



DONELSON HERMITAGE
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Terri Williams Nutter
615-883-7896
exec@d-hchamber.com
www.donelsonhermitagechamber.com

For Immediate Release
[Download](#) Media Assets

Donelson Hermitage Chamber of Commerce Celebrates 2026 Influencing Women Award Recipients at Annual Gala

NASHVILLE, TN - April 27, 2026

The Donelson Hermitage Chamber of Commerce proudly honored an extraordinary group of leaders, innovators, and changemakers during the **2026 Influencing Women Awards Gala**, held Thursday, April 16, 2026, at Sonesta Nashville Airport.

The annual gala shines a spotlight on remarkable women whose vision, leadership, and unwavering impact continue to strengthen businesses, uplift neighbors, and inspire the future of the Donelson Hermitage community. This year's honorees truly embodied the spirit of the evening: trailblazers and treasures whose work is shaping today while lighting the path for tomorrow.

2026 Influencing Women Award Recipients

- **Beyond the Glass Ceiling Award:** Nancy Sullivan
- **Woman to Watch Award:** Dr. Brenda Jones
- **Champion of Women Award:** Women of Worth
- **Heart of Donelson Hermitage Award:** Jane Schnelle
- **Woman-Owned Workplace Award:** Magnitude Gymnastics
- **Lifetime Legacy Award:** Mary Belle Melvin

The Chamber was also honored to present the **2026 Jeannie Seely Standing Ovation Award** to **Kelly Sutton**. Named in memory of Grand Ole Opry legend Jeannie Seely, whose presence, generosity, and advocacy left a lasting mark on the Donelson Hermitage community, the award recognizes women who embody grace, leadership, talent, and a deep commitment to lifting others. Following Jeannie Seely's passing last year, this marked the first time the community gathered to celebrate both her legacy and a recipient who reflects that same spirit of excellence

and heart. Kelly Sutton was a fitting honoree, recognized for her professional achievements, community impact, and continued support of women across Middle Tennessee.

“These women are the heartbeat of our community,” said Terri Williams Nutter, Chamber Executive Director. “Their dedication, courage, and accomplishments remind us that strong communities are built by people who choose to lead, serve, and lift others along the way.”

The Chamber extends heartfelt gratitude to the sponsors whose support made the evening possible:

- **Gold Sponsor:** Nashville International Airport (BNA)
- **Cocktail Sponsor:** Dillard's at The Mall at Green Hills
- **Jeannie Seely Standing Ovation Award Sponsor:** Gus Arrendale & Springer Mountain Farms

The Chamber was also proud to partner with the **Opry Trust Fund** as the event’s nonprofit partner. A portion of proceeds from the event will be designated to support the organization’s mission of providing assistance to women of the country music community in times of need.

Community partners, nonprofits, and local businesses continue to be the bright threads woven through Donelson Hermitage, creating opportunities to celebrate excellence and invest in the people who make the area shine.

ABOUT DONELSON-HERMITAGE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Donelson-Hermitage Chamber of Commerce – Gateway to Music City was founded in February 1977 by area business leaders with a mission to promote and grow memberships and to ensure the communities of Donelson and Hermitage remain a great place to live and work. The Chamber has a membership of nearly 350 local businesses, individuals, and organizations and is one of the largest and most active Chambers in the Greater Nashville, Tennessee area. Visit us at www.donelsonhermitagechamber.com.

XXX