

**National Governors Association**

*GOVERNORS'*  
**SPOUSES**

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**2009**



**2009**

**Directory**

**of Governors'**

**Spouses**

# National Governors Association

## Governors' Spouses' Program

*Spouses' Leadership Committee.* The Spouses' Leadership Committee (SLC) is an elected body of governors' spouses that determines the scope and format of major spouses' program activities. SLC is a six-member, bipartisan committee composed of the spouses of the NGA chair and vice chair; and four members—two Democrats and two Republicans—elected by the full body of spouses. Elections are held in the month before the NGA Annual Meeting.

*Spouses' Program Initiative.* Each year, the SLC chair is given the opportunity to identify an issue or set of issues that serve as a focus for spouses' program activities for the coming year.

*NGA Winter Meeting.* This meeting is held annually in Washington, D.C., in January or February. A separate business program is developed for governors' spouses, which runs parallel to the governors' agenda. The Winter Meeting Spouses' Program traditionally includes a luncheon event with the First Lady of the United States. The spouses are also invited to attend governors' plenary sessions and to join the governors for the evening social events.

*Spouses' Seminar.* NGA sponsors an annual governors' spouses' seminar, which is hosted by a different governor's spouse each year. The seminar commonly highlights initiatives and projects of the host governor's spouse and also focuses on personal and professional development and experience sharing.

*Spouses' Assistants and Residence Managers Seminar.* NGA sponsors an annual management seminar for spouses' assistants and executive residence managers, which provides participants an opportunity to meet with their peers and exchange ideas and best practices relating to their unique roles and responsibilities. Common topics addressed include serving the Governor and First Family, maintaining open communication, teambuilding, managing staff and volunteers, balancing roles, effective scheduling tools and strategies, designing and implementing successful initiatives and events, fundraising ideas and strategies, and managing the executive residence and establishing a residence foundation.

*Annual Meeting.* This meeting is hosted by a different governor and his or her spouse each year, usually in July or August. The spouses' agenda may feature business sessions and visits to local programs relating to initiatives or areas of interest of the host governor's spouse and/or the SLC chair. The Annual Meeting also includes a program for governors' children and generally is more informal in nature than the Winter Meeting.

*Publications.* An online Directory of Governors' Spouses is published annually. Additional resources and a listing of OMCT publications can be found on the NGA website (Direct Link: [www.nga.org/omct](http://www.nga.org/omct))

*NGA Staffing.* The Spouses' Program is coordinated through the Office of Management Consulting & Training and directed by Marcia Lim. Her telephone number is: 202/624-7810; fax: 202/624-7814; and e-mail: [m\\_lim@nga.org](mailto:m_lim@nga.org).

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# ALABAMA



**Patsy Adams Riley** was raised in Ashland, Alabama. She became the First Lady of Alabama when her husband, Governor Bob Riley, was sworn into office on January 20, 2003.

In her role as first lady, Mrs. Riley travels the state promoting her platform, Petticoat Politics, to encourage women of Alabama to get involved in issues ranging from children's welfare to promoting the natural beauty of Alabama. Mrs. Riley is an advocate of the HIPPIY program and Kid One Transport, and she is raising awareness about childhood obesity and its associated health risks.

Mrs. Riley is a voice for the prevention of domestic violence against women and children and is a charter member of the Hannah Home Shelby County Auxiliary. Each year she coordinates her Blankets with a Blessing program, helping to collect and distribute blankets to homeless and women's shelters across the state. She also works closely with the Salvation Army during the holiday season in support of its Red Kettle Drive. The first lady is an avid supporter of the Alabama Reading initiative and regularly visits schools encouraging and inspiring children's passion for reading. She supports the Alabama Foster Care Association and established the Birthday Wish program, which gives foster care children an opportunity to have a birthday party or a wish granted. Mrs. Riley also is the spokesperson for the Parenting Assistance Line (PAL), a free and confidential help line for parents of young children. Callers to this service can speak with trained counselors from the University of Alabama to obtain parenting tips and advice.

In 2003, Mrs. Riley spearheaded an initiative to renovate the Alabama Governor's Mansion. As a result of the first lady's private fundraising efforts, the mansion is now renovated and fully functioning, after being closed to the public for more than a decade. Since its reopening, the Governor's Mansion has received over 50,000 Alabamians and also has served as a venue for a variety of state and charitable functions. Additionally, Mrs. Riley initiated the Capitol Grounds Improvement Project, which added new plantings of camellias, azaleas and roses to the state Capitol grounds.

The Rileys were high school sweethearts, and they married in 1964. They have four children and seven grandchildren.

# ALASKA



**Todd Palin** became the First Gentleman of Alaska when his wife, Governor Sarah Palin, was sworn into office on December 4, 2006. In this role, he has been a strong advocate for improving workforce development and vocational training in the state.

Mr. Palin has worked for nearly 20 years as a production operator in the oil fields on Alaska's North Slope and is a lifelong commercial fisherman in Bristol Bay.

Mr. Palin was born in Dillingham, located in western Alaska, where he gained an appreciation for Alaska's cultural heritage and traditions from his Yup'ik grandmother. These traditions and the state's rugged outdoors have played an influential role in the life of the Palin family. Since 1993, the first gentleman has participated every year in the Iron Dog race—the world's longest snowmachine race, spanning 2,000 miles from Wasilla to Nome to Fairbanks. To date, he has won the championship four times.

A dedicated community volunteer, Mr. Palin also devotes his time and efforts in support of youth sports, coaching hockey and basketball.

The Palins both graduated from Wasilla High School and were married in 1988, after college. They have five children—Track (who enlisted in the U.S. Army on September 11, 2007), Willow, Bristol, Piper, and Trig. In his free time, the first gentleman enjoys fishing, flying and spending time with his family.

## AMERICAN SAMOA



**Mary Ann Taufaasau Mauga-Tulafono** was born in Pago Pago, American Samoa, on August 15, 1951. She was raised in American Samoa and later attended the University of Hawaii. Mrs. Tulafono has held various positions with the Bank of Hawaii, including branch operations manager, and she currently serves as the president and CEO of Nayram Samoa, Ltd., a conglomerate of insurance brokers and adjusters.

The first lady has served as chair of the board of directors of the Development Bank of American Samoa, and as an adviser to the American Samoa Delegation to the United Nations for the 1999 U.N. Conference on Small Island Nations' Sustainable Development. She also has chaired a program in support of early intervention services for toddlers with disabilities.

The first lady and her husband, Governor Togiola Tulafono, have six children and seven grandchildren. They attend the Congregational Christian Church of American Samoa—Sailele.

## ARKANSAS



**Ginger Beebe** was born in Searcy, Arkansas. She credits her parents—who adopted her when she was four years old—with instilling in her the values of empathy for others and a strong work ethic. For more than 30 years, she has dedicated her time to volunteerism and community service.

Mrs. Beebe is a founding member and past president of the Central Arkansas Radiation Therapy Institute-Searcy Auxiliary and currently is serving her second term on the organization's foundation board. For the past 15 years, she has been a member of the Central Arkansas Auxiliary, serving two years as president and as the North Central District chair. In 2001, Mrs. Beebe was honored as the Arkansas Auxiliarian of the Year.

Mrs. Beebe has been a member of the Searcy Junior Auxiliary, which provides assistance to teachers in various elementary schools, and she served as president of the Southwest Middle School PTO. She also was a member of the Searcy Jaycettes, an organization that supports Toys for Tots and other community projects.

The first lady is a board member of the Performing Arts Center on the Square in Searcy and a member of the Committee of 100, which promotes the Ozark Folk Center in helping train young people in Arkansas' arts and crafts. Mrs. Beebe is an active member of White County Master Gardeners, and will co-chair the Hospitality Committee for the 2007 International Master Gardeners' Conference in Little Rock. Mrs. Beebe was president of the White County Democratic Club in 2005 and has served on the board of the White County Rape Crisis Center. She is a charter member and past president of Beta Sigma Phi Social Club, which provides help to needy families each year. Mrs. Beebe has long enjoyed teaching Sunday School and children's choir at the First Baptist and Trinity Episcopal Churches.

The first lady and her husband, Governor Mike Beebe, have been married for 28 years. They have three adult children and five grandchildren.

# CALIFORNIA



**Maria Shriver** is a mother, wife, daughter, sister and friend, who became California's First Lady when her husband, Arnold Schwarzenegger, was inaugurated as the state's 38th governor on November 17, 2003.

Ms. Shriver's initiatives as first lady are a call to action to all Californians to solve critical issues together. Known collectively as the "WE Program," these initiatives include a broad spectrum of programs targeted at promoting volunteerism; addressing the needs of working families, individuals with disabilities, and military families; empowering women; and showcasing California's rich history.

As honorary chair of California Volunteers ([www.CaliforniaVolunteers.org](http://www.CaliforniaVolunteers.org)), Ms. Shriver launched a statewide volunteer matching network that connects Californians to thousands of public service volunteer opportunities in communities throughout the state. In conjunction with the effort to promote volunteerism, she spearheaded a disaster-preparedness campaign called "Be Ready." Other WE Serve projects include playground building and garden planting.

Through her WE Connect campaign, the first lady helped inform working families about the Earned Income Tax Credit program, which resulted in the return of more than \$160,000 in tax credits to needy families in her state in 2006. As part of this campaign, she also is working in partnership with major corporations, community organizations, and statewide programs to connect working families with other social and economic benefits and opportunities.

