volunteerism helped to nourish—literally, with food; and figuratively, through music.

A strategist who left her imprint in the fields of diversity and corporate philanthropy.

A banker whose historic career journey and civic impact have set the standard and blazed new paths for others.

A legal warrior who continues to fight on behalf of immigrants in the land's highest courts.

They uphold the tradition and high standards the award embodies, and the spirit of leadership that has been a part of Cleveland's 225-year history.

What a profound honor it is to celebrate these four individuals. They continue to enrich us with their presence, their influence and their unabashed passion for the region they call home.

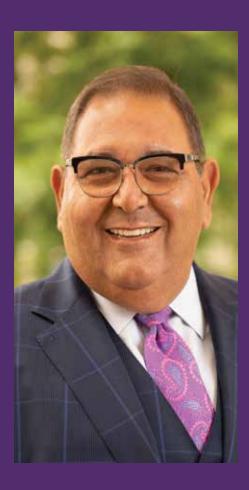
Please join us as we pay tribute.

Akram Boutros, M.D., FACHE
President and CEO
The MetroHealth System

Trina Evans
Chief of Staff and Director
of Corporate Center
KeyBank



## Committee





2021 Cleveland Heritage Medal Chairs

Akram Boutros, M.D., FACHE President and CEO The MetroHealth System

**Trina Evans**Chief of Staff and Director of Corporate Center,
KeyBank

**Committee Members** 

Warren Anderson The Anderson-DuBose Company

**April Miller Boise**Eaton Corporation

Micki Byrnes WKYC-TV3

Joseph Cimperman Global Cleveland

Robert Glick Fairmount Management

**Sharon Sobol Jordan** Unify Labs

Len Komoroski

Cleveland Cavaliers/ Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse

India Pierce Lee
The Cleveland Foundation

**Keith Libman**Bober Markey Fedorovich

Kevin E. Martin Ideastream Public Media

Elizabeth McIntyre
Crain's Cleveland Business

Pat Pastore PNC Bank

**Erika Rudin-Luria**Jewish Federation of Cleveland

**Victor Ruiz** 

Esperanza, Inc.

**Robyn Minter Smyers** 

Thompson Hine

**Eddie Taylor** Taylor Oswald

**Gina Vernaci**Playhouse Square
Foundation

Vanessa L. Whiting, Esq. A.E.S. Management Corporation

**Lorna Wisham** FirstEnergy Foundation



# Criteria and Award Description

**No city can thrive without them.** They are the dedicated community leaders committed to creating and sustaining a city of true greatness—one that provides opportunities for businesses to prosper, for new ideas to flourish, for cultural richness to thrive and for residents to enjoy an exceptional quality of life.

During its 225 years, Cleveland has been a city blessed with accomplished leaders from civic, business, philanthropic and government spheres. Their contributions have created the lasting heritage that makes Cleveland the city it is today.

This year's recipients of the Cleveland Heritage Medal are true representatives of that legacy of leadership. Their impact on the city and region has far exceeded that which would be expected of them in their positions of influence. These honorees were selected for

this award by a 21-person committee made up of other dedicated community and corporate leaders.

But for these extraordinary individuals, the magnificent story and history of Cleveland would not be what it is today.

They have demonstrated leadership in civic, philanthropic or corporate spheres, or have made an impact in another private or public endeavor. Their community impact reflects **service to others** marked by compassion and selflessness. They espouse **teamwork** as necessary to making a difference in our community, actively encouraging the contributions of others.

The individuals we honor with the Cleveland Heritage Medal have also demonstrated the **courage and respect** as they take on

difficult yet consequential initiatives for the good of Cleveland and its residents. These exceptional leaders are committed to fostering a community of **inclusion and diversity**, where differences are celebrated and all have the opportunity to participate. They are people of the highest character, serving as **role models** for others in the community.

Without them, the story of Cleveland could not be told.

Outstanding leaders are the foundation of a city's heritage. With this honor, we celebrate the individuals who are creating today the great Cleveland of tomorrow.



# Making of the Medal



Commissioned to design the Cleveland Heritage Medal, the Cleveland Institute of Art (CIA)—one of the nation's top art and design schools—created a competition among its graphic design upperclassmen. They were asked to envision a medal that represented the city's rich heritage.

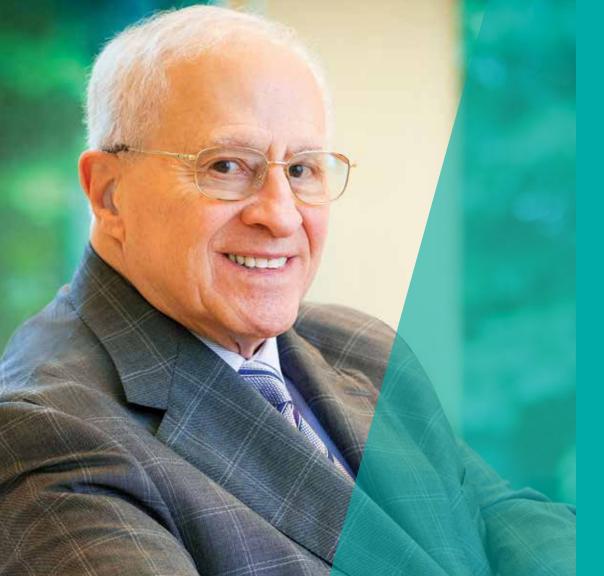
MetroHealth President and CEO Akram Boutros, M.D., FACHE, judged the competition.

The winning design by Euclid native Jessica Sandy is emblazoned with three iconic Cleveland landmarks—the Veterans Memorial Bridge, Terminal Tower and Lake Erie. Its more subtle elements include five stars, which also adorn the city's seal and symbolize each of the five times Cleveland was named an All-American City by the National Civic League. The five stars also represent the five characteristics of the Cleveland Heritage Medal recipients:

Service to others
Teamwork
Courage and respect
Inclusion and diversity
Being a role model



# Cleveland Heritage Medal Honorees



2021 Cleveland Heritage Medal Honoree

# Richard J. Bogomolny

The leadership of arts and culture is underestimated. The New York Times gives us credit for being 'America's most exciting orchestra,' yet we are the smallest city in the world to have a world-renowned orchestra. We have wonderful museums, theaters, restaurants, parks...a low cost of living. We are the envy of so many cities.

