Annual Awards Gala

and 30th Anniversary Celebration

OCTOBER 12, 2022
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WASHINGTON, DC

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Independent Women’s Forum is the leading national women’s organization dedicated to developing and advancing policies that are more than just well-intended, but actually enhance people’s freedom, opportunities, and well-being.
~ 2022 ~

Annual Awards Gala

Honoring

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
Diana Davis Spencer

WOMAN OF VALOR
Kimberley Strassel

RESILIENCE AWARD
Tulsi Gabbard

GENTLEMAN OF DISTINCTION
Vivek Ramaswamy

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2022
NATIONAL BUILDING MUSEUM | WASHINGTON, DC
Program

The National Anthem
Gracie Terzian

Welcome
Carrie Lukas
President, Independent Women’s Forum

Presentation of the Gentleman of Distinction Award to Vivek Ramaswamy
Hadley Heath Manning
Vice President for Policy, Independent Women’s Forum

Dinner

Presentation of the Lifetime Achievement Award to Diana Davis Spencer
Abby Moffat
President and CEO, Diana Davis Spencer Foundation

Presentation of the Resilience Award to Tulsi Gabbard
Riley Gaines
Twelve Time All American Swimmer

Dessert and Coffee

Presentation of the Barbara K. Olson Woman of Valor Award to Kimberley Strassel
Heather R. Higgins
Chairman, Independent Women’s Forum and CEO, Independent Women’s Voice

Farewell
Carrie Lukas

Reception
Featuring Alex Donner
Entertainment
Menu

FIRST COURSE
Field Greens Salad
Goat Cheese | Blistered Grapes | Dried Cranberries
Spiced Candied Walnuts | White Balsamic Vinaigrette

ENTRÉE
Braised Short Rib
Cheddar and Gruyere Potato Gratin | Winter Vegetables
Oyster Mushrooms | Dark Chocolate and Juniper Jus

DESSERT
Chocolate Custard
Milk Chocolate Mousse | Hazelnut Cream
White Chocolate Cloud | Dark Chocolate Ice Cream

WINES
L’Hemoniere Tourraine Sauvignon Blanc, 2022
The Prisoner Red Blend, 2019

DEMITASSE CAFÉ AND TEA
Cream | Sugar | Sweetener | Lemon
The Gentleman of Distinction Award
The Gentleman of Distinction Award celebrates a gentleman who has worked to create a stronger society that protects and encourages human flourishing through individual liberty, while strengthening relationships and providing opportunities for women, men, and their families.

Past Honorees
Sen. Tim Scott
Rep. Dan Crenshaw
Larry Kudlow
Mike Rowe
Mark Steyn
Ed Gillespie
Steve Forbes

The Resilience Award
The Resilience Award recognizes an individual who exhibits bravery, courage, and inner strength and helps create stronger, more vibrant communities by encouraging more respectful dialogue and civic engagement.

Past Honorees
Asra Nomani
Kristy Swanson
The Lifetime Achievement Award
The inaugural Lifetime Achievement Award celebrates an individual who, through her talents, hard work, and dedication, has made a lasting contribution to our country and to the cause of freedom.

The Barbara K. Olson Woman of Valor Award
The Barbara K. Olson Woman of Valor Award has been bestowed upon some of the most influential female leaders in the country since 2004. It recognizes extraordinary women who have demonstrated a firm commitment to fearlessly standing for what is right, and whose work has helped make significant improvements to the lives of women and their loved ones.

Past Honorees
Janice Dean
Maria Bartiromo
U.S. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos
Ambassador Nikki Haley
Kellyanne Conway
Carly Fiorina
The Honorable Barbara Comstock
Ayaan Hirsi Ali
The Honorable Marsha Blackburn
The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
The Honorable Mary Bono
The Honorable R. Gaull Silberman
The Honorable Nancy G. Brinker
The Honorable Condoleezza Rice
The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
The Honorable Lynne V. Cheney
Vivek Ramaswamy is a *New York Times* bestselling author and entrepreneur who has founded multiple successful enterprises. A first-generation American, he founded Roivant Sciences in 2014 and led the largest biotech IPOs of 2015 and 2016, culminating in successful clinical trials in multiple disease areas that led to FDA approved products. In 2022, he launched Strive Asset Management, a new firm focused on restoring the voices of everyday citizens in the American economy by leading companies to focus on excellence over politics.