Ms. Shriver supports California's military families through her WE Support program by linking them to services and resources and providing prepaid calling cards to deployed members of the military so that they can communicate with their families back home. She has transformed the Women's Conference, which encourages and empowers women to become architects of change, into one of the nation's largest and renowned forums of its kind. The Conference's distinguished past speakers include Oprah Winfrey, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, and His Holiness the Dalai Lama. She created the Minerva Awards, given annually at this conference, to recognize California's remarkable women. Additionally, she was instrumental in creating the California Hall of Fame, which honors extraordinary Californians for their contributions to the state, nation and world. The first lady serves on the international board of Special Olympics, and she is a dedicated supporter of Best Buddies, a one-on-one friendship program for people with disabilities, and a vocal advocate on behalf of families struggling with Alzheimer's disease.

Ms. Shriver has enjoyed a career in journalism spanning more than two decades. She has served as a reporter, correspondent and anchor for world news organizations such as CBS and NBC. She has been honored with a Peabody Award and an Emmy Award and is the author of five New York Times best-selling books. A graduate of Georgetown University, with a degree in American Studies, she and her husband have four children—Katherine, Christina, Patrick and Christopher.

## COLORADO



**Jeannie Lewis Ritter**, First Lady of Colorado, was born on May 23, 1956, in Virginia. The daughter of a Navy captain, Mrs. Ritter lived in Virginia, Texas, Georgia, California, Washington, Rhode Island and North Carolina before settling in Colorado in 1972.

After receiving her bachelor's degree in special education from the University of Northern Colorado, in Greeley, in 1978, she worked at Thomas Jefferson High School in Denver. The next year she accepted a position as a flight attendant with Texas International Airlines, which allowed her to travel throughout the American Southwest and to Mexico.

In 1982, Mrs. Ritter took a yearlong leave of absence from the airline to serve in the Peace Corps. She was stationed in the North African country of Tunisia, where she helped build and open educational and vocational centers for people with disabilities. In 1986, the first lady and her husband, Colorado Governor Bill Ritter, also worked in Zambia for three years, where they managed a food distribution and nutrition center as lay missionaries for the Catholic Church. The first lady also taught health education classes to women and families in addition to helping run the food program. After returning home, the first lady worked for the Denver Public Schools as a substitute elementary school teacher, working with emotionally disturbed children. As Colorado's First Lady, Mrs. Ritter looks forward to raising awareness about mental health issues and advocating for programs of support.

The first lady and Governor Ritter met when they were juniors in high school in Aurora, Colorado. The Ritters were married in 1983, and they have four children—August, Abraham, Sam and Tally.

## DELAWARE



**Carla Markell** became First Lady of Delaware when her husband, Governor Jack Markell, was sworn into office on January 21, 2009. As First Lady, Mrs. Markell looks forward to continuing her work on behalf of at-risk children. A mentor to several youth over the last decade, she personally has seen how the commitment of a caring adult can make a real difference in their lives. She believes that mentoring as well as an exposure to the arts and sports can transform the lives of young people.

Mrs. Markell is a native of Newark, Delaware, where she and the future governor were high school classmates. She graduated from the University of Delaware with a major in human resources and early childhood education. Mrs. Markell's professional life was spent primarily in the area of corporate training and human resources. Most recently, she worked in the outplacement field, assisting employees and corporate executives in making the transition from downsized companies to new career opportunities. Prior to that, she worked for a chemical dependency treatment center as an executive in marketing, community relations, and employee awareness education.

The first lady has served on the board of directors for Delaware Theatre Company (DTC), which honored her in 2007 with its Stephen Daniel Faulk Volunteer Award. More recently, she and Governor Markell co-chaired the Weekend of Volunteer Service, held in lieu of an inaugural ball. Since their launch of the state's volunteer web site, [www.betterdelaware.org](http://www.betterdelaware.org), Delawareans have logged more than 30,000 hours of volunteer service.

The first lady and Governor Jack Markell have been married for 18 years. They have two children, Molly (16) and Michael (13).

## FLORIDA



Florida's First Lady **Carole Crist** grew up in Roslyn, New York, a suburb of New York City, as the youngest of five children. After graduating from Roslyn High School with honors in 1987, she attended Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., where she majored in accounting. In 1991 she graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor's degree in business administration.

Mrs. Crist's accounting skills, coupled with a strong interest in the financial markets, led to her recruitment as an auditor in New York City's financial district, after which he obtained her real estate brokerage license in New York and joined The Corcoran Group, one of the city's top firms.

She later joined Franco American Novelty Company LLC. Founded in 1910 by her grandfather, Franco is the oldest American Halloween company, specializing in designing and manufacturing Halloween costumes and accessories for worldwide distribution. After her grandfather's death in 1977, her father became the company's president. Upon his retirement, he entrusted his daughter with management of the day-to-day operations of Franco. With her at the helm, Franco enjoyed record sales and profits, and the future first lady went on to become president of the company in 2000 after her father's death. She continues to work as a consultant for Franco, which is currently managed by her sister, Michele.

Mrs. Crist's community service includes support for charities that are devoted to children's needs. She champions the March of Dimes, which is dedicated to ensuring the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality, and she has assisted the Make-A-Wish Foundation, which enriches the lives of children with life-threatening medical conditions through its wish-granting work. The first lady also supports "ARTrageous," an art auction that benefits foster children in New York City through the Edwin Gould Services for Children and Families.

In 2006, Mrs. Crist moved to Florida with her two daughters. She became first lady of Florida on December 12, 2008, when she married Governor Charlie Crist in his hometown of St. Petersburg, Florida. As first lady, she will focus on the state's most critical issues, as well as continue her philanthropic work.

# GEORGIA



**Mary Perdue** has centered her life around matters involving family and children in her roles as mother, grandmother, foster parent, speech pathologist, and children's ministry volunteer in her church. As Georgia's First Lady, she is committed to working in support of the welfare of Georgia's children, particularly those in foster care and the juvenile justice system. She believes it is critical to reach children in their early years to avoid potential social problems as teenagers or adults.

In August 2003, Mrs. Perdue launched her "Our Children" campaign, to raise awareness about the need for foster care programs in Georgia and to encourage individuals, corporations and faith-based organizations to take an active role in addressing the needs of their community. Her objective is to increase the number of available foster homes and volunteer hours, and financial and in-kind contributions to these youth-serving organizations. In 1998, the first lady and her husband, Governor Sonny Perdue, served as foster parents for eight newborns awaiting adoption through Covenant Care in Macon, Georgia. Their personal experience served as the inspiration for this initiative. Additionally, Mrs. Perdue has created the First Lady's Children's Cabinet, whose mission is to stem child abuse and neglect and to promote foster care and adoption. Cabinet members include heads of state agencies that address children's issues.

Mrs. Perdue was born in New Orleans, the third of five children of Ed and Lorraine Ruff. She also lived in Nashville, Tennessee, before settling in Atlanta. As a student at the University of Georgia, she met future Governor Sonny Perdue on a blind date, and they married in September 1972. She later attended Ohio State University, where she earned a master's degree in speech therapy. After being a stay-at-home mom for 19 years, Mrs. Perdue served as a speech therapist to public schoolchildren, from the pre-kindergarten to high school levels.

The Perdues have four children—Leigh, a speech therapist; Lara, a stay-at-home-mother; Jim, a church pastor; and Dan, a webmaster. Governor and Mrs. Perdue also have ten grandchildren—Sunni, Mary Kate, Jack, Jake, Elizabeth, Jud, J, Samuel, Anna Katherine, and Rabun. When in Atlanta, the Perdues attend the First Baptist Church of Woodstock, where they have taught a Sunday school class that focuses on strengthening marriages.

# GUAM



**Joann Camacho** was born and raised in Guam and became First Lady on January 6, 2003. As first lady, she has focused on promoting literacy and education, positive youth development, health care, and building partnerships between the public and private sectors to help raise the quality of life in Guam.

As Guam's "Ambassador for Reading," Mrs. Camacho has partnered with Scholastic Books and teachers and schools to help promote reading. She has revitalized the Guam Bookmobile Library and recruited community businesses to serve as the bookmobile's sponsors. Mrs. Camacho has directed the activities of the Guam HOPE Foundation, which she established in April 2003. The foundation aims to improve the welfare of children and families and find solutions to specific challenges they face in areas including education, health care, and work-life balances.

The first lady has served as a board member for many public-sector organizations, including the Guam Civil Service Commission, Alcohol Beverage Control Board, Power Authority, and Visitor's Bureau. Additionally, she was a board member and treasurer for the Guam Special Olympics and the Sugar Plum Tree Project. In 2005, she partnered with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Small Business Administration, and the Community First Bank, in launching a home-purchasing assistance program for low-income families. She also has helped to ensure federal grants are offered to residents to upgrade and renovate their homes.

Mrs. Camacho actively supports Prevention of Drug & Alcohol Abuse, a public education campaign targeting schoolchildren; the Salvation Army homeless program; Guam Public School System's back to school projects; Arbor Day events; Holiday Hotline Crisis Program; and PEACE (Prevention and Early Intervention Advisory Community Empowerment), a community-based project sponsored by the Guam Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse. She is honorary chair of Guam's Beautification Project, which focuses on the restoration and renovation of the island's parks, beaches, streets and governmental facilities, and an honorary member of the Tourism Education Council, the Guam Museum Foundation, Bookmobile Foundation and the Guam Memorial Hospital Volunteers Association. She also hosts the annual First Lady's Easter Egg Hunt for children with special needs as well as the annual Guam Senior Citizen's Celebration.