Richard J. Bogomolny

"I have stories," promises Dick Bogomolny, former chairman and CEO, First National Supermarkets, Inc. (Finast). And then, he delivers.

As a 7-year-old in 1942, he was given an opportunity to toot his woodwind with his younger brother, Bobby, at Severance Hall. What made it especially memorable was that the youngsters were hyped in the Cleveland News, alongside Sergei Rachmaninoff and Benny Goodman, who also were appearing with The Cleveland Orchestra that week. Our aspiring musician went on to study violin under the Cleveland Orchestra's principal second violinist and served as concertmaster of the Harvard University Orchestra and principal violist of the Cleveland Philharmonic Orchestra.

"In junior high, I set some goals. I wanted to play the violin, I wanted to play football and I wanted to get good grades," he says. He accomplished all three. But, at the death of his father, the young Mr. Bogomolny felt responsibility to return home to run the family

business with his mother—also an accomplished violinist whom he credits with inspiring his love of music.

Not one to give up, Mr. Bogomolny attended college at night while operating the Eagle Ice Cream Company. He completed his undergraduate degree in English at Western Reserve University and his law degree at Cleveland-Marshall College of Law. He was admitted to the Ohio Bar in 1961, though was destined to become a business entrepreneur.

#### An Unintended Climb to the Top of a Food Chain

Under Mr. Bogomolny's leadership, Eagle Ice Cream Company became the largest and most modern ice cream manufacturing facility in Northeast Ohio. Fisher Foods, Inc. purchased the company in 1968 and named Mr. Bogomolny a division vice president and, soon afterward, administrative vice president of the corporation reporting to the CEO. In 1972, he left Fisher Foods and joined supermarket magnate and "second father" Julius Kravitz in the

purchase of Pick-N-Pay. In 1975, at the age of 40, Mr. Bogomolny became president and CEO.

Two years later, Pick-N-Pay Supermarkets merged with First National Stores (operating under the name Finast) to become one of the largest supermarket chains in the country. "The Wall Street Journal said it was like Jonah swallowing the whale because we had 57 stores and they had 236 stores scattered throughout New England and New York." In 1978, after the death of Mr. Kravitz, Mr. Bogomolny assumed the additional role of chairman.

In 1985, to fend off a hostile takeover, he took the company private. "I spent almost a year walking the streets in New York, while my best friend and associate, Robert Samuels, ran the company," Mr. Bogomolny says. "People kept saying, 'We want your Eastern division, but we don't want to finance you in Cleveland."

With a rapidly approaching deadline, he made a blind call to CitiBank and got a meeting with a young executive who was from Parma and whose mother was a Pick-N-Pay customer. "CitiBank had no problem with Cleveland," he muses.

In 1986, to get the cash needed to expand and modernize, Mr. Bogomolny sold controlling interest in First National to Royal Ahold NV. Today, the Netherlands-based Ahold Delhaize is one of the world's largest food retailers. Being in Cleveland's central city remained a priority for Mr. Bogomolny, even though stores there hadn't been profitable. With support of city leaders, he was able to build and operate seven new superstores in the inner city—and hire neighborhood residents to work in them. A community reception preceded each store opening, with each guest receiving a food basket.

"Most of our customers could walk to the stores, but we also provided buses where needed," notes Mr. Bogomolny. "I remember women looking at the stores and saying things like, 'We don't believe someone would do this for us." At the time of Mr. Bogomolny's retirement five years later, his nine-state chain had 300 stores, close to \$2.5 billion in sales, and approximately 14,000 employees, he recalls.

In May of 1992, Mr. Bogomolny became the first American to be elected to the supervisory board (board of directors) of Royal Ahold NV.

## A Passion for Music and the Marginalized

Both during his career and after his retirement, Mr. Bogomolny devoted much of his time, talent and resources to humanitarian causes, at one time serving on 22 nonprofit boards.

He is particularly gratified to have been a founding member and advisor to the Northern Ohio Foodbank.

"Finast was the first supermarket company to earmark food for a Northern Ohio food bank," he says. "We also donated the purchase

of a large walk-in frozen food freezer. And I got all the other supermarket chains in Cleveland to join up."

As founding chairman of The Negev Foundation, Mr. Bogomolny helped finance agricultural research in Ramat Negev, Israel, to enable the growing of crops with brackish water from 3,000 feet below the desert (among other noteworthy projects). He later introduced the advanced technology to the Hopi Native American tribe in Arizona.

Emeritus chairman, former chairman (15 years) and former president (eight years) of the Musical Arts Association/The Cleveland Orchestra, Mr. Bogomolny served on the steering committee that raised \$115 million for the organization and provided the lead gift. He is the first and, thus far, the organization's only emeritus chairman. Under his leadership, The Cleveland Orchestra collaborated with a group of seven major arts and education organizations to create the Violins of Hope—Cleveland. Using violins

that survived the Holocaust, the project brought more than 90 concerts, events, lectures and curriculums to the Cleveland school district, Cleveland Catholic Diocesan schools, and other private and public schools. It was the subject of an award-winning documentary and a model replicated by other cities around the world.

Mr. Bogomolny also is a former vice chairman of the Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation; emeritus trustee, Jewish Federation of Cleveland; chair emeritus of the Cleveland Institute of Music; and former chairman of the Northern Ohio Regional Board of the Anti-Defamation League. He is a life member the ADL national executive committee.

Mr. Bogomolny and Finast were honored with the coveted Business Enterprise Trust Award in 1993, with then First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and news anchors Diane Sawyer and Dan Rather presiding. He also has been honored for his civic leadership and community service by the then Jewish Community Federation, The Cleveland Orchestra, Chamber Music America, the Jewish National Fund, the



Key to the City of Cleveland by then Mayor Michael White, the Oheb Zedek Cedar Sinai Synagogue, the City of Cleveland, the Association of Fundraising Executives, and the Anti-Defamation League, among other organizations.

"The leadership of arts and culture is underestimated" Mr. Bogomolny believes. "The New York Times gives us credit for being 'America's most exciting orchestra,' yet we are the smallest city in the world to have a world-renowned orchestra. We have wonderful museums, theaters, restaurants, parks...a low cost of living. We are the envy of so many cities." But he also acknowledges, "The number one priority is not a secret. Northeast Ohio needs to build its economy, create more opportunities...and develop a talented and educated workforce."

