

Media Alert!

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THE WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF HARRISBURG
Commemorates First Anniversary of Murder of George Floyd



**“2021 TORCH OF GLOBAL ENLIGHTENMENT AWARDS”
to commemorate murder of George Floyd**

[Harrisburg, PA](#) - The World Affairs Council of Harrisburg will commemorate the first anniversary of the murder of George Floyd at **6 p.m. Wednesday, May 26** at its 2021 “Torch of Global Enlightenment Awards” webinar.

The “Torch Awards” will pay tribute to George Floyd and the Black Lives Matter movement in honoring outstanding leaders in our region and abroad who have worked to educate and increase global and local understanding of diverse peoples, places, cultures and lands.

Young poet and Bishop McDevitt student Patin Drayton-Brown will premiere a poem she has written especially in honor of George Floyd. Drayton-Brown was first-place winner of the World Affairs Council of Harrisburg’s 2021 International Poetry & Storytelling Competition.

Click [here](#) to join the commemoration and register for the webinar, or watch live on the Council’s Facebook page.

“This year’s Torch of Global Enlightenment Awards holds special significance in that it is being held on the day George Floyd died,” said WACH President Joyce M. Davis. “To honor Floyd, we will lift up examples of those in our community and around the world who represent the ideals of civic engagement, integrity, self-less service and commitment to diversity and inclusion. They are all worthy of our admiration and honor.”

The Board of Directors of the World Affairs Council of Harrisburg has nominated the following individuals and organizations:



Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission
Chad Dion Lassiter, Executive Director
For its work investigating and prosecuting acts of extremism in our state.



Sait Onal Productions

For contributions to educating our communities and the world on human rights issues at home and abroad.



The Nativity School faculty and staff

For its work educating African American and Latino boys from disadvantaged families in Harrisburg.

Torch of Global Enlightenment Awards individuals:



Tom Sideris

An internationally acclaimed Greek reporter who visited Pennsylvania to produce the "Let Me Breathe" documentary in association with Sait Onal Productions. Sideris is focused on highlighting human rights issues around the world and has taken up issues related to refugees, women's rights, and racism in the United States.



Hettie Simmons Love

First African-American to earn a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, who has spent a lifetime advancing education and community service.



(Posthumous award)

Paula Harris

First Female President of the NAACP of Greater Harrisburg known for her dedication to the struggle for Civil Rights and equality.



Professor Matthew Pinsker

Dickinson College

Created a Dickinson and Slavery Walking Tour and actively engages students in the work of the House Divided Project,



Dr. Richard Luley

Emergency Room Physician – UPMC Pinnacle

For his dedication to being a front-line worker saving lives during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Bonnie Goble

Former Executive Director for the Cleve J. Fredricksen Library

For her support of Great Decisions programs in honor of her mother's vision to advance global understanding



Mark Hall

ABC 27 Veteran Journalist

For his work to educate and advance racial understanding, social justice and community enlightenment.

For information on the Torch Awards, go to www.wacharrisburg.org. Or contact The World Affairs Council of Harrisburg at wacharrisburg@gmail.com.

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