Mrs. Camacho graduated from the University of San Francisco in 1978 with a bachelor's degree in finance management. During her 23-year career with Duty Free Shoppers, she served as a divisional merchandise manager and was an integral member of the company's worldwide team. Mrs. Camacho balances her roles as wife, mother, and grandmother with her responsibilities as first lady. She and her husband, Governor Felix P. Camacho, have been married for 27 years and have three children—Jessica (26), Felix (20), and Maria (16), and three grandsons.

# IDAHO



**Lori Jean Otter**, First Lady of Idaho, was born in Pensacola, Florida. When her father retired from the Navy, the family moved to Twin Falls, Idaho, overseeing a family farm. The youngest of four children and the only girl, the future first lady became active in 4-H and FFA, taking horse, sheep and pig projects to the Twin Falls County Fair. After graduating from Kimberly High School, she earned an associates degree in English literature from the College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls, and a bachelor of science degree in education and physical education from Boise State University.

Mrs. Otter is a former teacher of physical education and health, as well as an administrator, in the Meridian School District, where she also coached basketball and volleyball at the elementary, middle and high school levels for 12 years. During that time, she pursued and completed a master's degree at Northwest Nazarene University in curriculum and instruction with an emphasis on educational leadership.

The first lady is a board member of St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center Foundation, the Treasure Valley Reading Foundation, and Idaho Governor's Cup, and serves as Summer Reading Ambassador for the Idaho Association of Libraries. She has collaborated with Boise State University to design and write a children's book, "Ida Tours the Capitol," designed to educate fourth graders about Idaho history. She serves with Governor Otter on the Idaho Meth Project Advisory Council and has worked to promote and launch the Idaho Meth Project, a campaign designed to reduce the first-time use of methamphetamines by youth in Idaho. Recently, she was appointed to the Leadership to Keep Children Alcohol Free Foundation.

Mrs. Otter has completed three marathons and remains committed to health and physical fitness. She is an avid horseback rider and rodeo fan, raising and training horses on the Otters' ranch in Star, Idaho. The first lady has five stepchildren and four grandchildren.

## INDIANA



**Cheri Herman Daniels**, a lifelong Hoosier, was born and raised in New Albany, Indiana. The granddaughter of Baseball Hall of Famer, Billy Herman, Mrs. Daniels attended Indiana University where she studied journalism.

The first lady has formed a partnership with the Indiana Department of Health in helping to raise awareness about women's heart disease. She also focuses much attention on supporting heart screenings. She is a member of the advisory board for the Indiana Heart Hospital and the foundation board for Community Hospitals.

In addition to advocating physical fitness for all Hoosiers, Mrs. Daniels also supports the "I love to read" program and other efforts to encourage education and literacy.

The first lady and her husband, Governor Mitch Daniels, have four daughters: Meagan, Melissa, Meredith and Margaret. The first lady views her most important job as being a mother and wife. She enjoys reading, golfing, exercising, cooking and spending time with family and friends.

# IOWA



**Mari Culver**, First Lady of Iowa, was born in Dubuque and raised in Marion, Iowa. She graduated from Cedar Rapids Regis High School and earned a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Iowa in 1987, and her juris doctor from the University Of Iowa College Of Law in 1990.

Mrs. Culver is a founding member of the law firm Duncan, Green, Brown & Langeness, P.C. in Des Moines, where she has practiced for the last 14 years. Since the birth of her children, Mrs. Culver has remained a partner in her firm but has worked on a part-time basis.

As First Lady of Iowa, Mrs. Culver is focusing attention on raising public awareness for the organizations that provide shelter and other critical support services for women and at-risk youth. She is a strong advocate for Iowans in need of shelter services and has put a public face on women and children that are often forgotten.

The first lady and her husband, Governor Chet Culver, have been married for 15 years and are the proud parents of two children, Clare and John.

## KANSAS



**K. Gary Sebelius** was born in Norton, Kansas, on November 8, 1949. He earned a bachelor's degree from Kansas State University, graduating magna cum laude, and a juris doctor from Georgetown University Law Center. He was a partner with Wright, Henson, Somers, Sebelius, Clark & Baker, LLP, specializing in employment law, civil rights, and civil litigation.

In 2003 he left the private practice of law to become a federal magistrate judge for the U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas. He is a noted lecturer and the author of numerous articles involving civil rights and employment law. Judge Sebelius is listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* and *Who's Who in American Law*.

The "First Dude" (as he prefers to be called) has been active with numerous community organizations, including the Everywoman's Resource Center, Friends of Topeka Zoo, Sunflower State Games and Florence Crittenton Services. As a board member of the Sunflower State Games, Judge Sebelius participated in the dramatic growth of what is now the largest annual amateur sports event in Kansas, involving over 7,000 athletes (who range from 5 to more than 80 years of age) participating in more than 30 separate sports.

Judge Sebelius presides over the Governor's Annual Easter Egg Hunt, hosting over 3,000 Kansas schoolchildren on the grounds surrounding Cedar Crest, the governor's residence. He has participated in the Governor's Annual Fishing Classic, promoting outdoor sports activities, as well as serving as board president of MacLennan Park, which boasts more than 220 acres devoted to fishing, jogging, and hiking trails adjacent to the governor's residence. He also launched the Kansas Military Family Support Program, to provide community support for families of Kansas National Guard and Army Reserve members called to active duty. The program was modeled after one created by Minnesota's First Lady Mary Pawlenty.

He is a member of the board of directors for the Kansas Music Hall of Fame, which annually honors performers and other who have made significant contributions to the musical history of Kansas and the greater Kansas City metropolitan area. He currently serves as co-vice president of the Native Sons and Daughters of Kansas—an organization dedicated to preserving Kansas history, honoring those who have made exceptional contributions to Kansas, and instilling the ideals of patriotism in youth.

The Sebeliuses have two sons—Ned (27), a third-year student at Georgetown University Law Center, and John (24), a recent graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design. They also have a Golden Retriever named Leland.

# KENTUCKY



In her many roles as a businesswoman, educator and community leader, **Jane Beshear**, First Lady of Kentucky, has dedicated her life to the service of others throughout the commonwealth. The first lady was raised in Bowling Green, in western Kentucky, and later moved with her family to Lexington. She received a bachelor's degree in secondary education from the University of Kentucky, which she used to positively impact the lives of her students at Woodford County High School.

Mrs. Beshear is a long-time volunteer board member of many local and state civic organizations. She is an ex officio officer of the Kentucky Commission on Women, a trustee of the Frontier Nursing Service and an honorary chair of the Generations United Seniors4Kids program, which seeks to engage older adults in childhood advocacy issues. She recently received a Friend of Literacy Award from the Collaborative Center for Literacy Development for her work on adult literacy initiatives. She also serves as a co-chair for the Recovery Kentucky Task Force, an initiative to help Kentuckians recover from substance abuse that often leads to chronic homelessness.

An accomplished equestrian, the first lady currently competes her thoroughbred mare, Big Time Magic, in horse shows throughout the area. She serves on the board of directors of Equestrian Events Inc., organizer of the Kentucky Rolex 3-Day Event, as well as the FEI World Equestrian Games, which will host the first-ever world games at the Kentucky Horse Park in September 2010. Mrs. Beshear also has served on the Kentucky Horse Park Foundation board for more than 20 years and currently is the board's secretary.

As Kentucky's First Lady, Mrs. Beshear plans to address barriers to school success through all levels of education and will continue to advocate for women's health issues. She currently is working to make the Governor's Mansion more energy efficient and eco-friendly and is encouraging businesses, schools and homes throughout Kentucky to do the same. She also is partnering with the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet to promote "adventure tourism" across the commonwealth.

The first lady and her husband, Governor Steve Beshear, have been married for 39 years and have two sons and one grandson.

## LOUISIANA



**Supriya Jindal** became the First Lady of Louisiana when her husband, Governor Bobby Jindal, was sworn into office on January 14, 2008. As the mother of three young children, the first lady is interested in issues relating to children's health care and looks forward to bettering the lives of all children throughout Louisiana.

Mrs. Jindal grew up in Metairie, a suburb of New Orleans, and later moved with her family to Baton Rouge. She attended public schools, where she first met her future husband, and graduated from Grace King High School in New Orleans in 1989. Despite receiving numerous college scholarship offers from around the country, she chose to attend an in-state school, Tulane University, where she graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering. While working at Monsanto Chemical in Luling, the first lady earned her master's degree in business administration from Tulane University. She then went to work as an engineer for the Albemarle Corporation in Baton Rouge. She has now finished all coursework toward a doctorate in marketing from the Louisiana State University.

The first lady was first introduced to the public arena as a congressional spouse when her husband was elected as a U.S. Representative for Louisiana's First Congressional District in 2003.

The Jindals were married in October 1997 and are the proud parents of three young children—Selia, Shaan and Slade. The first lady enjoys reading and spending time with family and friends.

## MAINE



**Karen Weston Baldacci** was born in Kittery, Maine. She graduated from Dexter High School in Dexter, Maine, and she earned a bachelor's degree in foods and nutrition from the University of Maine in Orono. In 2000, Mrs. Baldacci returned to the University of Maine, where she earned a master's degree in teaching and began her current career as an educator, teaching kindergarten in the Bangor school system.