Mr. Bogomolny and his wife, Patricia M. Kozerefski, reside in Gates Mills. The couple adopted a daughter from China and are parents to three sons from Mr. Bogomolny's previous marriage. They have seven grandchildren and three great grandchildren.



2021 Cleveland Heritage Medal Honoree

# Margot James Copeland

What do you learn in physics? You learn to solve problems. You learn to ask why, why, why. You learn to be analytical and you develop critical-thinking skills. Those skills transfer well into any position. And I think that's the value I bring to assignments I take on—whether the assignment is in the community, in a corporate leadership role or in the board room.

Margot James Copeland

Margot James Copeland grew up in Petersburg, Virginia—home to Virginia State University. She is the only child of a Baptist minister and an 8th-grade math teacher. The retired chair and CEO of KeyBank Foundation credits her success and her "conviction for community and education" to her family, her hometown and to the hard-fought changes brought about by the Civil Rights Movement.

"The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was more than an icon to us; he was real, accessible and tangible," says Ms. Copeland. "My father and other clergy in Virginia marched with him. That lives in my heart to this day. Subsequently, I've always known who I am, and I've always attempted to live up to my parents' expectations...I've passed on those same high expectations to my children, my daughter-minister, and my sons, an orthodontist and a not-for-profit educator."

Ms. Copeland's maternal grandmother had a 4th-grade education and "took in the laundry of rich, white people." She also was a

very active community leader and registered citizens to vote.

Ms. Copeland's maternal grandfather attended school only up to the 2nd grade "but made a good living as a brakeman on the railroad." Together, the couple raised seven children, including Ms. Copeland's mother, and sent all seven to college. "My mother taught her father to read," notes Ms. Copeland. Conversely, "my paternal grandfather was on the faculty of a neighboring HBCU. He and my grandmother raised four sons. My father and his brothers were all afforded a college education, making my three children fourth-generation college graduates."

According to Ms. Copeland, "Virginia State anchored a professional class of African Americans in my community, many of whom were my parents' parishioners, friends, neighbors and associates. As the children of that community, we were obligated to build upon their successes. It was a very rich village of role models, not unlike the other 100-plus cities that benefited from HBCUs."

Ms. Copeland attended Hampton University, which was founded in 1868 for emancipated slaves and Native Americans. She majored in physics and was a National Science Foundation scholar, studying under Dr. Stepan Benda, chair of the department, and a noted Czechoslovakian educator and activist. In 2013, she received the Outstanding Alumnus Award and was asked to give a convocation address. Ms. Copeland went on to earn her M.S. in educational research and statistics from The Ohio State University, where she is recognized as an Esteemed Alumna.

## Carrying the Torch for Equity, Opportunity and MLK's Reimagined American Dream

"The efforts of the Civil Rights Movement expanded opportunities for countless African American women and other minority groups, including those desirous of careers in corporate America," says Ms. Copeland, who began her career at Xerox Corporation and advanced to roles of increasing responsibility at Polaroid Corporation, AmeriTrust Bank and Picker International (now Philips).

Ms. Copeland's passion for community service was supported by each of her employers.

"My board work parlayed into an opportunity to join the Junior League of Cleveland at a time that you could count the Black women in the league on one hand with fingers left over." She would become JLC's first Black president. In 1991, she was accepted into Leadership Cleveland. "Talk about God putting you in the right place at the right time," she reflects. From class member, she became the program's executive director. She had served in that role for nearly a decade when she was recruited to lead the Greater Cleveland Roundtable.

"The Roundtable team created a robust diversity consulting and training practice when diversity consulting was in its infancy in Greater Cleveland," Ms. Copeland says. Additionally, the Cleveland Council of Economic Inclusion was founded under her leadership, and remains a force today for advancing diversity, equity and inclusion throughout Northeast Ohio.

## Being the Change She Wants to See

In late 2001, Ms. Copeland joined the KeyBank Foundation, which had a 15-state footprint, from Maine to Alaska. "We transformed the KeyBank Foundation from a charitable giving department into a nationally recognized philanthropic investment organization," she says. During her tenure, she led the strategic investment of more than 85,000 grants exceeding \$700 million.

"I worked very closely with all of the regional presidents when Beth Mooney led the acquisition of First Niagara in 2016," she says of KeyCorp's then chairman and CEO. "It was the largest bank merger since 2008," Ms. Copeland says. "My role was to lead philanthropic investments in new and overlap markets—one of the foundational elements of the \$16.1 billion Community Benefits Plan—and appropriately position Key's philanthropic engagement, as well as the prowess and generosity of the KeyBank Foundation." During her tenure, she helped KeyBank earn the coveted Points of Light Civic 50 recognition for six consecutive years. In 2014, Ms. Copeland became



the second person ever to be honored with the Community Impact Award from American Banker, a recognition she refers to as "prized."

Ms. Copeland says, however, that her "proudest moment was when Cleveland was awarded a Say Yes to Education chapter." As a national board member, she helped bring attention to the community's application and guided it through the competitive process. "It took a cadre of educational, business and philanthropic leaders to accomplish the mission," Ms. Copeland notes. "More than \$92 million in scholarship funds were awarded, with KeyBank Foundation contributing \$10 million."

In 2010, Ms. Copeland was elected national president of The Links, Incorporated, an organization of women devoted to strengthening African American communities. In that role, she was invited to the White House for President Barack Obama's signing of the My Brother's Keeper initiative and delivered remarks on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial on the 50th anniversary of the March on

Washington. "I also had the honor of making Condoleezza Rice an honorary member of The Links and inducted Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the first woman president of an African nation, into the organization." During Ms. Copeland's presidency, The Links awarded \$4 million in scholarships and program grants, including a \$1 million donation to the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture. She also led the organization through healthcare, education and arts advocacy; collaboration and partnerships with major national partners; and the establishment of schools, teacher training and maternal health clinics in Liberia.

