



INDEPENDENT WOMEN'S FORUM

2015

Woman  
OF  
Valor

AWARDS DINNER

HONOREES AND MASTER OF CEREMONIES

WOMAN OF VALOR

*The Honorable Barbara Comstock*

OUTSTANDING WOMAN IN BUSINESS

*Karen Buchwald Wright*

GENTLEMAN OF DISTINCTION

*Steve Forbes*

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

*Deneen Borelli*

#WOMANOFVALOR

Wednesday, November 18, 2015 • 6:00 pm  
National Museum of Women in the Arts  
1250 New York Ave NW, Washington, DC 20005



November 18, 2015

Dear IWF Friends and Supporters,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 2015 Woman of Valor dinner to celebrate our shared commitment to liberty for women and all Americans.

For 24 years the Independent Women's Forum has been a leader in educating women about the virtue of liberty and limited government because we want a country that gives people the freedom to make the choices that work for them — in the workplace, the marketplace, the healthcare system, our schools, and at home. We start by having a presence — by providing a counterpoint to the progressive feminist message that is so often featured in the media and academia. But today, with a dynamic staff and stable of wonderful writers and commentators, IWF increasingly helps set the agenda, frame the debate, and drive the conversation about women and public policy.

In recent years women have increasingly rejected the vacuous "War on Women" rhetoric. They have voted for change — not more government bloat. And women are increasingly embracing modern feminism, which acknowledges gender differences and encourages women to pursue their own vision of happiness, whether that takes them to the C-Suite, the home, or somewhere in between.

As IWF has grown over the years it has been our privilege to work with a tremendous network of researchers, policymakers, donors, and media. It has brought us into contact with some of the most innovative thinkers — many of whom are women! And tonight we have an opportunity to recognize some of these friends.

We will honor Representative Barbara Comstock with our Barbara K. Olson Woman of Valor Award. The fact is, today we need more female ambassadors like the Congresswoman at the helm of government to help explain the failures of progressive policies, and communicate how economic freedom and personal liberty are the real keys to a healthy society.

In addition to her political leadership, Rep. Comstock's civic work with the "The Young Women's Leadership Program," which engages young

women in high school and junior high and inspires them to be the next generation of leaders, is deserving of special recognition. We applaud Rep. Comstock for her commitment to the next generation of women.

We will honor Karen Wright with our Outstanding Woman in Business Award. We applaud Karen for her remarkable work as a corporate leader, philanthropist, mother, and champion for limited government. As the head of a national energy company, Karen demonstrates how women can succeed in what so often is caricatured as a "men-only" profession. She understands deeply the importance of providing our children with a healthy environment, as well as a growing economy with abundant, reliable, and affordable energy.

Finally, we all know that behind every great man there is a great woman. But sometimes behind five daughters there's a great man! Tonight we want to recognize Steve Forbes with our first-ever Gentleman of Distinction Award for his lifetime of advancing the free market cause as well as his achievement in business, media, and—perhaps most importantly—with his family.

We look forward to staying connected with everyone in this room tonight and working together to educate the public about how free markets, limited government, and individual responsibility are the foundation of a healthy, prosperous American society that benefits women and men alike.

***We thank you for your support and for joining us to celebrate another wonderful year at IWF!***

With tremendous appreciation,

*Sabrina L. Schaeffer*  
Executive Director



## The Awards of Independent Women's Forum

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### *Woman of Valor*

The Barbara K. Olson Woman of Valor Award has been bestowed upon some of the most influential female leaders in the country since 2004, and recognizes extraordinary women who have demonstrated a firm commitment to liberty, limited government, personal responsibility, and whose work has helped make significant improvements to the lives of women and their families.

### *Outstanding Woman in Business*

The Outstanding Woman in Business Award recognizes exceptional leaders who have demonstrated both a commitment to entrepreneurship, good management, and economic growth as well as notable leadership in improving their communities and country through their personal and philanthropic pursuits.

### *Gentleman of Distinction*

The Gentleman of Distinction Award celebrates a gentleman who has worked to create a stronger society that protects and encourages human flourishing through individual liberty, while strengthening relationships and providing opportunities for women, men, and their families.