Mrs. Baldacci has worked as a clinical dietician at St. Joseph's Hospital in Bangor, Maine, and served as a registered dietician for the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program for 18 years.

As First Lady of Maine, Mrs. Baldacci focuses her attention on issues relating to education, family literacy, wellness and nutrition, the arts, and local agriculture and gardening. She serves as chair of the Governor's Children's Cabinet, the Governor's Task Force on Early Childhood, Maine Reads, the Read with ME Committee, Keeping Maine's Children Connected, and the Coordinating School Health Programs. She also is a co-chair of the Leadership to Keep Children Alcohol Free initiative and an honorary chair of the March of Dimes Prematurity Campaign, the Maine Alliance of Arts in Education, and Raising Readers.

Mrs. Baldacci has established the Maine Youth Excellence in Art program, which recognizes talented, young Maine artists by displaying their work throughout the state capitol complex. Additionally, she has developed the Maine Community Literacy Project, which provides grants to local libraries to increase literacy rates in the state. Mrs. Baldacci anchors two cable television programs for Time Warner: Focus on the Farm tells the stories of Maine's agriculture and promotes the importance of buying locally-grown farm products; and Healthy Schools, Healthy Kids highlights how Maine's Coordinated School Health Programs have helped improve the overall health and well-being of the state's schoolchildren. The first lady also has been instrumental in building a new Victorian greenhouse and rehabilitating a historic New England garden at the Blaine House, the governor's residence.

The first lady and Governor John Baldacci met while attending college, and they married in 1983. The Baldaccis have one son—Jack (17). Their family also includes two English Springer Spaniels—Mia and Sam.

# MARYLAND



**Katie O'Malley**, First Lady of Maryland, has a long history of public service with an emphasis in the field of law. Beginning in 1988, while attending law school at the University of Baltimore, the first lady served as a clerk in the Baltimore County State's Attorney's Office. Following graduation from law school, she was appointed to an assistant state's attorney position for Baltimore County, where she handled many domestic violence cases and child sexual and physical abuse cases. Currently, she serves as an associate judge of the District Court of Baltimore City.

Judge O'Malley also has served on the executive committee of the Women's Bar, the House of Ruth, The Caroline Center, and the Baltimore Zoo. Currently, she is a member of the Baltimore City Bar Association, a volunteer truancy court judge, and a board member of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Maryland.

The first lady and her husband, Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley, have four children—Grace, Tara, William and Jack.

## MASSACHUSETTS



**Diane Patrick**, First Lady of Massachusetts, was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1951. She received her bachelor's degree in early childhood education with honors from Queens College of the City University of New York in 1972. After graduation, Mrs. Patrick spent five years teaching elementary school in New York City. When the city's bankruptcy of 1976-77 forced severe cuts in public resources and services, including her teaching position, Mrs. Patrick enrolled at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles, where she received her law degree in 1980. While at Loyola, she received an American Jurisprudence Award in recognition of her exemplary academic performance and public service and the school's Outstanding Graduate Award.

Mrs. Patrick has worked for the law firm of O'Melveny and Myers in Los Angeles and in New York City, and also with the Washington, D.C. firm, Hogan and Hartson, where she was a member of both the education and labor and employment law practice groups. Mrs. Patrick also served as Harvard's university attorney in the Office of General Counsel for six years before becoming the school's director/associate vice president for human resources. Most recently she has been a partner with the law firm of Ropes & Gray in Boston.

Throughout her life and professional career, the first lady has dedicated herself to community and public service. She has served as a volunteer member of the Commonwealth's Foster Care Review Unit, president of the board of the Brookline Infant Toddler Center, trustee and director for Arts Boston, trustee for the Brigham & Woman's Hospital, and overseer at Children's Hospital Boston.

The First Lady believes in the power of early-start education for pre-K and kindergarten children and understands both the challenges and rewards of the classroom. She plans to work closely with her husband, Governor Deval Patrick, on early education and domestic violence issues. The Patricks were married in 1984, and they have two college-age daughters—Sarah and Katherine.

# MICHIGAN



When Jennifer M. Granholm became Michigan's 47th Governor in 2002, her husband **Daniel G. Mulhern** put aside his business and became one of the hardest working volunteers in the State of Michigan.

As Michigan's "First Gentleman," Mr. Mulhern is championing the cause of state volunteerism and community service, chairing the Michigan Community Service Commission. He is an accomplished leadership coach and organizational development expert and is using those skills to guide the Office of Great Workplace Development, whose aim is to make Michigan government a "great place to do great work." He also is playing a large role in promoting the practices of Michigan's companies recognized as "great companies to work for," and he serves as honorary vice chair of the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness.

Mr. Mulhern is a tireless advocate for children. He is a very active parent, supporting his daughters in a variety of sports activities and coaching his son's basketball team. In addition to caring for their own three children, the governor and first gentleman are deeply committed to promoting and supporting a statewide initiative, Mentor Michigan, whose goal is to ensure that all of Michigan's children have an equal opportunity to be influenced and taught by a caring adult.

The First Gentleman is frequently sought after as a public speaker and he recently published a book, *Everyday Leadership: Getting Results in Business, Politics, and Life*. Based on his personal experiences and in his stories about real people as leaders, Mr. Mulhern explores and discusses successful strategies and misconceptions that he has observed in leadership practice, and offers his thoughts and ideas on how to negotiate the various challenges leadership can present. He also writes and publishes a free weekly e-column, "Reading for Leading," to stimulate the thought and development of leaders around the country.

The first gentleman and his wife, Governor Jennifer Granholm, reside in Lansing, Michigan with their three children, Kate, Cece and Jack, and their dog, Mackinac.

## MINNESOTA



As First Lady of Minnesota, **Mary Anderson Pawlenty** has dedicated her time to supporting military families, raising awareness about heart disease and educating elementary school students about our three branches of government.

Mrs. Pawlenty created First Lady's Military Family Care Initiative, a program that allows community-based organizations to volunteer their time and services to help families of deployed soldiers. She also has launched the First Lady's Heart Health Initiative, an awareness campaign for women about reducing the risk of heart disease. The first lady frequently visits elementary schools to teach students about U.S. democracy and the three branches of government, with a special emphasis on the judiciary.

The first lady earned a bachelor's degree in political science, summa cum laude, from Bethel College in 1983, and a juris doctor, cum laude, from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1986. In addition to practicing law, she served as a district court judge from 1994 to 2007. Currently, Mrs. Pawlenty is the Director of Medical Diplomacy for Children's HeartLink, a nonprofit organization dedicated to treating and preventing heart disease in children in developing countries.

The first lady and her husband, Governor Tim Pawlenty, are the proud parents of two daughters, ages 12 and 15.

# MISSISSIPPI



**Marsha Dickson Barbour** became Mississippi's First Lady when her husband, Governor Haley Barbour, was sworn into office in January 2004. As first lady, she is committed to ensuring the well-being of all Mississippians and making a positive impact on their lives.

In the summer of 2005, in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Mrs. Barbour worked in partnership with law enforcement officials and the National Guard to provide comfort and support to Mississippians who were victims of this storm. She spent 70 days on the state's coast where the hurricane wreaked the greatest damage delivering emergency supplies to those who were in dire need. She also helped coordinate emergency response activities of both her state and the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA), and she assisted residents in returning to their homes. In recognition of her dedication and service to survivors of Katrina living along Mississippi's coast, the Community Center of Pass Christian, Mississippi, was named in her honor.

The first lady is an advocate of wellness and healthy lifestyles, and she is featured in the "Let's Go Walkin, Mississippi" campaign, sponsored by the Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation. She also has traveled throughout her state promoting programs supporting children's education and future success, including Excel by Five and Jobs for Mississippi's Graduates.

The first lady grew up in Monroeville, Alabama, and moved with her parents and twin sister, Marie, to Canton, Mississippi in 1965. She graduated from "Ole Miss" (The University of Mississippi) in 1970. She and Governor Barbour married in 1971 and moved to his hometown of Yazoo City, where they still reside. They have two adult sons and three grandchildren. Sterling and his wife, Celeste, have a son, Adyn Sterling, and a daughter, Chloe LeFlore. Reeves and his wife, Jackye, have a daughter, Ava Gray.

## MISSOURI



**Georganne Wheeler Nixon**, First Lady of Missouri, has taught in the public school system and has practiced law in Missouri. During her professional career, she has served as vice president at Central Trust and Investment Company, director of contracts for William Morrow & Co., Inc., in New York, and director of services for the Missouri Bar. She holds degrees in education and law from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

The first lady and her husband, Governor Jay Nixon, a former four-term attorney general of Missouri, have been married for 21 years. They have two sons, Jeremiah and Will.

## MONTANA



**Nancy Schweitzer** grew up in Billings, Montana, the fourth of six children of Bill and Betty Lou Hupp. She graduated with honors from Montana State University with a bachelor's degree in botany. While a student there, she met her husband, Governor Brian Schweitzer.

After they were married, the Schweitzers lived in Saudi Arabia for four years. Upon returning to the U.S., Governor Schweitzer built a ranching and irrigation business and purchased the farm next to their home in Whitefish, where they raised crops and cattle. The family has been involved in many agricultural projects in Montana and abroad since that time.

Through the Governor and First Lady's Math & Science Initiative, Mrs. Schweitzer emphasizes the importance of hands-on math and science education. She is an honorary co-chair of the Every Child By Two committee, which supports early childhood immunization. The first lady enjoys volunteering her time for Race for the Cure; the Friendship Center, a shelter for women and children who have suffered domestic violence and abuse; and native plant beautification projects.

