



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**WRESTLE LIKE A GIRL TO RECOGNIZE CO-FOUNDER OF FEMALE ELITE WRESTLING, DR.
CHARLOTTE BAILEY WITH BETTY AWARD FOR HER CONTINUED ADVOCACY OF WOMEN'S
WRESTLING**

(WASHINGTON D.C.) Wrestle Like A Girl (WLAG) recognizes co-founder of [Female Elite Wrestling](#) (FEW), Dr. Charlotte Bailey as its 2024 [Betty Award](#) winner for her advocacy of women's wrestling through philanthropy and volunteerism. The Betty Award honors the late Betty Moffatt, who zealously supported causes, organizations, and individuals throughout her lifetime. Bailey will be presented the award at WLAG's Glitter Into Gold Gala on October 18 at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C.

"The path to success for girls and women in sport leadership continues to evolve. When organizations shine a light on the contributions of women in nontraditional roles it can be an inspiration to others to step in, strengthen their skills and share their talents. I am grateful for the opportunity to celebrate girls and women in wrestling at this year's Glitter Into Gold Gala and honored to work alongside so many wonderful volunteers in our sport," says Bailey.

Bailey has advanced female wrestling in Iowa through her coaching of youth wrestling and gymnastics and has played a pivotal role in the sanctioning of female wrestling in Iowa high schools. She currently serves as faculty in the Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science at the University of Iowa, and is the women's director for [Iowa USA Wrestling](#) where she has been recognized for her efforts with multiple accolades including the 2021 Iowa/USA Mick Pickford Person of the Year. Bailey is also the co-founder of FEW—the first USA Wrestling-chartered club in Iowa specifically for female wrestlers—which has produced numerous national individual and dual team champions and was awarded the Community Impact Award by the National Wrestling Hall of Fame Dan Gable Museum in 2018.

“Charlotte Bailey’s unwavering support and advocacy of girl’s wrestling is truly inspiring, and her dedication to increasing opportunities for girls to compete in combat sports is steadfast,” says Amy Zirneklis, WLAG co-founder and chief operations officer. “Her work in Iowa sets the highest standards of service in volunteerism and she continues to inspire others to join her efforts by creating opportunities where they were non-existent before, demonstrating her ability to share a vision that motivates action. We are honored to celebrate her and her efforts this fall.”

The Glitter Into Gold Gala celebrates the advancements of women's wrestling through WLAG programs, and gathers and honors influential community leaders and businesses for their continued support and advocacy. This year’s theme ‘Champions of Change’ will celebrate recent landmark achievements including:

- Women’s wrestling is being recommended for NCAA Championship Status by 2026.
- Five more states have sanctioned girls’ high school wrestling—the most recent being Indiana—making it 46 states that now recognize girls' high school wrestling as an official sport.
- Powerful diplomatic sports collaborations with Azerbaijan, Canada, Jordan, and USA wrestling federations.

In addition to the Betty Award, WLAG will present its esteemed [Adrienne Arsht Leadership Award](#) and [Afsoon Courage Award](#). Team USA’s Women’s Wrestling Olympic squad will also be recognized for its performance in Paris.

To purchase individual tickets or a table, please visit: [Wrestle Like A Girl Gala 2024](#)

About Wrestle Like A Girl

Wrestle Like A Girl, a 501(c)3 founded in 2016, is led by Team USA bronze medalist, Sally Roberts, with a mission to empower girls and women using the sport of wrestling to become leaders in life. Through Advocacy and Education, Programs, and Research, WLAG leads and supports policies that champion the inclusion of girls and women in wrestling, advocates for a healthier wrestling culture, and leads projects that reduce barriers to entry while increasing opportunities. Learn more at www.wrestlelikeagirl.org or follow [@wrestlelikeagirl](#) on Instagram and [@WrstleLikeAGirl](#) on X (Twitter).