### *The Program*

*The National Anthem*  
**Gracie Terzian**

*Welcoming Remarks*  
**Deneen Borelli**  
*Author, Columnist, On-Air Personality*

*Introduction*  
**Heather R. Higgins**  
*Chairman, IWF Board Of Directors*

*Dinner*  
*Brief Reflections and Presentation of the  
Gentleman of Distinction Award  
to Mr. Steve Forbes*  
**Sabrina L. Schaeffer, Independent Women's Forum**

*Introduction of the  
Outstanding Woman in Business Award*  
**The Honorable Rob Portman, United States Senator for Ohio**

*Presentation of Award  
to Ms. Karen Buchwald Wright*  
**Patricia Richards, Marathon Petroleum Corporation**

*Presentation of the  
Woman of Valor Award  
to The Honorable Barbara Comstock*  
**Laura Cox Kaplan, PricewaterhouseCoopers**

*Farewell*  
**Deneen Borelli**  
*Dessert Reception with Live Jazz*

# Dinner Menu



Grapefruit Carpaccio  
*shaved fennel, crumbled pistachios, fromage blanc & ricotta quenell, star anise*



Caramelized Red Wine Glazed Filet Mignon  
*parmesan cake, turnips and roasted root vegetables, spaghetti squash*



Dessert Reception with Live Jazz

Warm Almond Bread Pudding with Caramel Sauce

Lemon Curd Tartlets

Fruit Tarts

Chocolate Mice

Miniature Eclairs

Napoleons

Freshly Brewed Santa Lucia Coffee & Herbal Teas



*Wines for this event are provided courtesy of Altria Group on behalf of Ste. Michelle Wine Estates, an Altria company.*

## WOMAN OF VALOR HONOREE

### *The Honorable Barbara Comstock*



Congresswoman Barbara Comstock represents Virginia's 10th Congressional District. She currently serves on the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, the Science, Space & Technology Committee, where she serves as Chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Research and Technology, and the House Administration Committee in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Rep. Comstock's ties to Virginia run deep. She has been a resident of McLean, VA for more than 30 years, where she and her husband raised three children. Prior to winning her Congressional seat, Rep. Comstock served in the Virginia House of Delegates from 2010 to 2015. And she served as a senior aide in the 1990s to Virginia Congressman Frank R. Wolf when he represented Virginia's 10th District. After working in Congressman Wolf's office, Rep. Comstock was recruited to serve on the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee, where she became Chief Counsel and led hearings and oversight of investigations into waste, fraud and abuse.

Her experience reaches into the executive branch as well, where Rep. Comstock served as Director of the Office of Public Affairs for the U.S. Department of Justice from 2002 through 2003. Additionally Rep. Comstock spent time running her own public relations and government affairs firm, as well as serving as senior partner and principal at Blank Rome, LLP.

Rep. Comstock has also made time for her community. "The Young Women's Leadership Program" for junior high and high school girls - a program designed to inspire the next generation by bringing them together with women leaders in a variety of careers and professions throughout our region. Rep. Comstock is bringing this important program to Capitol Hill and expanding it.

Rep. Comstock graduated from Georgetown University Law Center and Middlebury College with a B.A. in Political Science.

## OUTSTANDING WOMAN IN BUSINESS HONOREE

*Karen Buchwald Wright*



Karen Buchwald Wright has been chief executive officer, president and chairman of Ariel Corporation since 2001. Founded in 1966, Ariel manufactures natural gas compressors for the global oil and gas industry. She began her career at Ariel Corporation in 1980, working full-time for three years and then part time for the next 14 years while she raised her family (four sons, the raising of whom she calls her proudest accomplishment and the best training she could have gotten for running a business).

In 1997, when her parents passed the business to the second generation and subsequently retired, Ms. Wright took her mother's position as Vice President of Administration, and in 2001 became the chief executive officer, president and owner. Subsequently, from 2001 to 2015 she more than quadrupled the size (both revenues and production) of the company and greatly increased Ariel's international reach, developing the infra-structure for continued growth, both in North America and all the oil and gas producing regions of the world.

Ms. Wright supports numerous philanthropic projects toward improving the quality of life in Mount Vernon, Ohio, through her family foundation, the Ariel Foundation, begun in 2009, including the downtown, the parks system, the arts and infrastructure of the town and county, and education (from pre-school through college: especially the Mount Vernon city schools), The Mount Vernon Nazarene University, COTC, and Kenyon College.