The Schweitzers have three children: Benjamin, Mikhail, and Katrina.

## NEBRASKA



**Sally Ganem**, Nebraska's First Lady, was born and raised in Omaha and earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Ms. Ganem is the former principal of Howard Elementary School in Fremont, Nebraska, and has volunteered in leadership positions for several education organizations, including the Nebraska Association of Elementary School Principals and the Nebraska Council of School Administrators.

Since retiring from Fremont Public Schools in 2006, the first lady has been active in the Fremont community as a member of the Low-Income Ministry Board and the Social Sciences Advisory Board of Metropolitan Community College. She is a past president of both the Fremont Area United Way and Big Brothers-Big Sisters. Additionally, she has served as a volunteer for the American Heart Association and John C. Fremont Days, where she established children's programs and activities for this celebration. The first lady also is a recipient of the Lifetime Membership Award from the Fremont Noon Optimists.

As honorary chair of the Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission, Ms. Ganem has established the First Lady's Outstanding Community Service Awards, which recognize distinguished volunteer service by individuals or groups who have helped to make Nebraska a better place to live, work and raise families.

The first lady and her husband, Governor Dave Heineman, have been married for more than 31 years and have one son, Sam, a graduate of Midland Lutheran College in Fremont.

## NEVADA



**Dawn Gibbons**, First Lady of Nevada, has successfully combined her roles as a wife, mother and grandmother with a business career and public service. Born in Atlanta, Georgia, she received her bachelor's degree from the University of Nevada.

Mrs. Gibbons served as a state legislator during four regular and four special sessions in the Nevada Assembly. Much of the legislation she sponsored addressed ethics, open government, organ and tissue donation, children's issues, affordable and accessible healthcare, and concerns relating to an aging population. She has been recognized with numerous awards for her many charitable and professional activities.

The First Lady's primary initiatives include prevention and treatment of methamphetamine use, children's issues, crisis intervention, affordable and accessible health care, and K-16 education.

The first lady and her husband, Nevada Governor Jim Gibbons, have three grown children and three grandchildren. In her leisure time, Mrs. Gibbons enjoys reading, skiing, and writing.

## NEW HAMPSHIRE



**Susan Lynch**, First Lady of New Hampshire, is working to increase awareness about the problem of childhood obesity, and to encourage healthy eating habits and regular exercise for New Hampshire's children. In successfully combining her work as a pediatrician and her role as first lady, she serves as the spokesperson for a new physical activity program "Walk NH," which is designed to teach children ages 6 to 12 how to have fun getting in shape. Additionally, she is working to improve access to preventative health care for children and to reduce underage drinking through her involvement with a national initiative, Leadership to Keep Children Alcohol Free.

The first lady is the honorary chair of March of Dimes Walk America in New Hampshire, and she also supports the national program Internet Keep Safe Coalition. She has served as a trustee for the Northeast Cholesterol Foundation; an advisory board member for the New Hampshire Division of Children, Youth and Families, and Concord Hospital's Healthy Beginnings Endowment; and a board member of the Concord Community Music School, and the Today's Parent TV Show. She also has been an active volunteer in local public schools. Additionally, the first lady promotes New Hampshire arts and artists, and serves as the honorary chair of the Governor's Arts Awards.

Dr. Lynch was born and raised in Saugus, Massachusetts, graduating in 1976 from Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Massachusetts, with a bachelor's degree in biologic science, and in 1986 from the University of Massachusetts in Worcester, with a medical degree. Completing her pediatric internship at Tuft's New England Medical Center's Floating Hospital in Boston, she finished her pediatric residency at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center in Hanover, New Hampshire. She practiced general pediatrics at the Dartmouth Hitchcock Clinic in Concord before going on to complete the lipid training programs at Johns Hopkins Medical Center and through the National Lipid Association.

Currently she works as a pediatric lipid specialist at the Cholesterol Treatment Center at Concord Hospital in Concord, New Hampshire. Professional memberships include the American Academy of Pediatrics, the New Hampshire Medical Society, the New Hampshire Pediatric Society, the National Lipid Association and Northeast Lipid Association.

The first lady and her husband, Governor John Lynch, met when they worked together at Friendly's Ice Cream as teenagers. They have been married for 31 years and are the parents of three children, Jacqueline, Julia, and Hayden.

## NEW MEXICO



**Barbara Richardson** was raised in Concord, Massachusetts. She received an Associate of Arts degree from Colby Junior College and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Wheaton College in Massachusetts, graduating magna cum laude. The first lady and her husband, Governor Bill Richardson, lived in Washington, D.C., during his tenure as a U.S. congressman and as secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy during the Clinton administration; and in New York City when Governor Richardson served as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations. The Richardsons, however, have always considered Santa Fe as their home.

The first lady supports the cause of literacy and served as chair of New Mexico's 2003 Read Across America, traveling throughout her state to read to school children. She was responsible for the donation of 5,000 new books to an elementary school in Santa Fe and 500 new books to the University of New Mexico Children's Hospital, both contributions from Scholastic, Inc. In 2003, she also helped to secure a donation of 20,000 Baby Einstein educational videos from the Disney Corporation to distribute to low-income families in New Mexico.

A committed advocate of domestic violence awareness and prevention, Mrs. Richardson was instrumental in the creation of the Governor's Domestic Violence Advisory Board and the appointment of an Office of Domestic Violence "czar" to coordinate existing services among community organizations and state agencies. As a result of her efforts as honorary chair of the New Mexico Immunization Coalition, New Mexico received an award this year from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as the most improved state in immunization rates for the past four years. In addition, the first lady has served as chair of New Mexico's Big Brother/Big Sister's Bowl for Kids' Sake for the past three years.

Mrs. Richardson formerly served as a member of the Georgia O'Keefe Museum's Education Committee and as a board member of Big Brother/Big Sister of Santa Fe. She also was the program coordinator for the Muscular Dystrophy Association of Washington, D.C.

The first lady's interests include gardening, reading, and antiques.

## NEW YORK



**Michelle Paterson**, First Lady of New York, was born on Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield, California. She moved with her family to New York when she was two years old and became a lifelong resident of the state. She attended Syracuse University, and earned a masters degree in health services management from the Milano Graduate School of Management in New York.

Following graduate school, Mrs. Paterson dedicated herself to the field of health care. In 2002, she was appointed as director of community and government affairs for North General Hospital in Harlem. In this position, she worked with New York's local and state authorities in addressing the hospital's critical needs and raising awareness among local residents about the importance of yearly checkups. In 2004, she was appointed as director of external affairs and corporate contributions for the Health Plan of New York (HIP), where she worked with community organizations, agencies, and corporations on issues including health care, education, and civic and public affairs. Currently, she is the director of HIP's Integrative Wellness initiative, where she focuses on evidence-based programs that promote self-care and healthy living, with a particular focus on childhood obesity and stress-related ailments.

The first lady also is an advocate for victims of domestic violence. She spent three years as an on-call volunteer at the St Luke's Roosevelt Hospital Center, providing counseling and information to domestic violence survivors about available services through the hospital and state government. Mrs. Paterson also works with organizations and schools to raise awareness about childhood obesity and its associated risks and potential danger to children's overall health and well-being.

The first lady and her husband, Governor David Paterson, have two children, Ashley (20) and Alex (14). The first lady enjoys jogging, movies and home decorating.

## NORTH CAROLINA



North Carolina's first First Gentleman, **Robert "Bob" Eaves**, was born and raised in Washington, D.C. Following in the footsteps of his father, a native of Rutherford County, North Carolina, Mr. Eaves attended the University of North Carolina (UNC)-Chapel Hill, where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in business administration, majoring in accounting. After serving two years as a supply officer in the U.S. Navy, he moved to Atlanta, Georgia, where he worked for Arthur Andersen LLP and later became a certified public accountant.

In 1963, Mr. Eaves joined Globe Oil Company and was instrumental in helping the company's assets grow from 3 county gas stations to 110 large convenience stores. He became chief operating officer of Globe Oil, with primary responsibilities in finance, operations, and marketing. He and his partners sold the company in 1985. Currently, he is majority owner of the Right Stuff Food Stores, a convenience store company. The stores are located in Georgia and operated by his son.

The first gentleman serves on a number of civic boards that reflect his interests, including those of the Public School Forum of North Carolina, the James B. Hunt Institute for Educational Leadership and Policy, Meredith College, the North Carolina Humanities Council, the North Carolina Botanical Garden at UNC, the Carolina Performing Arts Society, and the Craven Regional Medical Center. Mr. Eaves also led efforts to create an on-campus memorial at UNC-Chapel Hill, dedicated in 2007, to honor alumni who have died in war.

Mr. Eaves has a son, Robert, a daughter, Charlotte, and two stepsons, Emmett and Garrett. He and Governor Bev Perdue have five grandchildren — Bennett, Jake, Rachel, Sarah, and Amelia. They also share their home with two dogs, Dosie and Zipper.

## NORTH DAKOTA



First Lady **Mikey L. Hoeven**, married to North Dakota Governor John Hoeven, is deeply committed to addressing women's and children's issues in North Dakota.