Vivek was born and raised in southwest Ohio. He graduated summa cum laude in biology from Harvard in 2007 and began his career as a biotech investor at a prominent hedge fund. Vivek continued to work as an investor while earning his law degree at Yale.


Vivek serves on the board of directors of the Philanthropy Roundtable, the Foundation for Research on Equal Opportunity, and St. Xavier High School.
Diana Davis Spencer is executive chairman of the Diana Davis Spencer Foundation, dedicated to America’s Founding Principles, our Freedoms, and the Entrepreneurial Spirit. Throughout her career, Diana has been an activist, journalist, and leader in the philanthropic community.

As an activist, Diana has effected change across multiple sectors, she helped implement the Massachusetts Bottle Bill, Wellesley’s state-of-the-art recycling center, and advocated for legislation that improved education opportunities for Special Needs children. On the global stage, Diana traveled to Europe, Asia, Africa, and Russia, and has met with various government and business leaders who shape policy and influence change.

An accomplished journalist and author, Diana wrote for numerous local and national publications. She was a member of the National League of American Pen Women, National Writers Union, and National Press Club.

Diana currently sits on the Board of Directors for several organizations, including the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE), Masters School, Northeast Harbor Library, and Mt. Desert Festival of Chamber Music. She is a member of the Wilson Center Cabinet, a Life Trustee at Wheaton College, member of the Board of Visitors at The Federalist Society, and Chairman of the US Advisory Council, American Swiss Foundation.

Diana is a graduate of The Masters School and Wheaton College in Massachusetts. Widowed in 2002, Diana has two daughters, Abby Moffat and Kimberly LaManna.
RESILIENCE AWARD
Tulsi Gabbard

Former Congresswoman and 2020 Presidential candidate, Tulsi Gabbard, is a combat veteran with deployments to the Middle East and Africa. She currently serves as a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves working as a Civil Affairs Officer.

Tulsi first served in elected office in the Hawaii State House of Representatives when she was 21 years old. Due to the attacks on 9/11, she enlisted in the Army National Guard. In 2004, she gave up an easy re-election campaign and volunteered to deploy to Iraq with the 29th Brigade Combat Team where she served in a medical unit.

After returning home in 2006, Tulsi worked in the U.S. Senate as a legislative aide to the late Senator Danny Akaka, who was Chairman of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee. She then volunteered for a second Middle East deployment as a Platoon Leader.

Having experienced firsthand the true cost of war, Tulsi ran for United States Congress at age 31, vowing to honor the lives and sacrifice of her brothers and sisters in uniform. She prevailed in a difficult election and went on to serve in Congress for eight years as a member of the Armed Services, Homeland Security, and Foreign Affairs Committees. Foregoing a run for re-election to Congress, she ran as a Presidential candidate in the Democratic Party in 2020.

Tulsi puts country before party and approaches every issue, domestic and foreign, based on ensuring the safety, security, and freedom of the American people.
Kimberley Strassel is a member of the editorial board for *The Wall Street Journal*. She writes editorials, as well as the weekly Potomac Watch political column, from her base in Alaska.

Kimberley joined Dow Jones & Co. in 1994, working in the news department of *The Wall Street Journal* Europe in Brussels, and then in London. She moved to New York in 1999 and soon thereafter joined the *Journal’s* editorial page, working as a features editor, and then as an editorial writer. She assumed her current position in 2005.

Kimberley, a 2014 Bradley Prize recipient, is a regular contributor to Sunday political shows, including CBS’s “Face the Nation,” Fox News Sunday, and NBC’s “Meet the Press.” She is the author of *The Intimidation Game: How the Left Is Silencing Free Speech*, which chronicles recent attacks on conservative nonprofits, businesses and donors.

An Oregon native, Kimberley earned a bachelor’s degree in Public Policy and International Affairs from Princeton University. She lives in Alaska with her three children.
Heather R. Higgins
Heather Higgins is the chief executive officer of Independent Women’s Voice and the chairman of Independent Women’s Forum. She has a background in finance, public policy, and media, all happily combined with an inclination to make trouble.

