



THE GREATER BETHESDA
CHAMBER *of* COMMERCE



THE ANNUAL CHAMBER
AWARDS

NOVEMBER 12, 2020

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November 12, 2020

Welcoming Remarks

Russell Lacey, Electric Advisors, Chair-Elect of The Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce

Breakout Networking

Ron Resh Business Advocate Award

Presented to Judy Stephenson

Excellence in Individual Leadership

Presented to Reverend Anne Derse

Breakout Networking

Raffle Prize

Closing Remarks/Adjourn

THE ANNUAL CHAMBER AWARDS

Ron Resh Business Advocate Award

This award is presented to the individual or organization whose advocacy efforts serve to ensure that the Greater Bethesda Community is regarded as the preeminent place to do business in the Washington metropolitan area.



Recipient: Judy Stephenson

As the first Small Business Navigator for Montgomery County, Judy Stephenson serves as a vital link between Montgomery County small businesses and County departments. She helps small businesses interact more efficiently and effectively with the County and identifies ways that the County can improve business services.

In the face of the COVID-19 public health emergency, Judy has worked tirelessly to help businesses identify and access resources. Having built the award-winning Montgomery County Business Portal, she is currently designing a new on-line resource center to continue to serve the business community.

Judy's past experience of running a small technical-training company in Gaithersburg for 10 years gives her a first-hand understanding of the challenges small business owners face. She is a passionate supporter of the local small business community and is the "go to" resource for businesses with questions about their interactions with County Government.

A long-time resident of Montgomery County, Judy has an in-depth understanding of the community and how businesses are woven into the fabric of public life. A graduate of Montgomery County Public Schools and the University of Maryland, Judy's deep roots in the county provide the motivation to ensure that the County is responsive to the needs of businesses as the foundation for economic success.

THE ANNUAL CHAMBER AWARDS

Excellence in Individual Leadership

The Excellence in Individual Leadership award is presented to a “leader amongst leaders” who has risen above peers to establish themselves as a forward-thinking, selfless individual, and who has distinguished themselves through personal participation in a wide range of civic, political and philanthropic activities in the Greater Bethesda Chamber service area.



Recipient: Reverend Anne Derse, St. John's Norwood

The Reverend Anne Elizabeth Derse is a Deacon in the Episcopal Diocese of Washington and Minister for Community Engagement at St. John's Norwood Episcopal Church in Bethesda-Chevy Chase, Maryland, where she has worked since 2014. In both her clergy and staff capacity, she promotes St. John's engagement with the community, government and non-profit sector and advances advocacy and ministries on social justice issues including racial equity, food insecurity, gun violence prevention, support for immigrants, refugees and asilees, interfaith relations, alleviating homelessness and peace in the Holy Land. She attended the Episcopal Diocese of Washington's Deacon School and Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington D.C. 2015-18.

Prior to ordination in 2018, Derse was a career Foreign Service Officer with the U.S. Department of State for over thirty years. She served in Asia, Europe and the Middle East. She was the U.S. Ambassador to Lithuania 2009-2012 and to Azerbaijan 2006-2009. Earlier in her career she held senior positions managing economic relations at the U.S. Mission to the European Union and at the U.S. Embassies in Korea, the Philippines and in Belgium, where she also served as the last U.S. Commissioner on the Tripartite Gold Commission. She retired from the Department of State in 2012.

Derse holds a Presidential Meritorious Service Award, the State Department's Herbert Salzman Award for Excellence in International Economic Performance and the Cordell Hull Award for Senior Economic Achievement, and six Department of State Superior Honor Awards. She received the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research Leadership Award, the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture Award of Excellence and was admitted to the American Academy of Diplomacy in 2014. She is a member of the board of the American Councils for International Education and the board of the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem.

Derse received a B.A. in French and Linguistics from Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota in 1976 and an M.A. in International Relations from Johns Hopkins SAIS in 1981. She speaks French, Italian, Lithuanian and Azerbaijani. She is married to former diplomat and current Executive Director of the U.S.-Philippines Society Hank Hendrickson. They have four children.



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ANNIVERSARY

CONGRATULATIONS TO
JUDY STEPHENSON

&

REVEREND ANNE DERSE!