Currently, Ms. Copeland serves on the board of trustees for Cleveland Clinic, The Cleveland Orchestra, the Port of Cleveland, Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and AARP National. She also was the co-vice chair of the Cleveland Bi-Centennial Commission and served on the boards of the Great Lakes Science Center, Playhouse Square Foundation, Philanthropy Ohio, University Hospitals Health System and myriad other organizations.

Appointed by then Ohio Governor Ted Strickland, she recently concluded nine years with the Kent State University Board of Trustees, which she fondly refers to as her "best assignment." In her commencement address to the Kent State graduating class of 2019, Margot James Copeland shared two pieces of advice given to her early in life by her mother: "You cannot buy a good name" and "do not allow anyone to take the key to your dreams and place it in their pocket."



2021 Cleveland Heritage Medal Honoree

# Beth E. Mooney

Making time for your community is as important as your career. It's not one at the expense of the other. I think 2020 taught us how dependent we are on each other, and I'm hoping we will emerge from it with a joint sense of commitment, a joint sense of our shared future, and everyone really doubling down about 'what do we do to come up with an agenda that we can all get behind and make a difference?'

— Beth E. Mooney

Enterprising young woman advances from secretarial cube to corner office. It sounds like a storyline sure to rain manna at the box office. But real life? It was no cakewalk.

Beth Mooney, despite graduating Phi Beta Kappa and summa cum laude from the University of Texas, was repeatedly asked by prospective employers how fast she could type. "My first job in banking was as a secretary," she says. "And let's just say I wasn't really very good at my entry-level job. I knew banks had management-training programs and I kept thinking, 'Why can't I do that?'"

She got her first break at Republic National Bank of Dallas, when the head of the training program there got tired of listening to her pleas. (She refers to that interview as her Wall Street sit-in.) He told her flat out he didn't think she could cut it in the financial services industry, but eventually said he'd give her a chance, if she attended night classes to earn her MBA. "Prove me wrong," he challenged her. And, boy, did she.

### **Achieving the Top Post Without Compromising Who She Was**

Ms. Mooney, who retired from KeyCorp (and primary subsidiary KeyBank) in 2020, holds the distinction of being the first female CEO of a Top 20 U.S. bank and was named the Most Powerful Woman in Banking in 2013, 2014 and 2015 and ultimately Banker of the Year in 2017 by American Banker. She is credited with leading KeyCorp through an economic crisis that crushed its competitors. Through an ambitious acquisition, she increased KeyCorp's size by 40%, making it the 13th largest bank in the U.S., and nearly doubling the value of its stock.

Early on, while pursuing her MBA from Southern Methodist University, Ms. Mooney laid the groundwork that would serve her well over the span of her career. By the time she was 30, she had become the youngest senior vice president of the largest bank in Texas. Her masterful career trajectory continued, leading led her from president, Bank One (Ohio) in 1999 to executive positions at Tennessee and North Louisiana Banking Group, AmSouth

Bancorp (now Regions Financial Corp), and Key Community Bank. She reached the summit as president and chief operations officer, KeyCorp, and her crowning position as chair and CEO in 2011. It required imagination, tenacity, grace and grit. But she ain't too proud to beg. Or take it on the chin. Or work harder, smarter, faster and longer than anyone else in the building.

"I just brought my best self to work every single day," reflects Ms. Mooney. "And as I got the opportunity to manage and lead, I was very empathetic. I had a knack, I think, for being able to bring people together and translate business success in a way that people could see themselves and their own growth, not just professionally but personally."

Discovering the importance of being her authentic self, and not the person she thought she should be or wanted to become, was transformative. "There's no substitute for hard work, but I realized the more comfortable I became in my own skin and found my own



style, it helped unlock my potential and my effectiveness."

Ms. Mooney believes that to lead, you have to do more than extend your skills; you have to offer the "richness of your full perspective."

## Finding Common Ground to Advance Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

When Ms. Mooney began her career, there was not a lot of diversity in management and leadership in the banking industry. "One thing I always say is, 'when you walk into a room and you're the only woman...sit down and act like you belong. And never lead with your differences; always seek the common ground.' I felt it was not just my opportunity to fit in, but my obligation, in the best sense of the word, to square my shoulders and take my seat at the table.

"Everybody's got challenges," she continued. "Everybody's got something in their way. I always looked at it as, 'How do I work my way through this?' Act like you belong and eventually you will." Ms. Mooney embraced and enhanced the Key4Women initiative that lends money to women-owned businesses, offers financial advice, and fosters networking and mentoring opportunities. She also increased KeyBank's Business Boost & Build Program by securing a \$24 million grant for JumpStart Inc. The program transforms neighborhoods through support of small businesses and job creation.

Grateful to have walked into a culture that she says was "values-based and had a long history of diversity, equity and inclusion," Ms. Mooney acknowledges she "inherited a company where all that was already part of the DNA. We genuinely cared about each other. We cared for our clients. We cared for our communities."

Shareholders benefit when you take care of all your stakeholders, Ms. Mooney maintains. She was ahead of the industry in thinking this way. "And how we do things is as important as what we do. It's about doing the right thing at the right time, even when nobody's looking."

KeyCorp is the only national bank with 10 "outstanding" ratings under the Community Reinvestment Act. "This measures our products, services to and impacts on minorities and underserved parts of our communities," Ms. Mooney explains. "In 2016, we announced a \$16.5 billion five-year commitment to affordable housing, home lending, and small business start-ups for the underserved. It was transformative philanthropy at a time no one was doing it. But it was part of underscoring our commitment to be different, to care about our communities and care about opportunity for all."

#### **Anticipating Cleveland's Best Chapter**

"I moved a lot when I was in high school and throughout my career," Ms. Mooney recalls. "And I discovered one of the best ways to be at home was to feel like you're contributing, by giving of yourself and getting engaged and involved in things that you care about."

Ms. Mooney is chair of Cleveland Clinic Board of Directors and has served in leadership roles for the Cleveland Orchestra/Musical Arts

Association, Greater Cleveland Partnership, ideastream, Cleveland Neighborhood Progress, Say Yes to Education and United Way of Greater Cleveland, among myriad other local nonprofits. In addition, she is on two national nonprofit boards and is a trustee of The Brookings Institute and The Conference Board.

"All these institutions make a huge difference," Ms. Mooney insists.
"It's just incredible that Cleveland has some of the strongest cultural, civic and healthcare resources as anywhere in the world. We just need to leverage those and continue that journey of becoming the best Cleveland."