A strong advocate for the prevention of underage drinking, Mrs. Hoeven launched a statewide advertising campaign in 2001, "Let's Keep Our Kids Alcohol Free," to increase awareness of the problem of underage drinking in North Dakota and to empower young people to say no to alcohol. Television and radio ads and a statewide poster were developed as part of the campaign. In keeping with this effort, she is a member of "Leadership to Keep Children Alcohol Free," a coalition of governors' spouses that works to combat drinking among children ages 9–15. Mrs. Hoeven also is a member of the Governor's Prevention

Advisory Council on Drugs and Alcohol. The council was created to coordinate knowledge and resources that will result in policy-based alcohol and drug abuse prevention strategies.

Mrs. Hoeven hosts two annual statewide Women's Health Summits that address health issues affecting women of all ages. The summits feature speakers from across North Dakota and around the country.

Mrs. Hoeven attended the University of Texas in Austin and Minot State University in Minot, North Dakota, where she received bachelor's degrees in business administration and executive secretarial studies.

The first lady and Governor Hoeven have been married for 26 years and have two children—Marcela and Jack.

## NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS



**Josepina "Josie" Padiernos Fitial** became First Lady of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) when her husband, Governor Benigno (Ben) R. Fitial, was inaugurated as the commonwealth's governor on January 9, 2006.

Mrs. Fitial has been named an honorary goodwill ambassador of the Red Cross, CNMI Chapter, and she has been helping to organize a foundation to serve the needy and underprivileged. A former Lions Club member, the first lady has a longstanding interest in programs and initiatives serving children, students and the elderly. The first lady devotes her time and attention to education and health care issues, and she also is participating in recycling projects and environmental awareness programs.

The eldest of three children, Mrs. Fitial was born in Gatan Nueva Ecija, Phillippines in 1962. After graduating from the University of the East-Recto in Manila with a bachelor's degree in business administration, she moved to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in 1983 to help support her family. While on the Island of Saipan, she met her husband, future Governor Ben Fitial, who also served as the speaker of the commonwealth's House of Representatives prior to becoming governor.

The Fitials have been married for 24 years. The first lady places primary importance on her family and enjoys her role as mother to her two children, Patrick and Christina, and her husband's children, Jason, Cathy, Junella and Julie.

## OHIO



**Frances Strickland**, First Lady of Ohio, was born in Simpsonville, Kentucky, where she grew up on a dairy farm. She attended Murray State University, the University of Colorado, and the University of Kentucky, where she earned a doctorate in educational psychology.

The first lady and her husband, Governor Ted Strickland, first met in 1974 at the University of Kentucky, where they shared a small office while working toward a psychology doctoral degree. Dr. Strickland has devoted herself to a lifelong career as an educational psychologist. She is the author of a widely-used screening test for kindergartners, as well as a children's book, *The Little Girl Who Grew Up To Be Governor*.

The first lady and Governor Strickland share a vision for a better future for the people of Ohio. They have been married for more than 19 years.

## OKLAHOMA



Oklahoma's First Lady **Kim Henry** has devoted much of her life to education, from her ten years teaching in the classroom to raising her three daughters—Leah, Laynie, and Baylee—with her husband, Governor Brad Henry. The first lady spent most of her teaching career at her alma mater, Shawnee High School, where she taught Oklahoma history, economics, government, and Advanced Placement American History. In 1999-2000 she received the Close-Up Foundation's Linda Myers Chozen Award for Teaching Excellence in Civic Education. Only five other educators across the nation were awarded the honor that year.

Mrs. Henry is active on several statewide boards of directors including Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, Science Museum Oklahoma, and the Jasmine Moran Children's Museum. She also serves on the board of trustees of the Sarkey's Foundation and the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence.

The first lady's civic involvement has led her to receive numerous awards and honors. She was the recipient of the 2004 Award of Distinction, given by the Board of Advocates of the University of Oklahoma, College of Education. She also was honored in 2004 by the Journal Record's 50 Most Distinguished Women and received the Bill Lowry Library Champion Award for her work in literacy. She was given the Jasmine Award by the Jasmine Moran Children's Museum as a tribute to her unending concern, dedication and tireless efforts on behalf of Oklahoma's children. And in 2006, she received the National Guard Youth Champion Award for selfless contributions to our Nation's Youth.

In 2008, the first lady received the Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy's Champion for Children's Award and the Honorary Young Mother of the Year Award by the American Mothers, Inc. She was inducted into the Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame in 2009.

## OREGON



**Mary Oberst** was born and raised in Kentucky, and also lived in Michigan and New Jersey. She earned a juris doctor from the University of Oregon in 1984, and the following year began her editing career with the Oregon State Bar. Ms. Oberst also volunteers as an editor for such groups as the Northwest Earth Institute, the Oregon Historical Society, and the Toaster Museum. She is a member of the Oregon State Bar.

As Oregon's first lady, Ms. Oberst continues to support the Campaign for Equal Justice, an Oregon lawyers' group that works to fund legal services for the poor. She also focuses on children's literacy and environmental concerns.

Ms. Oberst and her husband, Governor Ted Kulongoski, have three grown children—Ted, Kristen, and Justin. The first lady and Governor Kulongoski have traveled, often on foot as hikers and backpackers, throughout Oregon.

# PENNSYLVANIA



**Marjorie Osterlund Rendell** became the 43rd First Lady of Pennsylvania when her husband, Governor Edward G. Rendell, was sworn in as Governor of Pennsylvania on January 21, 2003.

The first lady graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a bachelor's degree, cum laude, and was a member of Phi Beta Kappa. She received her juris doctor from the Villanova University School of Law. She joined the law firm of Duane, Morris & Heckscher, where she became the second woman partner. Over the course of her 20-year career as a practicing attorney, she specialized in bankruptcy law and commercial litigation, served as a mediator for the U.S. District Court, and was a frequent speaker at law-related seminars and panels.

Inducted as a judge of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania in March 1994, Judge Rendell was elevated to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit in 1997. She is a fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy, an inaugural member and Master of the Villanova University School of Law J. Willard O'Brien Inn of Court, an elected member of The American Law Institute, and a member of the American Bankruptcy Institute, the Federal Judges Association, the American Judicature Society and the National Association of Women Judges.

In October 2004, Judge Rendell was awarded the Philadelphia Bar Association's Sandra Day O'Connor Award—an award given annually to a woman attorney who has excelled in the legal profession. She is a former vice-chair of the Board of Trustees of the Visiting Nurse Association of Greater Philadelphia and has served on the boards of many charitable and civic organizations. She currently is a member of the Board of Overseers of the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing and a founding member of the Trustees Council of Penn Women. She is the Chair of Avenue of the Arts, Inc. and a member of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts in Philadelphia. Additionally, she is a member of the Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools' National Advisory Council and is a lead partner of the Pennsylvania Coalition for Representative Democracy (PennCORD).

As First Lady, Judge Rendell works to promote civic learning among children and to impart to them the importance of acquiring a greater understanding of their rights and responsibilities in the democratic process. The first lady also promotes Pennsylvania's rich history, partners with the Pennsylvania Commission for Women on various initiatives, and is a frequent speaker to student and women's groups across the commonwealth.

The Rendells have been married for more than 35 years and have an adult son, Jesse. They also enjoy the company of their two golden retrievers, Ginger and Maggie.

# PUERTO RICO



**Lucé Vela** became the 9<sup>th</sup> First Lady of Puerto Rico when her husband, Governor Luis Fortuño, was sworn into office on January 2, 2009.

As Puerto Rico's first lady, Ms. Vela plans to help strengthen nonprofit organizations in Puerto Rico. She believes that supporting the nonprofit sector is a means of reaching out to all members of society and that collaboration between the government and nonprofit organizations should be a common core value in the effort to bring social and economic transformation to Puerto Rico.

Ms. Vela also is committed to education, family values, and women's health programs. She is helping organizations such as Casa Cuna, a permanent home for children who have been the victims of abuse. While her husband served in the U.S. Congress, Ms. Vela was actively involved in the coordination and candidate screening for the Córdoba-Fernós program, giving Puerto Rican students an opportunity to work for Congress.

Ms. Vela graduated from Goucher College in Maryland with a bachelor's degree in communications and French. In 1986, she obtained her law degree from the Inter American University of Puerto Rico School of Law. She began her practice at Martínez, Odell & Calibria and has since established a private practice focused on real estate and notarial law. Married in 1984, the first lady and Governor Fortuño are the parents of triplets: María Luisa, Luis Roberto and Guillermo Luis.

## RHODE ISLAND



Rhode Island First Lady **Suzanne “Sue” Carcieri** was born in Cranston, Rhode Island, and grew up in that city and in East Greenwich. The oldest of four children of Ivar and Patricia Owren, she attended East Greenwich High School where she was a class officer and a member of the Rhode Island Honor Society and the National Honor Society. While a student at the high school, she met her future husband, Governor Don Carcieri.

Mrs. Carcieri earned a bachelor’s degree in biology from the University of Rhode Island in 1965 and a master’s degree in health education from Rhode Island College in 1993. She taught science to junior high school students at Our Lady of Mercy School in East Greenwich for four years. From 1981 to 1983, the Carcieris lived in Kingston, Jamaica, where the first lady taught science at the local school that her own children attended while Governor Carcieri directed the Catholic Relief Services’ West Indies operations.

Mrs. Carcieri has served on the boards of Rhode Island Catholic Social Services, Save the Bay, and the Rhode Island Philharmonic. Currently she serves on the boards of Dorcas Place Literacy Center, the Rhode Island Academic Decathlon, the Institute for the Study and Practice of Non-Violence, and the Rhode Island Community Food Bank. She and her husband are cofounders of the Academy Children’s Science Center in East Greenwich and are boosters for the annual state science and engineering fair. Mrs. Carcieri is a member of the Leadership to Keep Children Alcohol Free, and supports initiatives relating to preventive health care. Additionally, she collaborates with state educational agencies and organizations to support and develop programs that increase student participation and achievement in math and the sciences.