Additionally, she supports, both personally and through Ariel Corporation, many national charities such as George Washington's Mount Vernon, and U.S. Disabled Sports Wounded War-fighters, as well as numerous schools, colleges and universities (such as St Olaf College -her alma mater- Miami University of Ohio, Ohio State University, Western Reserve Academy, and The Leelanau School). She served as the vice chairman of the Manufacturing Advisory Council to the President (at its inception under Secretary of Commerce Don Evans in 2005). Ms. Wright is an emeritus trustee of the Kenyon College Board of Trustees (2002-2008) and has served as chairman of campaigns for United Way, American Heart Association, American Cancer Society, the YMCA, and several other organizations.

## GENTLEMAN OF DISTINCTION HONOREE

*Steve Forbes*



Steve Forbes is Chairman and Editor-in-Chief of Forbes Media, where his editorials appear in each issue under the heading, "Fact and Comment." Under Mr. Forbes' leadership, the company has launched a variety of new publications and businesses, including: *ForbesLife*, *Forbes Europe* and *Forbes Asia* magazines; the website *Forbes.com*; and Forbes licensee editions around the world. *Forbes* is the nation's leading business magazine, with a circulation of more than 900,000. Forbes

combined with *Forbes Asia*, *Forbes Europe* and the company's licensee editions together reach a worldwide audience of more than 5 million readers. Its websites reach over 36 million business decision makers each month.

A widely respected economic prognosticator, Mr. Forbes is the only writer to have been a four-time winner of the highly prestigious Crystal Owl Award, formerly given by U.S. Steel Corporation to the financial journalist whose economic forecasts for the coming year proved most accurate. In 1996 and 2000 he campaigned vigorously for the Republican nomination for the Presidency. His latest book is: *Money: How the Destruction of the Dollar Threatens the Global Economy - and What We Can Do About It*, co-authored by Elizabeth Ames (McGraw-Hill Professional, June 2014). His other books include *Freedom Manifesto: Why Free Markets are Moral and Big Government Isn't*, co-authored by Elizabeth Ames (Crown Business, August 2012); *How Capitalism Will Save Us: Why Free People and Free Markets Are the Best Answer in Today's Economy*, co-authored by Elizabeth Ames (Crown Business, November 2009), and *Power Ambition Glory: The Stunning Parallels between Great Leaders of the Ancient World and Today . . . and the Lessons You Can Learn*, co-authored by John Prevas (Crown Business, June 2009). He is also the author of *Flat Tax Revolution: Using a Postcard to Abolish the IRS* (2005), and *A New Birth of Freedom* (1999), a book of bold ideas for the new millennium.

Mr. Forbes appears every week on his eponymous show *Forbes on Fox*.

## MASTER OF CEREMONIES

### *Deneen Borelli*



Deneen Borelli is the Chief Political Correspondent at Conservative Review, a website holding politicians accountable through a limited government perspective. Deneen is a contributor with Fox News and has appeared regularly on “Hannity,” “America’s Newsroom,” “The O’Reilly Factor,” “Fox & Friends,” and “Your World with Neil Cavuto.”

Deneen is the author of *Blacklash: How Obama and the Left are Driving Americans to the Government Plantation*.

Deneen worked at Philip Morris for 20 years and began her corporate career as a secretary and advanced to positions of increasing responsibilities. Deneen worked full-time and attended classes at night for 11 years to earn her B.A. in Managerial Marketing from Pace University, New York City.

Deneen served on the Board of Trustees with The Opportunity Charter School in Harlem, New York. She has appeared in educational videos for children, worked as a runway fashion model, and auditioned for television commercials. Her interests include ancient history, pistol target shooting, photography, and volunteering at her church. Deneen resides in Connecticut with her husband Tom.

### *Heather R. Higgins*



Heather Richardson Higgins is Chairman of the Independent Women’s Forum. She is also president and CEO of IWF’s sister-organization the Independent Women’s Voice. In addition to her work with IWF, Heather sits on the boards of the Independent Women’s Forum (as chairman), the Hoover Institution at Stanford University, and The Philanthropy Roundtable. In addition, she is on the NY board of UBS’s mutual funds, and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. She was named as one of the “50 Most Influential People” by Campaigns & Elections magazine for her issue advocacy and as a leader who will influence future election cycles. Previously, Heather was a portfolio manager and vice president at U.S. Trust. Prior to working in finance, she was an editorial writer for the Wall Street Journal and assistant editor at the Public Interest magazine. Heather continues to write opinion editorials and appears on a variety of radio and television programs.

