



# County of Rockland

## Office of County Executive C. Scott Vanderhoef

### NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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#### FIVE NEW MEMBERS TO BE INDUCTED INTO CIVIL, HUMAN RIGHTS HALL OF FAME

New City, NY - County Executive C. Scott Vanderhoef and Commissioner of Human Rights S. Ram Nagubandi today announced that five new members will be inducted into the Civil and Human Rights Hall of Fame at **noon on Thursday, February 2, 2012** at the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Civil Rights Hall of Fame luncheon at The Club at Patriot Hills, 19 Club House Lane in Stony Point, NY.

All of the individuals being honored have significantly contributed to the advancement of equality, diversity, human rights and civil rights in Rockland County.



From left to right: Mayor Bernard Jackson of Hillburn, County Executive Vanderhoef, Bernard L. Charles accepting his award

"I am pleased to pay a tribute to this year's honorees," Vanderhoef said. "Each of these individuals has worked vigorously in the fight against all forms of discrimination. We thank them for their dedicated service in making our Rockland community a better place for all."

The 2011 Rockland County Civil and Human Rights Hall of Fame honorees are:

**Bernard L. Charles and Eleanor "Ellie" Charles** (posthumously) - A former Rockland County Legislator, Bernard Charles was former chairman of the NYS Governor's Advisory Committee for Gov. Mario Cuomo who brought insight to the Committee on Black Affairs. He worked hard to improve the educational systems to ensure quality academic preparation for students that were left behind. Ellie Charles' life mission was to champion and serve civil and human rights. Along with being a community leader, patron

of the arts and a teacher, she worked to make sure people of color received the same treatment and respect as others in housing.

**William “Bill” Darden** (posthumously) – An educator that had great respect for his students, Darden also served as a mentor to many in his community whose lives he touched. He is also a former Rockland County Legislator who received numerous awards and recognition.

**Bernice C. Glass** (posthumously) – Dedicated her life to ending discrimination, bigotry and unjust laws that prevented people of color from being true American citizens. Glass had a love for people and humanity.

**Laurence H. Holland** (posthumously) – Among one of the first African American scientists to work for now Pfizer Laboratories, Holland was a valued mentor for many young colleagues and advocated by helping to recruit perspective employees of color. He was a civil rights leader who promoted educational and economic opportunities for all.

“Rockland continues to be one of the state’s most diverse counties thanks to the tremendous efforts of individuals like our inductees,” said Nagubandi. “Residents are proud to be part of a community that promotes equality regardless of race, creed, color or national origin.”

Prior registration is required. Those who are interested in attending the luncheon should call the Commission on Human Rights at 845-708-7258 or e-mail [marrss@co.rockland.ny.us](mailto:marrss@co.rockland.ny.us).

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