

Women's Division Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce Chesapeake 2017 Woman of the Year Nominee Resume'

Name: Dr. Ella P. Ward

Address: 1517 Pine Grove Lane, Chesapeake, VA 23321

Phone: 757-404-9291

Email: epwhlw@att.net

Current Position

- Councilwoman Dr. Ella Ward is currently serving her third 4-year term on the Chesapeake City Council (July 2014-2018). She has helped to secure more than 8 billion dollars for Chesapeake City, including at least 3 billion dollars in Chesapeake School funding during her 11 years on Council. As a member of Chesapeake City Council, Dr. Ward serves as a member of the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, and she is the Chair of this group which makes plans for the following 17 cities and counties: Chesapeake, Norfolk, Virginia Beach, Portsmouth, Suffolk, Hampton, Newport News, Williamsburg, Franklin, Poquoson, Gloucester, Smithfield, Isle of Wight, James City County, Southampton County, Surry County, and York County. She also serves on the Hampton Roads Transportation Organization with leaders of the 17 cities and counties which has worked to get at least 20 billion dollars in transportation projects approved for the Hampton Roads area over the next 25 years. In her roles as a member of the HRPDC and the HRTPO, she helps to lobby the General Assembly and Congress for funding to support housing, education, transportation, workforce development, and sea level rise, just to name a few.
- Dr. Ward serves as Board Chair of the Cornland School Foundation, Inc. with the goal of restoring this one room school that was the only school for African American students in Norfolk County (now Chesapeake) from 1902-1953 to a museum status. She has helped to raise almost \$30,000 for this Foundation thus far, and her Board has successfully gotten the Cornland School listed on the Virginia Registry and the National Registry of historic structures that must be preserved.
- Dr. Ella P. Ward is currently serving a 4-year term on the Board of Visitors of Christopher Newport University, Newport News, Virginia, and she has worked hard to secure state funding and raise scholarship money for many of our Chesapeake graduates who attend CNU.
- Dr. Ward is a member and Greeter at Mt. Lebanon Missionary Baptist Church.
- She has been happily married to Herman L. Ward for 52 years, and they have one son, Torilus, a Retired NAVY Commander and an employee at Norfolk State University.

Education

- Graduated Class Valedictorian from East Suffolk High School in 1964
- Graduated Class Valedictorian, Bachelor of Arts degree, Norfolk State University, 1969
- Earned a Master of Arts degree in Mass Communications from NSU in 1977

- Earned a Master of Science degree in educational administration from Old Dominion University after being selected as one of 300 students nationally as a Danforth National Scholarship Recipient and graduated from this program with a second master's degree, a Master of Science degree in 1993
- Earned a Certificate of Advanced Studies degree from Virginia Tech in 1999
- Earned a Doctoral Degree in Educational Administration and Supervision from Virginia Tech in 2000
- Completed additional studies at the College of William and Mary

- **List Professional Membership/Experiences**

- Dr. Ward is a retired educator who had 35 years of experience as a teacher and administrator in the Portsmouth Public School System before retiring in 2004. Dr. Ward taught English and Journalism at Woodrow Wilson High School (the original WHS) for a combined total of 23 years, and her English students excelled in the classroom and on standardized tests. She took her Journalism students to the Virginia High School League's Newspaper Production/Journalism Competition held at the University of Virginia for 12 consecutive years, and her Journalism students' monthly newspapers progressed from "Honorable Mention" to First Place and the highest Award, the "Trophy Class" during her last four years as a classroom teacher.
- Dr. Ward served 8 years on the Virginia Board of Education and was elected five times as Vice President of the Board. In her role as a member and Vice President of the Board of Education, Dr. Ward played a major role in helping to secure State funding for k-12 education for Chesapeake and the remaining 133 school divisions in Virginia. She led the fight and successfully won Board of Education approval for combining Praxis 1 test scores for teachers, the development of the new SCLA Exam for teachers, and the use of ACT and SAT scores for teachers as alternate licensing criteria which enabled many more teachers to get a license to teach. This helped to decrease the teacher shortage in Chesapeake and all 134 school districts in Virginia.
- Lifetime Membership in the Virginia Congress of Parents and Teachers' Organization
- Membership in the Portsmouth and Virginia Retired Teachers' Associations