Ms. Mooney believes Cleveland leadership has an opportunity to coalesce around the racial equity movement. "I don't think anybody could not realize the impacts from COVID and how it laid bare some of the digital divide and the economic differences in terms of how people can work and stay safe—and their health outcomes, too," she says. "How do we become more purposeful and united in our

approach to addressing these issues? I hope we collaborate and combine and align resources and emerge with a joint sense of commitment, a joint sense of our shared future."

In addition to her philanthropy and continued leadership in the community, Ms. Mooney serves on three for-profit boards—Accenture, AT&T and The Ford Motor Company. "I call it retirement, Beth Mooney style," she says. The difference is "at the end of the day, it's the end of the day. My brain gets a break at night. There was never an end of a day when I was running a company."

While she still travels extensively, she enjoys taking time to smell the flowers—and arrange them throughout her lovely home overlooking Lake Erie. "My career brought me here," she says, "but Cleveland is my home."



2021 Cleveland Heritage Medal Honoree

# Margaret W. Wong

I'd like to think my story has a lot of room for growth. The country is realizing freedom like we've never seen before. But foreign-born students still need all the help they can get. They need to learn how to change laws and build great companies. I'd like to be part of their foundation.

Margaret W. Wong

In her book, "The Immigrant's Way," attorney Margaret W. Wong shares truths about her own path to U.S. citizenship. Her reflections illustrate her belief that "hard work pays off." Her book also features the history of immigration in this country, provides comprehensive information relating to the legal process and paperwork involved in immigrating, and offers invaluable advice to individuals seeking—or recently granted—U.S. citizenship.

But who couldn't benefit from Ms. Wong's wisdom and practicality? The nationally recognized immigration attorney counsels her readers and clients to (among other things): smile, show gratitude, focus on goals, make friends, save money, pay your taxes, keep up with current events, eat healthy, keep a journal, educate your children, avoid government support, don't drink before driving, don't run from the police, keep your faith and—perhaps her most pragmatic advice—don't do things you know are stupid.

Her motto is family, education and hard work. "If you think in this order," she says, "good things will come." She admits putting education and work before family at least once, however. "I made my sister and her fiancé change their wedding date because it conflicted with the date of my bar exam," she says. "We laugh about that on every one of their anniversaries."

Ms. Wong and her sister, Cecilia, arrived in the U.S. in August 1969 at the height of the Vietnam conflict. Their one-way flights from Hong Kong to Seattle cost the equivalent of 32 months' pay for their father, despite his position as a prominent publisher and writer. Each young girl carried two suitcases, \$100 and the promise of room and board from their host family.

Working, Mentoring and Advocating for New and Future Americans

Margaret Wong is founder and managing partner of Cleveland-based

Margaret W. Wong & Associates, LLC, an award-winning immigration
and nationality law firm with more than 60 employees and nine

offices in eight states. Her achievements have been hard-earned, but she is passionate about sharing everything she's learned to lighten the load for other foreign-borns. To that end, she has begun writing a second book.

Ms. Wong feels fortunate to have worked in food service with her sister throughout her college undergraduate days at Western Illinois University. In the summers, they worked at a resort in the Adirondacks, and she worked her way up to manager of the restaurant.

After that, finding work was a struggle. Ms. Wong talks about being fired from jobs like most of us talk about missing a meeting or a favorite TV show. "I didn't know the difference between a Rob Roy with an olive and a Manhattan with a cherry," she says about one of her quickly lost restaurant positions. "I got a job with Central National Bank. I was fired, and I should have been fired," she reveals matter-of-factly. "I was like a country bumpkin." The slang,

the nuances, the customs, the jokes all made fitting in to American culture difficult.

"Even after completing law school (at the University at Buffalo School of Law), I found it hard to hold onto a job," she says without a hint of anger or apology. "There were many forces at work. I was foreign born. A woman. Asian. Employers at the time were not eager to hire women, let alone Asian women. So eventually I hung out my own shingle, renting an office with one desk."

It was a good move. Over the years, "I've built a really fine team of legal professionals," she says. In addition to Cleveland, the firm has offices in Atlanta, Chicago, Columbus, Memphis, Minneapolis, Nashville, New York and Raleigh. Some was organic, strategic growth. "Some locations opened because colleagues moved there," she says.

"U.S. law is constantly changing—and not always for the good—but it's fun to work with," Ms. Wong says. "I call my signature legal

strategy 'parallel tracks.' So many attorneys will take a client down a single road. Life's too short. U.S. immigration law permits for multiple simultaneous strategies, and that's what I do. If one doesn't work out, there's another already in progress.

"I am very driven and customer-service oriented," she says. "What distinguishes my firm from others is that, as a senior partner, I'm in the office every day before 6 a.m. and am often the last to leave. I speak with clients, determining whether or not I can help them and, when appropriate, designing the best course of action."

In the early 1980s, Ms. Wong and her family opened Pearl of the Orient restaurant "to fill the void of really good Chinese food." Everyone in the family worked there. "When I finished my workday downtown, I'd take the Van Aken Rapid Transit to work at the restaurant," Ms. Wong recalls. After a few successful years in Shaker Heights, she helped her brother open a second restaurant in Rocky River; that popular location closed in the summer of 2021 after more than 35 years.

In her spare time, Ms. Wong assisted her husband, Kam Hon Chan, with his thriving pharmacy business. But she reserved every Wednesday evening for family, and still does. "It makes it hard to attend community meetings, but it helps our family stay focused on each other. I love this tradition."

## **Supporting the Education and Advancement of Young Minorities**

"An attorney's strongest voice is through the courts," Ms. Wong insists. Over the years, the firm has had a number of precedent-setting cases, and just this past year, it had several cases before the United States Supreme Court.

"The fight for social justice is long," she says. "The enjoyable part is knowing you are fighting for a just cause...and when it's finally recognized as such, you can celebrate."

Ms. Wong points out that the Cleveland Asian community started in the late 1800s, so she considers herself a relative newcomer.

"But both my job and family have made me a senior statesperson, both locally and nationally," she acknowledges. With that comes responsibility.

