



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – 11/14/12

**National Women's History Museum Honors Living Legends  
At Second *de Pizan Honors* Gala on Wednesday, November 14, 2012**

WASHINGTON, D.C. 11/02/12– Legendary photographer **Annie Leibovitz**; renowned poet, author and playwright **Dr. Maya Angelou** (video acceptance); former U.S. Senator and former President of the American Red Cross, **Elizabeth Hanford Dole**; and Pulitzer Prize-winning author **Richard Rhodes** are the 2012 recipients of the National Women's History Museum's (NWHM) Living Legacy awards who will be honored at the NWHM's second annual Christine *de Pizan Honors Gala* on Wednesday, November 14, 2012 at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, DC.

**Former Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright is serving as Honorary Chair for the event. Gloria B. Herndon**, President of Herndon & Associates, is serving as co-chair of the Gala Committee for the event, which takes place on **Wednesday, November 14, 2012** in the **Amphitheater of the Ronald Reagan Building**, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. A VIP dinner reception begins at **5:30 p.m.**, followed by the **honors ceremony at 7:15 p.m.** All ticket holders will be invited to enjoy a desert reception immediately following the award presentations at **8:15 pm.**

The Honors were established by NWHM in 2011 to celebrate the legends of pioneering women of the past by showcasing their achievements alongside the contributions of their modern inheritors. They are presented as part of NWHM's Second Annual *de Pizan Honors Gala*, named in honor of Christine de Pizan, the first Western woman to write about women's history in 1405. She is best known

as the author of *The Book of the City of Ladies*, which she wrote to combat existing ideas about women's nature.

"The NWHM is dedicated to continuing de Pizan's work of documenting women's achievements and is proud to present the Honors in her name," said Joan Bradley Wages, CEO and President of NWHM. "Annie Leibovitz, Dr. Maya Angelou, Elizabeth Dole and Richard Rhodes are leaders who represent the best in their respective areas in today's world."

Leibovitz is receiving the *Dorothea Lange Living Legacy Award*, named after Lange, an influential American photojournalist best known for her work for the Farm Security Administration whose works helped humanize the consequences of the Great Depression and influenced the development of documentary photography.

Leibovitz established a reputation as a leading photographer for the Rolling Stone and then for Vanity Fair. She is renowned for her often cutting-edge photos of chronicling historic events and well-known personalities and historical figures. She mounted an exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery, becoming the second living portraitist and first woman to show there.

Dr. Maya Angelou is receiving the *Gwendolyn Brooks Living Legacy Award*, named after one of the best known American poets in history. Dr. Angelou has published six autobiographies, five books of essays, several books of poetry, and is credited with a list of plays, movies, and television shows spanning more than fifty years. She has received dozens of awards and over thirty honorary doctoral degrees. Angelou is best known for her series of autobiographies, which focus on her childhood and early adult experiences. The first, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* (1969), tells of her life up to the age of seventeen, and brought her international recognition and acclaim.

Former U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Dole is receiving the *Clara Barton Living Legacy Award*, named after the founder of the American Red Cross. Dole served as President of the American Red Cross from 1991 to 1999. She was the first female head of the Red Cross since its founder, Clara Barton. Dole's political career included serving as Secretary of Transportation for President Ronald Reagan and Secretary of Labor for President George H.W. Bush. She was elected to serve in the U.S. Senate from North Carolina and served from 2003 to 2009.

Pulitzer Prize winning author Richard Rhodes is recipient of the *Henry Blackwell Living Legend Award*, given in honor of Blackwell, a 19<sup>th</sup> century advocate for social and economic reform who was one of the founders of the American Women Suffrage Association and who published the *Woman's Journal*, starting in 1870.

Rhodes has received wide acclaim for a number of books, including the recent book *Hedy's Folly, The Life and Breakthrough Invention of Hedy Lamarr*. The book chronicles the life of the famous actress and her role in developing a radio anti-jamming device that would prove crucial during the Cold War. Her research is now recognized as fundamental to today's wireless technology. Rhodes is the author or editor of 24 books and won the Pulitzer Prize for *The Making of the Atomic Bomb* and has authored a number of other books, including *Why They Kill*, which examines the roots of violence and several novels.

Tickets for the *de Pizan Honors Gala* are available at <http://nwhm.ticketleap.com/depizan2012/>. There is a discount of 60% off for young professionals and general admission. To become a gala sponsor and for more information, please contact Kate Clinton at [kclinton@nwhm.org](mailto:kclinton@nwhm.org) or call 703-461-1920.

### **About the National Women's History Museum**

Founded in 1996, The National Women's History Museum is a nonpartisan, nonprofit educational institution dedicated to preserving, interpreting, and celebrating the diverse historic contributions of women and integrating this rich heritage fully into our nation's history, currently located online at [www.nwhm.org](http://www.nwhm.org). Legislation is underway to purchase federally owned land on which to build the National Women's History Museum. The site will border several of the nation's most iconic museums on the National Mall. A coalition of 47 business and professional women's organizations representing eight million members supports NWHM's efforts for a permanent site, along with 50,000 members who have supported the Museum. The women's coalition has publically advocated for building the Museum near the National Mall. NWHM is a 501(c) (3) organization.

### **About Christine de Pizan**

Christine de Pizan was the first Western woman to write about women's history in 1405. She is best known as the author of *The Book of the City of Ladies*, which she wrote to combat existing ideas about women's nature. The book has given de Pizan the distinction of being the first woman recognized as a chronicler of women's history. The NWHM is dedicated to continuing de Pizan's work of documenting women's achievements and is proud to present the Honors in her name.

### **Media Contact:**

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