Community Service

- Dr. Ward was first elected to City Council in 2006
- She was re-elected to Chesapeake City Council in 2010
- Dr. Ward ran a competitive race for United States Congress, 4th District, in 2012 and captured 43% of the vote against a 14-year incumbent.
- Dr. Ward also ran for U.S. Congress, 4th District, in 2016, in Gerrymandered District
- She was elected to the Chesapeake School Board in 2000 and was the top vote getter.
- Dr. Ward was re-elected for a second 4-year term on the Chesapeake School Board in 2004.
- Dr. Ward was appointed to a 4-year term on the Virginia Board of Education by Gov. Mark Warner in 2003.
- She was appointed to a second 4-year term on the VA Board of Education by Gov. Tim Kaine, 2007.
- She was elected as Vice-president of the Virginia Board of Education in 2006 and was re-elected as VP four times.

- Dr. Ward was elected by Council colleagues to serve on the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission from 2010-2017.
- She was elected by her City Council colleagues to serve on the Hampton Roads Transportation Organization from 2011 through 2018.
- Dr. Ward was honored in 2011 for having served the longest term of elected and appointed office in the 140-year history of the Virginia Board of Education
- Appointed and served 7 and ½ years on Chesapeake Fine Arts Commission, 1989-1997
- Appointed and served 3 years on the Chesapeake Library Board, 1997-2000
- Worked as a volunteer on campaigns for the late Dr. Willa Bazemore and the late Dr. Hugo Owens, former Mayor, Dr. William “Bill” Ward, Senator L. Louise Lucas and the late Senator Yvonne Miller, former Delegate Algie Howell, Congressman Robert “C” Bobby Scott, U.S. Senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine, former Senator Jim Webb and many other state and local candidates
- Helped to establish both Camelot and River Bend Civic Leagues

Community service/active membership in the following organizations:

- Women’s Division Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce, an active member for the past 14 years (having served the WDRCCC as a past President, Past First Vice President, Past second Vice President, past Corresponding Secretary, Past Cultural Arts Chair, and the current Legislative Chair
- Portsmouth Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc (44 years of active membership and a Past President)
- Woman’s Club of South Norfolk (Local Government Chair)
- Chesapeake Rotary Club, Interact Chair and Educators’ Award Chair
- Chesapeake Sports Club
- Chesapeake Women’s Club
- National Council of Negro Women
- Norfolk State University Alumni Association, Portsmouth Chapter
- Chesapeake Branch of NAACP (Life Member)
- National Coalition of 100 Black Women
- Camelot Civic League
- East Suffolk High School Alumni Association
- Tidewater Seniors in Action
- Chesapeake Democratic Committee, First Vice Chair
- Chesapeake Democratic Women, Immediate Past First Vice President

AWARDS and HONORS

- New Chesapeake Men for Progress Outstanding Community Service Award 2017
- Received the YWCA Women of Distinction Award in 2003
- Pan Hellenic Council Community Service Award, 2003
- Received the Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Award in 2009
- Received the Zeta Phi Beta Finer Womanhood Award in 2007
- Received the ODU Outstanding Alumnus Award, 2010
- Received Norfolk State University Outstanding Alumnus Award in 2015
- Received the East Suffolk High School Outstanding Alumnus Award in 2013
- Received “Strong, Smart, Bold Women” Award by Girls’ Inc. in 2009
- Received Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. Dream Maker Award, 2010
- Received the Portsmouth Delicados Outstanding Teacher Award in 2011
- Lifetime Achievement Community Service Award, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, 2012
- Camelot and Dunedin Community Service Awards 2007; 2011