"This region has always been open to migrants," Ms. Wong reminds us. "Migrants have built enormous businesses here, and our region's philanthropic foundations are among the most well-funded in the world."

That said, she cautions that "our foundations are still perceived as being 'white' organizations—even as their management is increasingly of color. As minorities build wealth, we need to focus on building foundations and scholarships and pathways for future generations."

Ms. Wong has volunteered her time and resources to diverse organizations, including American Immigration Lawyers Association, Asian American Bar Association of Ohio, Case

Western Reserve University School of Law, Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Foundation, Cleveland Public Library Foundation, Cleveland Scholarship Programs, Inc., Cleveland State University, Cuyahoga Community College (from which she received an honorary degree), Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio, Global Cleveland, Northeast Ohio Council on Higher Education, Notre Dame College, Ohio State Bar Foundation, United Way Services, University Hospitals Health System and the University at Buffalo, where Ms. Wong has endowed 15 scholarships and co-chaired a successful \$30 million capital campaign. She also created a \$100,000 scholarship at Cuyahoga Community College and in 2011 established the Margaret W. Wong Endowed Forum on Foreign Born Individuals of Distinction at the City Club of Cleveland. She is a life member of both the Eighth Judicial District Court and the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

"Being a Catholic Chinese woman, I always feel guilty that I'm not doing enough," she admits, only half kidding. "I'd like to think my story has a lot of room for growth. The country is realizing freedom like we've never seen before. But foreign-born students still need all the help they can get. They need to learn how to change laws and build great companies. I'd like to be part of their foundation."

Ms. Wong and Mr. Chan, who died in 2014, have two adult children, Steven and Allison. Ms. Wong's children work in her law firm, along with her sister and her sister's sons.

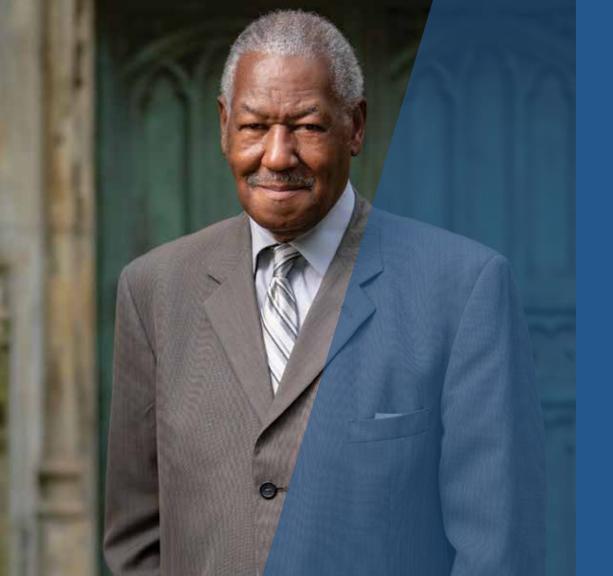
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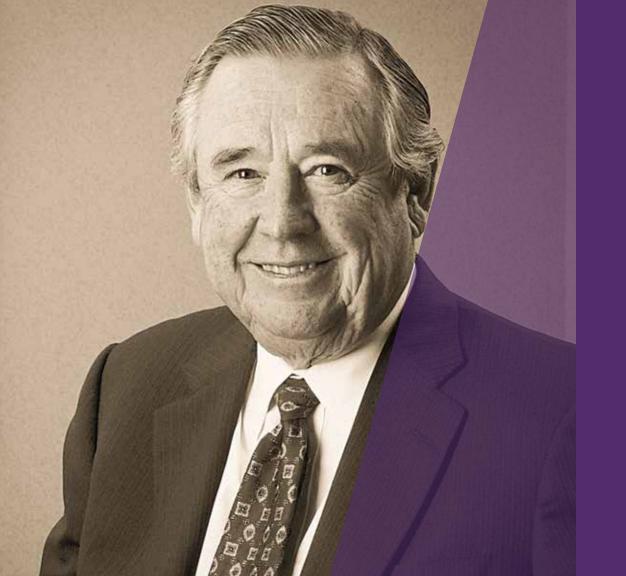
## 2020 Cleveland Heritage Medal Honorees



2020 Honoree Jeanette Grasselli Brown "If I can help others by participating in and leading organizations...not only pushing my own achievements a little higher, but helping my community grow...I want to do that. I genuinely care about our city and about all the great people and institutions here."



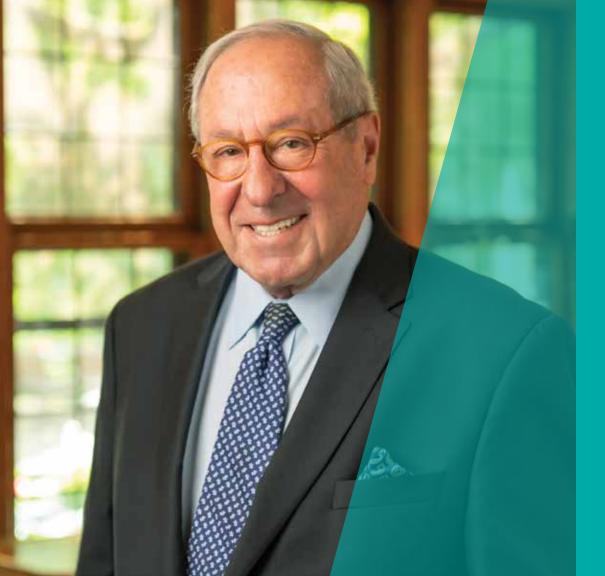
2020 Honoree Bracy E. Lewis "It's all I really do want my legacy to be one of caring. I hope I've done as much as I possibly could do for those who are less fortunate than I am."



2020 Honoree A. Malachi Mixon III "When you volunteer, you meet a lot of interesting people and you learn new things. You can get into the tentacles of the city and feel like you're contributing to society, giving people a hand up. I was blessed to be able to do these things."



## 2019 Cleveland Heritage Medal Honorees



2019 Honoree Thomas W. Adler "What happened to me is what I think most young people need:
I was mentored. I had the best of the best mentors and it's made all the difference."



2019 Honoree Art J. Falco "It's all about learning as much as you can and continuing to grow.

Complacency is not an option. We have to continually improve."