The Carcieris have four children—Matthew, Alison, Jill, and Sarah—and 14 grandchildren. Family visits with the grandchildren are an integral part of life in the Carcieri home. In addition to her family, the first lady has maintained a lifelong interest in music. She has served on the board of the Academy Players in East Greenwich and has participated in musicals there and with the North Kingstown Community Players and numerous choirs and choruses.

## SOUTH CAROLINA



**Jenny Sanford**, South Carolina's First Lady, was born and raised in Winnetka, Illinois. After graduating from Georgetown University with a bachelor's degree in finance, she worked for an investment banking firm, Lazard Freres & Co. in New York City, where she became a vice president in mergers and acquisitions, focusing on media and communications companies.

When the Sanfords moved to the Charleston area, the first lady balanced raising a family, being involved in the community, and managing political campaigns for her husband, South Carolina Governor Mark Sanford. Beginning in 1994, Mrs. Sanford has successfully managed her husband's three congressional races and his gubernatorial campaign in

2002 and his reelection in 2006.

At the Governor's Mansion, Mrs. Sanford has reorganized operations to significantly reduce costs for the benefit of South Carolina's taxpayers. In 2003, with the help of the Mansion Commission and Foundation, she oversaw the refurbishment of Lace House —the official guest house of the Governor's Mansion. The successful reopening of Lace House for rental and public use has helped generate more than \$150,000 in funds needed to support the historic properties on the Mansion complex grounds. Mrs. Sanford is passionate about the role that good nutrition and regular physical activity play in helping to prevent cancer and other chronic diseases. In 2005, the first lady launched the Healthy South Carolina Challenge, a results-based initiative designed to help South Carolinians quit smoking, eat healthier, and start exercising.

The first lady currently serves on the Hollings Cancer Center Advisory Committee at the Medical University of South Carolina and on the Site Advisory Council for the Drayton Hall Historical Property in Charleston. She also has served as a board member of the Coastal Community Foundation and the Medical University of South Carolina Children's Hospital Advisory Fund.

The first lady views her most important role as mother of the Sanfords' four sons—Marshall, Landon, Bolton, and Blake.

## SOUTH DAKOTA



**Jean Rounds**, the First Lady of South Dakota, is deeply committed to family and children's issues, especially regarding education and literacy, in South Dakota. In keeping with these priorities, she promotes children's programs across the state, including Reach Out and Read, which encourages children to read and educates parents about the importance of reading to children at an early age. The first lady believes that exposure to early learning activities contribute to a richer education for children and a well-rounded life.

Mrs. Rounds is the oldest of four children of Alec and Helen Vedvei. She graduated from Lake Preston High School, near her family's farm in Lake Preston, South Dakota. She attended South Dakota State University, where she received an associate's degree in secretarial science. While a student at the university, she met her husband, Governor Mike Rounds. The governor and first lady were married in 1978 and have four children—Chris, Brian, Carrie, and John—and one grandchild, Ian.

A devoted wife and mother, Mrs. Rounds also has a long career of service to the state of South Dakota, having worked for more than 25 years in various areas of state government. During her tenure with the state, she served for six years as assistant to the secretary of the South Dakota Department of Transportation.

## TENNESSEE



**Andrea Conte**, First Lady of Tennessee, is the founder and president of You Have the Power...Know How to Use It, a nonprofit corporation dedicated to raising awareness about crime and justice issues. The group conducts numerous programs across Tennessee, and produces documentary videos and resource guidebooks on topics such as elder abuse, domestic violence and child sexual abuse. The videos are distributed nationwide.

As first lady, Ms. Conte has identified several key initiatives, including establishing a Child Advocacy Center in each judicial district in the state. Child Advocacy Centers provide child-friendly settings where forensic interviews can be conducted and child protective investigative teams can discuss the merits of an abuse case and develop a plan. The centers also provide ongoing counseling to help children recover from sexual or physical abuse. In 2004–2005, she walked more than 600 miles across the State of Tennessee to raise awareness about child sexual abuse.

The first lady's second major initiative has focused on creating a statewide Commission on Crime Victims Assistance. The citizen commission, established in 2003, is responsible for providing recommendations and advice regarding benefits and other issues associated with the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund.

In addition to her work on crime and justice issues, the first lady has undertaken a campaign to restore and preserve Tennessee's Executive Residence. To date, over \$7 million in private funds have been raised.

Ms. Conte's early career as a registered nurse included work in Boston and California. She later held management positions with Hospital Corporation of America and the accounting firm of Ernst & Whinney. She owned and operated Conte Philips, a retail shop and cooking school, and established the Rosalie Conte Foundation, which awards scholarships to students pursuing higher education.

The first lady was born in Massachusetts and attended public schools. She earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Washington, and a master's degree in business administration from Tennessee State University. The first lady and Governor Bredesen have one son, Ben.

## TEXAS



**Anita Perry**, First Lady of Texas, has a long-standing commitment to and passion for health care issues. Drawing from her 17 years of nursing training and experience, she advocates for issues such as breast cancer awareness and childhood immunizations. In partnership with her husband, Governor Rick Perry, she developed the Texas Conference for Women and has hosted the event for the past nine years. The conference addresses numerous issues important to all women, including professional development, health care, and personal growth.

Following the devastating fire at the Governor's Mansion in June 2008, the First Lady founded the Texas Governor's Mansion Restoration Fund. Restoration of the mansion will come from a public/private partnership and Mrs. Perry is spearheading the private funding effort. In addition, through the First Lady's work in promoting tourism and economic development, Texas continues to be one of the top three destinations in the country.

The first lady earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from West Texas State University, now West Texas A&M University, and a master's degree in nursing from the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio. She has been honored by both her alma maters, which have established endowments in her name. The Anita Thigpen Perry Nursing Excellence Scholarship provides financial support to students admitted to West Texas A&M University's School of Nursing; and the Anita Thigpen Perry Endowment at the Health Science Center of the University of Texas at San Antonio supports the Center for Community-Based Health Promotion in Women and Children. In August 2008, Texas Tech University renamed its nursing school in her honor: The Anita Thigpen Perry School of Nursing.

The Perrys are the proud parents of son Griffin and daughter Sydney.

# UTAH



**Mary Kay Huntsman**, Utah's First Lady, was born in Orlando, Florida, and moved to Utah at the age of 14. She attended Highland High School, where she and her husband, Governor Jon Huntsman, first met. She is a mother of seven and a passionate advocate for youth.

Mrs. Huntsman has developed a number of programs aimed at helping children cope emotionally with difficult challenges. Her first project was inspired by the circumstances surrounding her daughter's diagnosis with juvenile diabetes, along with the physical and emotional impact of the disease. Together, she and her daughter created a gift bag containing items and information that her daughter wished had been available at the time she was diagnosed with diabetes, and they delivered it to a newly-diagnosed patient at a local hospital. Their "Bag of Hope" has become a nationwide program, sponsored by the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

Mrs. Huntsman also established a similar program through the Huntsman Cancer Institute to provide support and comfort to children recently diagnosed with cancer. Another program she created addresses the needs and concerns of terminally ill children. Mrs. Huntsman has expanded this concept of peer support and mentoring into a statewide program known as "Power in You" ([www.powerinyou.org](http://www.powerinyou.org)), which is designed to help young people learn they are not alone and have the power to face the emotional effects of at-risk behaviors and life challenges, including substance abuse, eating disorders, harassment, mood disorders, disabilities, cancer, diabetes, ethnic diversity, poverty, teen pregnancy, dating violence, and gang awareness.

Mrs. Huntsman's latest initiative, "Punt the Keys," urges young people to have a game plan against alcohol abuse. The effort encourages Utah's youth to prevent their peers from drinking and driving. Mrs. Huntsman also serves as honorary chair of the Literacy Commission and acting honorary chair of the Utah Coalition Against Sexual Assault. She has been involved with Speaking of Women's Health since its inception eight years ago and has co-chaired the organization's annual conference numerous times.

The first lady and Governor Huntsman have been married for 25 years. They have lived in Taiwan and Singapore where her husband served as a United States ambassador.

# VERMONT



**Dorothy Douglas** became First Lady of Vermont in 2003 and has balanced her longstanding career as a registered dental assistant with her role as first lady. As the daughter of Vermont dairy farmers, she possesses an understanding and respect for the families and working landscape that symbolize life in Vermont. She travels with her husband, Governor Jim Douglas, meeting, talking and listening to people throughout Vermont.

Since becoming first lady, Mrs. Douglas has served as honorary chair of the March of Dimes Prematurity Campaign and as a member of the Addison County United Way's board of directors. She promotes literacy by reading to children in schools and libraries throughout Vermont, and she supports the Verizon Reads initiative, serving as a "literacy champion." Mrs. Douglas also worked in partnership with the Internet Keep Safe Coalition in helping to launch an Internet safety initiative.

The Douglases will be celebrating 34 years of marriage in May and have two sons, Matt and Andrew.

## VIRGIN ISLANDS



**Cecile deJongh** became First Lady of the Virgin Islands when her husband, Governor John deJongh, was inaugurated as the territory's 7th elected governor on January 1, 2007.

