

For Immediate Release

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## **Donelson-Hermitage Chamber of Commerce Women in Business Hosts Inaugural Influencing Women Awards Gala, It's a Ball Y'all**

The Donelson-Hermitage Chamber of Commerce Women in Business Committee is thrilled to announce its inaugural Influencing Women Awards gala. It's a Ball Y'all, presented by Springer Mountain Farms, will be held on June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019 from 6:00-9:00pm in Studio A at the Grand Ole Opry. Sponsored by Ryman Hospitalities, Inc. and Pinnacle Financial Partners, the evening will celebrate influential women and businesses in the community.

Fifteen women and three businesses were nominated in the following six award categories.

The Beyond the Glass Ceiling Award sponsored by the Metro Nashville Airport Authority recognizes a woman who has utilized her position, stature, expertise and influence to break down barriers and effect innovation and positive change in her profession, industry or enterprise. This year's finalists are Gina Keltner, Sharon Kipp, and Allison Quintanilla Plattsmier.

The Woman to Watch Award sponsored by the Horizon Insurance Group recognizes an up and coming business woman under 40 who has demonstrated success and vision and is on her way to making a meaningful imprint on the future of her organization and the local business community. This year's finalists are Lakendra Butler, Jesseh Smith, and Megan Stricker.

The Champion of Women Award sponsored by Deloitte recognizes a business who has demonstrated outstanding efforts to empower women through its policies, programs, diversity and inclusion. This year's finalists are Party Fowl, Piedmont Natural Gas, and Pinnacle Financial Partners.

The WOW: Woman Owned Workplace Award sponsored by the Stevens Group, LLC recognizes a woman-owned business that has demonstrated leadership, excellence, innovation, growth, strength, and leadership that has given back to the community. This year's finalists are HJL Management-Jane Eakes, Hermitage Steakhouse-Lisa Eastland, and The Law Office of Jennifer McCoy PC-Jennifer McCoy.

The Heart of Donelson Hermitage Award sponsored by Holladay Property Services, Midwest Inc. recognizes a female community advocate who is making outstanding contributions through demonstrated passion and determination to make a difference. This year's finalists are Lisa Cathcart, Michele Mazzu, and Stephanie Ponder Randolph.

The Lifetime Legacy Award sponsored by Wilson Bank & Trust recognizes a woman who has demonstrated superior leadership over several years and who has a significant track record of long-term

achievements and accomplishments in business, industry, and/or enterprise. This year's finalists are Deann Bradford, Betty Cannon, and Lucy Foutch.

In addition to these six awards, the Standing Ovation Award recognizes a woman who has created influence and significance in the entertainment industry and has shown the advocacy of other women in her field by mentoring and supporting them in their professional success. She generously shares her time, advocating for her community and various organizations. This year's recipient embodies the spirit of the award, which will now be named after her.

Jeannie Seely has blazed a trail for others to follow throughout her musical career. From her first singing appearances on a local Pennsylvania radio station at the young age of eleven to her over fifty years as a member of the Grand Ole Opry, Jeannie has consistently paved the way for female artists. She was the first female to host a Grand Ole Opry half-hour segment, as well as the first to wear a mini-skirt on the Opry stage. Nicknamed "Miss County Soul", Jeannie possesses a beautiful voice and infamous sense of humor.

"Jeannie embodies everything it means to be a powerful woman in the music industry. She has remained classy -poised-and relevant to decades and continues to inspire the generation of females to this industry including myself," says Carley Pearce. Her talent and class have allowed Jeannie to sustain her career over six decades. A Grammy award winning artist, Jeannie continues to write and record. Her latest album, which includes collaborations with Bill Anderson, Vince Gill, Lorrie Morgan, Willie Nelson and more, is tentatively set to release this fall. She regularly hosts and performs on the Grand Ole Opry and is an on air personality and host on Sirius XM's "Willie's Roadhouse".

Not only is Jeannie an admired artist, she is also a community advocate. She has served on the Board of Directors for both the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists and the Donelson-Hermitage Chamber of Commerce and as a longtime spokesperson for the Humane Society. She is also actively involved in the Opry Trust Fund which provides financial assistance to those in need in the country music industry. She is a resident of Donelson and active community member.

Tickets to the premiere gala are \$100 each and can be purchased online at <http://bit.ly/ItsABallYall-Tickets> or by phone at 615-883-7896. A portion of the evening's proceeds will benefit Girls on the Run, an organization dedicated to inspiring young girls to be joyful, healthy and confident.

**If You Go:**

**Inaugural Influencing Women Awards Gala, *It's a Ball Y'all***

June 20, 2019

6:00p.m.

Studio A at the Grand Ole Opry House

2804 Opryland Drive, Nashville, TN 37214

Tickets: <http://bit.ly/ItsABallYall-Tickets>

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