2019 Honoree Robert P. Madison, FAIA "Positive changes have come about in Cleveland because of the ability of Clevelanders to accept the fact that America is a place for immigrants of all colors. Racial integration in a society is important, and Cleveland has done that very well."



2019 Honoree Barbara S. Robinson "The arts enrich life. They contribute to the enhancement of education, to job development, to community building, to growth in tourism. But they also develop personal values. They encourage your participation in civic discourse. They widen your circle of thought and activity. They turn what you think of as yourself into 'us.'"



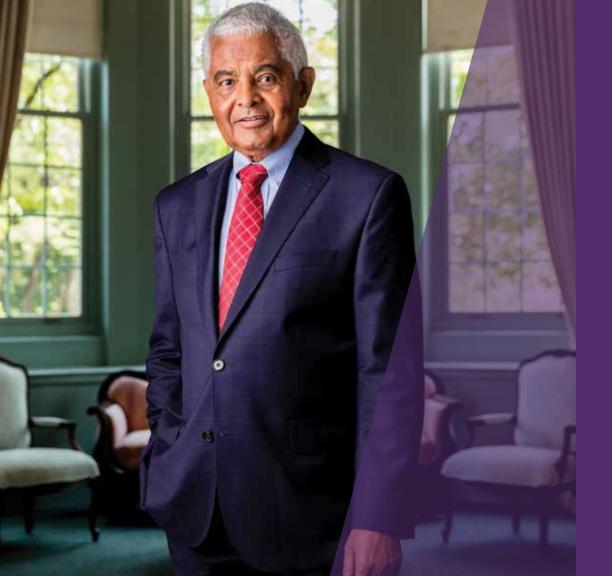
## 2018 Cleveland Heritage Medal Honorees



2018 Honoree Toby Cosgrove, MD "I never really thought of myself as a leader in Cleveland when I started as CEO. I concentrated hard on the institution and how the institution could benefit the community."



2018 Honoree Robert D. Gries "The ancient Jewish prophet, Hillel, said it all in two sentences: 'If I am not for myself, who will be for me? If I am only for myself, what am I?'"



2018 Honoree Steven A. Minter "You have to think about what it is you're interested in doing and where you want to try to make a difference, where you want to have some impact in the long run. And you have to step forward to figure out what more you can do to really make a difference."



2018 Honoree Jerry Sue Thornton, PhD "In Cleveland, if you raise your hand, you've just volunteered. You can be a part of this wonderful community without having to have lived here your entire life. You're rewarded for wanting to be involved and wanting to use your talents by being allowed to use them. There's a place at the table."



## 2017 Cleveland Heritage Medal Honorees



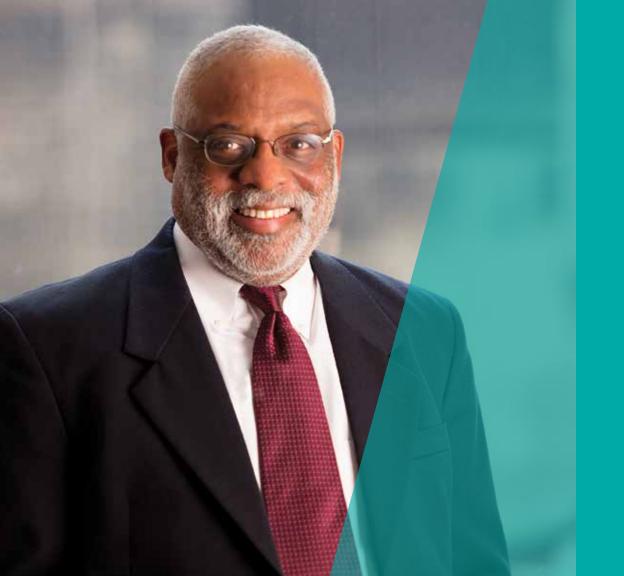
2017 Honoree Carole F. Hoover "God has blessed me to open some doors that I never thought I'd open, meet people who I never thought I'd meet. I owe whatever I can give to other people, opening any doors of opportunity for others that I can open."



2017 Honoree Samuel H. Miller "In order to be a leader, you have to be a servant first. Learning to be a good servant gives you a foundation for great leadership."



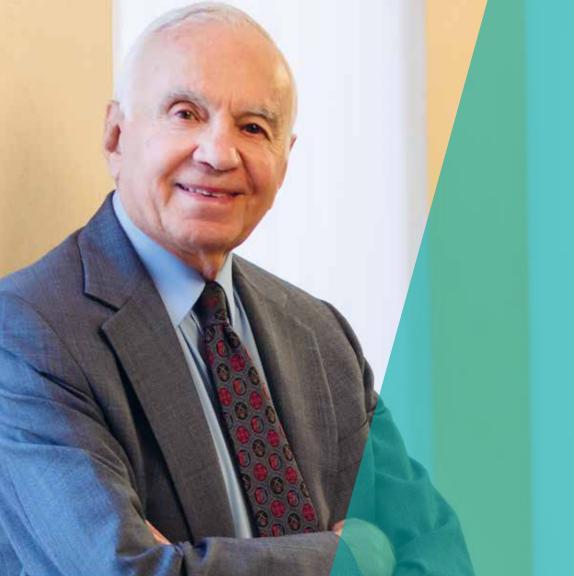
2017 Honoree Albert B. Ratner "There's a Jewish tradition that you stand on the shoulders of giants. It's what comes before you that allows you to take the next step. Part of life is learning the lessons of the people who came before you and adding what you can."



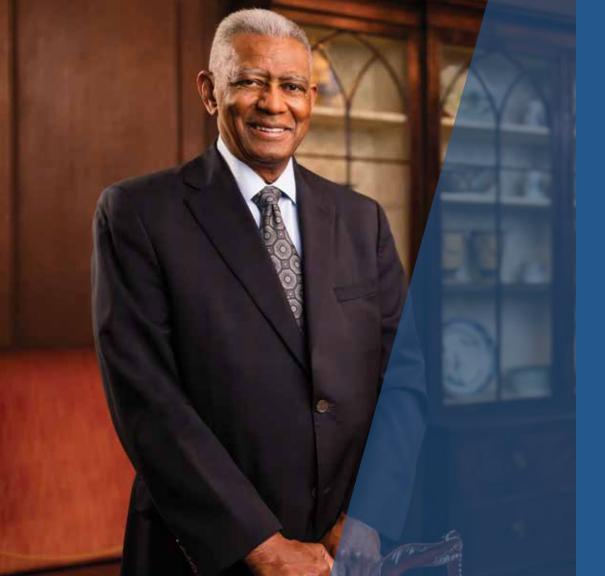
2017 Honoree Michael R. White "What creates a heritage is
neighborhood commitment, respect
for people, being willing to challenge
the status quo, being willing to risk
what you've developed and an abiding
belief in the people of Cleveland."