Heather has been recognized as one of Campaigns & Elections 50 Most Influential People for her issue advocacy and a leader who will shape future election cycles.

In addition to receiving numerous awards for her innovative approaches to campaign messaging, in 2016 Heather also received the American Spectator’s first “Lifetime Service to the Movement” Award. She writes, most frequently for *The Wall Street Journal*, where she used to be an editorial writer and does television and radio to discuss public policy and politics.
Carrie Lukas

Before joining IWF in 2003, Carrie worked on Capitol Hill as the senior domestic policy analyst for the House Republican Policy Committee and at the Cato Institute. She is a graduate of Princeton University and Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government. She lives with her husband and five children in Virginia.
Presenter

Hadley Heath Manning

Hadley Heath Manning is vice president for policy at Independent Women’s Forum and Independent Women’s Voice and a Senior Blankley Fellow at the Steamboat Institute.

Hadley has testified before Congress and state legislatures on various policy issues. She also appears frequently in radio and TV outlets across the country and is a regular guest on the Fox Business Network. Her work has been featured in publications such as The Wall Street Journal, Forbes, POLITICO, and many others.

In 2016, Hadley was named to Forbes’ 30 Under 30 list in Law and Policy. In 2015, the Republican National Committee honored Hadley as a Rising Star, and in 2014, she was named to the Red Alert Politics 30 Under 30 list. Hadley has also completed the National Review Institute’s Washington Fellowship, class of 2012-2013.

Hadley graduated with distinction from the University of North Carolina as a Morehead-Cain Scholar with a double major in economics and journalism. She now lives in Denver, Colorado, with her husband and children.
Abby Moffat
Abby Moffat is the president and chief executive officer of the Diana Davis Spencer Foundation.

After her formal education, Abby entered the private sector where she built a successful career in executive recruitment. After founding several businesses, Abby turned to her true passion: making a difference to our country.

Following a family tradition of philanthropy, Abby now charts the 21st Century course for the Diana Davis Spencer Foundation, the organization she took from a moderate-sized foundation to the large-scale, high-impact, grant-making organization it is today.

Abby’s entrepreneurial drive continues to influence her philanthropy. Having seeded The Daniel Morgan Graduate School—a much-needed National Security Institute in the nation’s capital—Abby successfully negotiated its merger with the Texas A&M Bush School of Government and Public Service, where she now serves as a member of the Executive Committee of the Advisory Board. She also sits on the boards of The Heritage Foundation, the Media Research Center and the Independent Women’s Forum, and is chairwoman of One Generation Away.

Abby is a graduate of The Masters School and George Washington University and holds an honorary Doctor of Laws from Wheaton College.
Riley Gaines

Riley Gaines is a recent graduate from University of Kentucky where she was a 12-time All-American Swimmer.

This year, Riley competed and tied with transgender swimmer Lia Thomas at their NCAA championships.

Since directly experiencing the injustice of allowing men in women’s sports, Riley has been outspoken on why this issue is blatantly unfair and harmful to females in so many ways.
Gracie Terzian
A native of the Washington, D.C. area, Gracie Terzian is a singer, songwriter, and harp ukuleleist now living in New York City who has toured and performed at venues and festivals all over the globe. She first gained attention in the jazz world with the release of her debut EP, Saints and Poets, which debuted at #23 on the Billboard jazz charts and quickly became the #3 jazz album on iTunes. She also released a Christmas album called *Bells & White Branches* which features her unique instrument, the harp ukulele.

Gracie has a growing YouTube channel with over 52,000 subscribers, which she started during the recent COVID-19 lockdown. She shares a combination of music performance and music theory education videos on her channel. Her original music has been featured in film and theatre, and she is currently working on her next album, which is a blend of folk music and jazz.

Gracie has also worked extensively in theatre and film as an actor and composer. She has performed at many theatres including the Kennedy Center, Ford’s Theatre, Shakespeare Theatre Company, Folger Theatre, and the American Theatre of Actors. She is a graduate of the University of Virginia.

She is also an IWF offspring. Her mother, Grace Paine Terzian, former IWF senior vice president and one of a group of early founders of the organization, raised Gracie in the midst of producing IWF’s celebrated *Women’s Quarterly*. 
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