### *Sabrina L. Schaeffer*



Sabrina L. Schaeffer is the executive director of the Independent Women’s Forum. Since her mother sent her Wendy Shalit’s *A Return to Modesty* while in college, she’s been borderline obsessed with persuading other women that a culture of liberty and responsibility is good for everyone, women in particular. By far her most formative work experience was her first, as a young assistant to Ambassador Jeane J. Kirkpatrick while at the American Enterprise Institute. Ambassador Kirkpatrick taught her more than a thing or two about being a real feminist.

Sabrina has commented widely on politics and political culture in publications including Forbes, USA Today, Commentary, The Weekly Standard, National Review Online, Ricochet, and Policy Review, among many others. And Sabrina is a regular on TV news programs - you can catch Sabrina every Saturday at 11am on Forbes on Fox.

Sabrina received an M.A. in History, as well as an M.A. in Politics, where she focused on media effects and political behavior, both from the University of Virginia.

## Laura Cox Kaplan



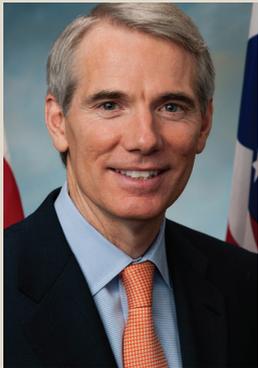
Laura is PwC's Principal-in-Charge of Government, Regulatory Affairs and Public Policy and a member of the firm's executive management team. She leads the firm's public policy and external facing strategy in Washington, serves on PwC's Global Public Policy Board, is Chair of the AICPA's Federal Legislative Task Force, and is a member of the Center for Audit Quality's executive advisory committee. Laura speaks and writes about women's leadership, the importance of mentoring, the benefits of diversity, and

challenges associated with navigating work and life priorities. She is also Chair of Global WIN (Women In Innovation), a founding Board member of All In Together, and on the board of Running Start.

In November, 2015, Laura was named one of Washingtonian Magazine's 100 Most Powerful Women in Washington.

Laura lives with her husband and two young children in Washington, D.C.

## The Honorable Rob Portman



Rob Portman is a United States Senator from the state of Ohio. He was elected in 2010, running a campaign that focused on commonsense conservative ideas to help create jobs and get the deficit under control. Senator Portman previously served in Congress, representing Ohio's Second District for twelve years. During his time in Congress, he was actively involved in crafting and promoting the historic welfare reform efforts, and was a forceful advocate of the balanced budget that passed in 1997.

Senator Portman is a member of the Finance Committee, Committee On Homeland Security And Governmental Affairs, Energy And Natural Resources Committee, and Committee On The Budget. He is also Chairman of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations.

Senator Portman was born and raised in Cincinnati, where he lives today with his wife Jane, and their three children, Jed, Will and Sally.

## Patricia Richards



Patricia Richards is Vice President, Federal Government Affairs for Marathon Petroleum Corporation.

A native of St. Louis, Patricia received her J.D. from The Dickinson School of Law in Pennsylvania, where she was the Editor-in-Chief of the Dickinson Journal of International Law.

Patricia heads up Marathon's Washington, DC office where the company engages in advocacy on a wide variety of federal regulatory and legislative issues.

Patricia has a broad base of environmental, political, and corporate management experience. Prior to joining MPC's Washington office, Patricia served as Director, Federal Governmental Affairs for Marathon Oil Corporation (MOC) and before that served in a similar role for USX Corporation. Patricia previously practiced law with Squire, Sanders and Dempsey, and served as State Governmental Affairs Representative in Ohio, Kentucky, Florida, and Indiana for MOC.

Patricia and her husband live on a horse farm in Northern Virginia.

