



## **April 2017 Her Story ENewsletter National Women's Hall of Fame 2017 Inductees, Continued**

In early February, the National Women's Hall of Fame announced the ten 2017 Inductees. In our March ENewsletter, we profiled Lorraine Hansberry and Temple Grandin. In this month's ENewsletter, we profile Clare Boothe Luce and Sherry Lansing.

The first American woman appointed to a major ambassadorial position abroad, Clare Boothe Luce has been described as a true Renaissance woman. Over her extensive career, she was not only a diplomat but also a journalist, playwright, public servant, and a philanthropist. An active participant in the suffrage movement in her early years, Luce was an associate editor at Vanity Fair before pursuing a career as a playwright. Her play, *The Women*, opened on Broadway in 1936. She was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from Connecticut in 1942. After the death of her only child, she redirected her energies to spiritual endeavors and her screenplay for the movie *Come to the Stable* was nominated for a best picture Oscar (1949).



**Clare Boothe Luce**

After working to establish the Atomic Energy Commission (today the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission), she was appointed U.S. Ambassador to Italy. The recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1983, her estate was bequeathed after her death to the Henry Luce Foundation with directions that it be used to benefit women with aspirations for careers in science, engineering and mathematics.



**Sherry Lansing**

The first woman to head a Hollywood movie studio, Sherry Lansing initially pursued an acting career before deciding to follow another path within the entertainment industry. In 1980, at age 35, she became the first female president of 20th Century Fox. Nominated for an Academy Award for best picture for *Fatal Attraction* (1987), Lansing became Chairman of Paramount Pictures' Motion Picture Group in 1992. During her tenure, 80% of the films released were profitable, a record unmatched by any other studio or individual. Also, three films that won Academy Awards for Best Picture were produced. She stepped down in 2004 after overseeing the production of more than 200 films.

In 2005, she started The Sherry Lansing Foundation whose focus is raising awareness and funds for cancer research, health, public education and encore career opportunities. Among the initiatives of the Foundation is the EnCorps Teachers Program that retrain retired technology personnel to serve as math and science teachers in California schools. She is the co-founder of the Big Sisters of Greater Los Angeles Fund that provides college scholarships to "little sisters." A trailblazer, visionary leader and creative filmmaker, Lansing is the recipient of many awards and honorary degrees including the Horatio Alger Humanitarian Award, and the Woodrow Wilson Award for Corporate Citizenship.

Clare Booth Luce and Sherry Lansing are among the more than 850 women profiled in our book *Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America*. Their accomplishments continue to inspire us and encourage us. They remind all of us how important it is to continue to tell women's stories.

Charlotte Waisman and Jill Tietjen  
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