

WFWP DMV USA: HerStory Awards Honor Outstanding Women Leaders

Kaeleigh Moffitt
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On Saturday, March 29, 2025, the Beech Room at The Washington Times Building was filled with warmth, inspiration, and purpose as community members gathered for the DMV HerStory Awards, hosted by the Women's Federation for World Peace USA (WFWP) in celebration of Women's History Month.

Opening Moments

The program officially commenced with welcoming remarks by MC Naria Gaarder, followed by a short video presentation that gave guests a meaningful glimpse into the impactful work of WFWP both locally and globally.

Honoring HerStory

Kaeleigh Moffitt, President of WFWP USA, introduced the heart and spirit of the HerStory Awards - a platform to recognize women who are changing lives and shaping communities with their courage, compassion, and leadership. These stories are essential to shaping a more peaceful and

empowered future.

This year, three remarkable women were honored:



Ms. Natasha T. Dupee, Executive Director of the Mayor's Office on Women's Policy and Initiatives, Nominated by WFWP DC Chairwoman Elizabeth Aihe

Ms. Dupee shared how traveling the world and engaging with diverse cultures and languages laid the foundation for her growth as a leader. Her journey highlighted the value of cross-cultural understanding and global impact.

Pastor Miata Sirleaf, President and CEO of Networking Women for Generational Changes, Nominated by Yuriko Arakawa

Pastor Sirleaf shared powerful experiences of overcoming adversity and holding steadfast to her mission through faith. Her life's work has touched and transformed communities around the world.

Mrs. Sagrario Ortiz, Founder of El Poder de Ser Mujer (The Power of Being a Woman), Nominated by WFWP MD Latino Chairwoman Concha Marchitelli

Mrs. Ortiz expressed deep gratitude for those who supported her growth and emphasized the importance of perseverance. Her efforts have built a strong network uplifting Latina women and the wider community.



Each awardee gave a heartfelt “HerStory” speech, reflecting on the defining experiences that shaped their leadership, the mentors who empowered them, and the legacy they hope to leave behind. Their testimonies stirred hearts and sparked inspiration, demonstrating the power of one woman to make a lasting impact.

Youth Performance and Call to Action

Bringing joy and energy to the event, the Youth and Students for Peace Dance Team delivered a vibrant performance, celebrating unity and intergenerational hope. Guests were then invited to learn how they can get involved with WFWP and become part of a growing movement to uplift women and strengthen families.



Words of Encouragement

To close the program, Delegate Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk, Member of the Maryland House of Delegates (District 21), delivered heartfelt congratulatory remarks, affirming the vital role of women’s leadership in all areas of society. In a touching surprise, she was presented with the Global Women’s Peace Ambassador Award from WFWP International. Humbled and moved, Delegate Peña-Melnyk expressed

her sincere gratitude for the honor.



A Celebration of Legacy and Leadership

The morning concluded with continued networking and refreshments, as guests departed uplifted and inspired to carry the spirit of HerStory into their own communities and spheres of influence.

WFWP USA extends heartfelt thanks to all participants, awardees, nominators, and attendees for making this celebration of women’s leadership so meaningful. Together, we honor the past, uplift the present, and empower the future - one HerStory at a time.