## Gracie Terzian



Washington area native Gracie Terzian—jazz singer, songwriter, ukulelist, and actor based in New York City—is an IWF offspring. Her mother, Grace Paine Terzian, former IWF senior vice president, publisher, and one of the Independent Women's Forum early founders, raised Gracie in the midst of producing IWF's celebrated "Women's Quarterly," and other duties.

Gracie, a 2013 graduate of the University of Virginia, has acted at many theatres in the Washington area, including Ford's Theatre, Shakespeare Theatre Company, Folger Theatre, and The Kennedy Center. And she gained attention in the jazz world this past year with the May release of her debut album, *Saints and Poets*, which became the #3 Jazz album on iTunes and charted at #23 on the Billboard Jazz charts.



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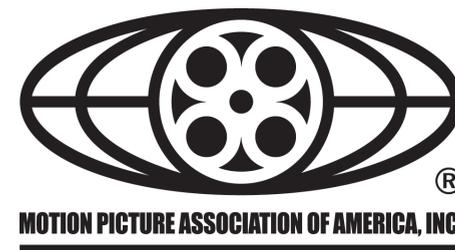
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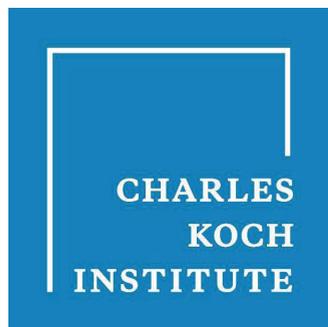
*Dick and Mary Beth Weiss*





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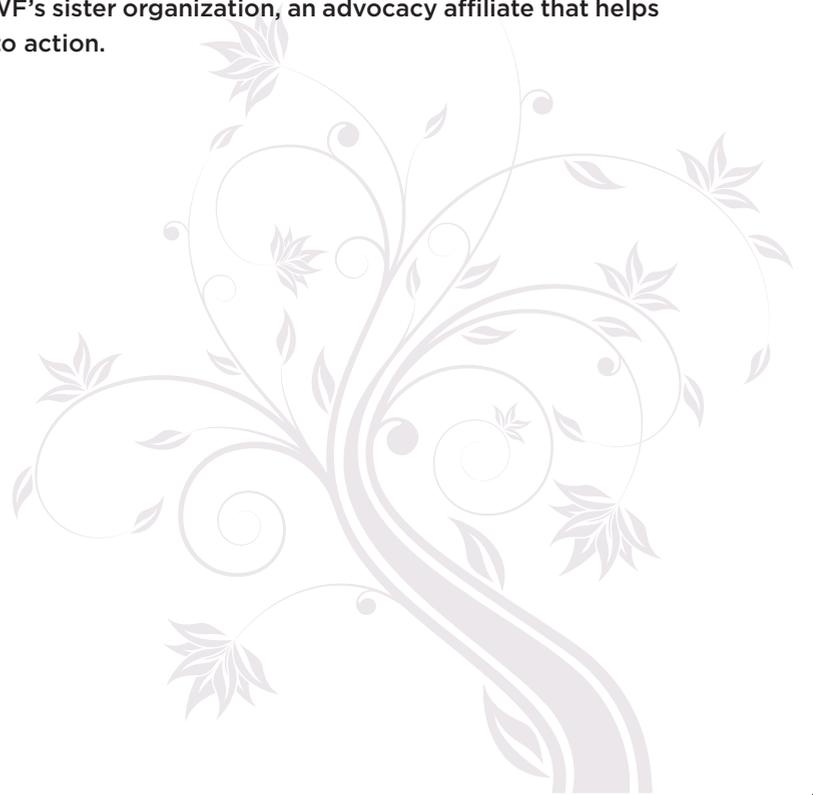
## *Who We Are*

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Michaelon Wright



## *Mission Statement*

IWF's mission is to improve the lives of Americans by increasing the number of women who value free markets and personal liberty. IWF is a non-partisan, 501(c) (3) research and educational institution. By aggressively seeking earned media, timely publications and commentary, and reaching out to the public, we seek to cultivate support for these important principles and encourage women to join us in working to return the country to limited, Constitutional government. The Independent Women's Voice, a 501(c) (4) nonpartisan, nonprofit organization is IWF's sister organization, an advocacy affiliate that helps turn our ideas into action.



All Issues Are Women's Issues  
[iwf.org](http://iwf.org)

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