As First Lady, Mrs. deJongh promotes several causes, including one that has touched her own family. She has established two local chapters of Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (CHADD) to help raise awareness about this disorder and to seek support for affected families. She also is certified as a Parent-to-Parent Teacher through CHADD.

Mrs. deJongh is working to help improve the Virgin Islands' literacy rate and serves as the spokesperson for the territory's Big Read initiative, sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts. She is an outspoken advocate for homeownership and is a founding member and honorary board member of Habitat for Humanity International of the Virgin Islands. She also advocates for improved care for the elderly and individuals with disabilities.

A strong supporter of Special Olympics, the first lady launched Camp Shriver last year in St. Thomas and St. Croix. Camp Shriver, initially established in the 1960s by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, is a two-week camp providing recreational activities for people with intellectual disabilities. Mrs. deJongh also has embarked on an initiative to improve the First Lady's Garden in the historic district of St. Thomas.

The first lady is a trustee for the Antilles School, and she has served on the foundation board of the University of the Virgin Islands for 12 years. She also is a board member of the St. Thomas-St. John Chamber of Commerce. Recently, the first lady was honored as a Rotary Person of the Year.

Mrs. deJongh was born in Indianapolis, Indiana, where her father was stationed as a physician with the U.S. Army. When she was nine months old, she and her family moved back to her parents' native home, the Virgin Islands. After attending Marquette University, where she earned a degree in business administration and marketing, she returned to the Virgin Islands to accept a position with Chase Manhattan Bank in St. Croix. During her tenure with the bank, she was selected to attend its Western Hemisphere Credit Training Program in Puerto Rico; she later rose to the position of vice president of commercial and mortgage lending.

The deJonghs were married in 1986, and they have three children, John III, Rene and Julian.

# VIRGINIA



**Anne Holton**, First Lady of Virginia, has devoted her career to serving as an advocate for Virginia's families and children. A native of Roanoke, Virginia, the first lady graduated from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs in 1980. She went on to earn her juris doctor in 1983 from Harvard Law School, where she met her future husband, Governor Tim Kaine.

The first lady served for many years as a legal aid lawyer representing low-income families and then as a juvenile and domestic relations district court judge in the City of Richmond. While serving on the bench, Ms. Holton took a special interest in foster care and adoption issues, and she committed herself to improving outcomes for Virginia's neglected and abused children. In recognition of her dedication and service on the bench and contributions to the legal profession, Ms. Holton has received many awards and honors, including the YWCA of Richmond 2006 Outstanding Woman Award in the category of law.

As first lady, Ms. Holton continues her work to improve the welfare of Virginia's children and families and to ensure all Virginians have the opportunity to reach their full potential. In January of 2007, she launched her signature initiative, "For Keeps: Families for all Virginia Teens," which aims to identify and strengthen permanent families for older children in foster care or at risk of entering foster care. For this work, she has received many honors including the Annie E. Casey Foundation Families for Life Award of Distinction in May 2008.

The first lady's move to Virginia's Executive Mansion has been a homecoming. Her father, Linwood Holton, served as Virginia's governor while she was a teenager, from 1970 to 1974. She and Governor Kaine have three children—Nat, Woody and Annella. The family dog, Gina, shares their home at the Executive Mansion.

## WASHINGTON



**Michael (Mike) Gregoire** was born and raised in Everett, Washington. He graduated from the University of Washington with a bachelor's degree in history in 1968. While student teaching at a Seattle high school, he considered pursuing a career as a teacher. During the finals week of his senior year, however, he was drafted into the military and began basic training at Fort Lewis. Mr. Gregoire was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the air defense artillery corps, then served a tour of duty as a platoon leader and convoy commander with the "Delta Express" in the Mekong Delta in Vietnam.

Upon returning to Washington state in 1971, Mr. Gregoire met future Governor Christine Gregoire when they were both working for the Department of Social and Health Services. Mr. Gregoire devoted his life's career to public service, having served as a health care investigator for the State of Washington for more than 30 years before retiring in 2003.

Mr. Gregoire's service in the military spurred a strong commitment to veterans' affairs. He is particularly concerned about the effects of Agent Orange and veterans' mental health issues. He is a lifetime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and a member of the American Legion and the Vietnam Veterans of America.

The Gregoires were married in 1975 and have two grown daughters and a son-in-law. Mr. Gregoire enjoys history, backpacking, gardening, and golf.

## WEST VIRGINIA



**Gayle Conelly Manchin**, First Lady of West Virginia, grew up in Beckley, West Virginia, and graduated with high honors from Woodrow Wilson High School. She attended West Virginia University (WVU), where she received a bachelor's degree in language arts and education and a master's degree in reading. In 1999, she completed a second master's degree, specializing in educational technology leadership from Salem International University. While at WVU, the first lady met and married future Governor Joe Manchin III.

Mrs. Manchin has worked in the Marion County School system, and she served as a faculty member of Fairmont State University and director of the college's first community service-learning program. She also has always been actively involved in children's issues and community advocacy.

After moving to Charleston in 2001, Mrs. Manchin served as the West Virginia Director of the AmeriCorps Promise Fellow Program. Working with the secretary of the Office of Education and the Arts, she implemented the West Virginia Partnerships to Assure Student Success (WV PASS) initiative, which modeled effective partnering of national, state and local organizations in providing support and resources to West Virginia's children and families.

The first lady has been appointed by Governor Manchin to serve as a member of the West Virginia Board of Education and as a commissioner for the West Virginia Commission for National and Community Service. She also was appointed as chair of the Governor's Healthy Lifestyles Coalition, and the West Virginia Citizen's Council on Children and Families, and as a co-chair for the Governor's 21st Century Jobs Cabinet. She is a member of the West Virginia Partnership to Promote Community Well Being Commission; nominating chair of The Education Alliance, past president of the Vandalia Rotary Club of Charleston; and a new member of the Black Diamond Girl Scout Council.

The Manchins have been married for 41 years and have three children—Heather Manchin Bresch, Joseph Manchin IV, and Brooke Conelly Manchin. They also are the proud grandparents of six grandchildren—Joey V, Kelsey, Madeline, Sophie, Chloe, and Jack.

# WISCONSIN



**Jessica Doyle** and her husband, Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle, share a commitment to helping improve the lives of others. After graduating from college, the Doyles joined the Peace Corps and taught English to high school students in Tunisia, Africa. Since that time, Mrs. Doyle has taught elementary, middle, and high school students for more than 30 years.

The First Lady's key initiatives focus on educational excellence, literacy, and the promotion of state pride and culture. She regularly visits schools and educational programs across the state to showcase excellence in education at all levels. Five years ago, Mrs. Doyle created a popular online game for students, "Where in Wisconsin is Jessica Doyle?" that encourages students to learn more about the state's history and tourist destinations. The first lady also launched "Read on Wisconsin," a statewide online book club that promotes reading and writing for students of all ages.

The first lady hosts Reading Days at the Residence, which offer students the opportunity to visit the Executive Residence to read with the first lady and to participate in book discussions with visiting authors. Mrs. Doyle's "Community Connections" initiative encourages volunteers to serve as mentors to middle school students to increase their academic achievement. Her website recognizes outstanding schools, volunteers, and community programs supporting this initiative.

The first lady partners with her husband, Governor Doyle, in supporting the Wisconsin Covenant, which encourages Wisconsin students, beginning at the eighth grade level, to aspire to attend college. Launched in May 2007, the Wisconsin Covenant offers the state's eighth grade students an opportunity to sign a pledge, where they agree to graduate from a Wisconsin high school, elect classes to prepare for higher education, maintain a B average and practice good citizenship. In return, the state will ensure those students who fulfill the covenant requirements a place in a Wisconsin school of higher education and a financial aid package based on family need.

Mrs. Doyle earned a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in educational administration from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The Doyles have two grown sons—Gus and Gabe, a daughter-in-law, Carrie, and one grandson, Asiah.

## WYOMING



Wyoming's First Lady **Nancy Freudenthal** was born in Cody, Wyoming. As first lady, Mrs. Freudenthal's top priorities are Wyoming's children and families; keeping children alcohol free; and promoting self-sufficiency for women.

She is the co-chair of the national initiative, Leadership to Keep Children Alcohol Free, a non-partisan effort to increase public awareness, engage policymakers, and mobilize action to stop childhood drinking. At the state level, her Wyoming First Lady's Initiative aims to bring communities together in a town hall setting to discuss, address and implement a community vision for keeping children alcohol free. Mrs. Freudenthal serves on the board of the Wyoming Women's Foundation, working to improve economic self-sufficiency for women and girls in her state. A lifelong collector of Western art, the first lady is also a national advisory board member of the University of Wyoming Art Museum.

Mrs. Freudenthal earned a bachelor's degree and a juris doctor from the University of Wyoming. She has a longstanding history of advocacy and public service in support of the State of Wyoming. She served as legal counsel for intergovernmental affairs under former Wyoming governors Ed Herschler and Mike Sullivan and was appointed to the Wyoming Tax Commission and State Board of Equalization, which she chaired for six years. Since joining the law firm of Davis and Cannon in 1995, Mrs. Freudenthal has concentrated on complex mineral tax litigation, environmental and natural resources disputes, public utility law, employment litigation and commercial transactions. She is continuing her law practice while serving as Wyoming's first lady.

The first lady and her husband, Governor Dave Freudenthal, have four adult children—Don, Hillary, Bret, and Katie.