## 2016 Cleveland Heritage Medal Honorees



2016 Honoree Morton L. "Mort" Mandel "Think of the world as a million candles. If God made a million candles since the beginning of time, and there have been about 200,000 candles lit, there's still an awful lot of darkness. I've lit a few candles myself, and I'm going to go on and light as many candles as I can."



2016 Honoree Rev. Dr. Otis Moss Jr. "Some of the greatest assignments
we receive in life as a servant are
the leadership responsibilities thrust
upon us that we were not seeking.
If you do what you have to do and
you do it well, you will be given more
than you can handle. Service is what
is greatness. You can get fame from
other means."



2016 Honoree Sandra Pianalto "I didn't take on any assignment or agree to be a part of an organization or cause where they just wanted to use my name and my position. I'm a person who if I commit to doing something, I am all in. I'm not an 'in name only' type of individual. The only way you can be all in is if you are passionate about the cause and about the impact the organization can make."



2016 Honoree Richard W. "Dick" Pogue "The key to getting things done in this community is number one, know the facts. If you know the facts and are willing to work hard and are collaborative, you're going to get things done."



2016 Honoree The Honorable George V. Voinovich "My parents were first-generation
Americans who struggled hard. They
underscored that as citizens of the
United States, we had an obligation
to give back to our community."

Richard J. Bogomolny, Margot J. Copeland, Beth E. Mooney and Margaret W. Wong

Thank you for giving of your intellect, influence, stature and wealth to empower humankind to a better life and new opportunities in greater Cleveland and beyond.

I wish for you Peace and Joy.

Carole F. Hoover

Congratulations to Dick, Margot,
Beth, and Margaret — four
exceptional Cleveland Heritage Medal
awardees who have all done so much to
help our city and its people.

Sally and Bob Gries

Beth Mooney has always been a trailblazer.

A true pioneer of equality who, throughout her accomplished career, has opened doors to opportunity for all—in the Cleveland community and well beyond.

Chair and CEO Julie Sweet, the board of directors and the people of Accenture proudly honor Beth for her groundbreaking achievements and legacy of leadership, inclusion and diversity.

### accenture

# 祝贺

Congratulations

Margaret W. Wong

For your everlasting support and leadership to the Cleveland Asian community.



### Cleveland Clinic salutes you.

Thank you to Beth E. Mooney, Chair of the Cleveland Clinic Board of Directors and Board of Trustees, and Margot J. Copeland, Cleveland Clinic Trustee, as well as Richard J. Bogomolny and Margaret W. Wong for their leadership and service in the Cleveland community.

Congratulations on receiving the Cleveland Heritage Medal.





The Cleveland Orchestra applauds
Trustees Richard J. Bogomolny,
Margot James Copeland, and Beth E. Mooney
for their steadfast leadership, collaborative
spirit, and commitment to the Orchestra's
mission to share classical music with the
Greater Cleveland community and beyond.



Congratulations to the 2021 Cleveland Heritage Medal Awardees.

Special thanks to Tri-C Foundation Board member Margaret Wong, and Tri-C supporters Margot Copeland and Beth Mooney.



### Congratulations to the 2021 Cleveland Heritage Medal Awardees

Thank you for demonstrating excellent leadership, collaboration and service. You have all left an incredible mark on the Cleveland community.



The Greater Cleveland Partnership applauds the 2021 Cleveland Heritage Medal honorees. This recognition is a true testament to the work each of you have done to make Greater Cleveland a thriving region for all businesses and individuals.





### 飲水思原

"My mother, Kuo Hua Kuan, used to tell my siblings and me, 'When you drink water, remember where it originated,' by which she meant, remember where we came from, and remember who helped us get where we are today."

— Margaret W. Wong

"Thousands of candles can be lighted from a single candle, and the life of the candle will not be shortened.

Happiness never decreases by being shared."

- Buddha

RICHARD J. BOGOMOLNY

MARGOT JAMES COPELAND

BETH E. MOONEY

MARGARET W. WONG

Each of you has shown the power of diverse thought and action.

Collectively, we are a greater, stronger city and region because of it.

Congratulations to the 2021 Cleveland Heritage Medal recipients.

Akram Boutros, MD, FACHE President and Chief Executive Officer The MetroHealth System



Congratulations to Richard Bogomolny,
Margot James Copeland, Beth Mooney, and
Margaret Wong on the recognition you've done
so much to earn. You've taken the lead and the
community is stronger because of your leadership.

PNC is proud to congratulate you as recipients of the Cleveland Heritage Medal.



On behalf of Port of Cleveland Board of Directors and Staff, we congratulate our Board of Directors member

Margot Copeland

on this distinguished honor.



Taylor Oswald would like to congratulate all the deserving recipients of this year's Cleveland Heritage Medal!



A GLOBAL VIEW OF RISK MANAGEMENT

#### "We rise by lifting others."

A fitting thought as we honor four amazing civic leaders who have done so much for Northeast Ohio. Their commitment and their courage has changed lives and helped move this region forward. This honor is so well-deserved!

— Micki Byrnes, WKYC Studios



Writer:

Beth Hallisy

Photographer:

Gary Yasaki — Cleveland Heritage Medal Committee photo, Cleveland Heritage Medal Honoree Portraits

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KeyBank congratulates Cleveland Heritage Medal honoree Margot James Copeland, Chair and CEO, KeyBank Foundation, 2001–2019.

We also congratulate fellow honorees Beth E. Mooney, Richard J. Bogomolny, and Margaret W. Wong.

Generous with their time and talent, these dedicated community leaders work tirelessly to create a more engaged, dynamic, and inclusive community. We are forever thankful for their influence, their impact, and their contribution.



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