

# FLORIDA COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

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## Press Release

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### GOVERNOR TO INDUCT TWO INTO FLORIDA WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME

**Tallahassee, FL (March 9, 2007)**— Governor Charlie Crist will induct two outstanding Florida women into the Florida Women's Hall of Fame Tuesday, March 13, 2007 at 5:00 p.m. at the Capitol Rotunda in Tallahassee. The women being honored are Maryly VanLeer Peck and The Honorable Peggy A. Quince.

**Maryly VanLeer Peck** of Winter Haven and Palm Beach Gardens has influenced many lives as an educator, administrator and pioneer for women in science. With more than 45 years of experience in chemical engineering, government research and university administration, Dr. Peck exemplifies the concept of servant leadership. As a pioneer in the field of engineering, she has been a lifelong advocate for women in science. She comes from a family of engineers, and holds three degrees in chemical engineering: a Bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Vanderbilt University in 1951, a Masters of Science in Engineering from the University of Florida in 1955 (the first degree to be awarded by the

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University of Florida to a woman) and a PhD in engineering from the University of Florida in 1963. Dr. Peck serves on the boards of various schools and other organizations that assist young people and provide scholarships for worthy students. She was awarded the 1995 "She knows Where She's Going" award by Girl's Inc., and the 2002 Community Service Award by the Junior League of Winter Haven. In 2005 Dr. Peck was honored as Lake Region Citizen of the Year by the Gulf Ridge District of the Boy Scouts and awarded the National Community Service Award by the National Society of the daughters of the American Revolution. She has been honored as a Distinguished Alumna of the University of Florida. In 1982 Dr. Peck was the first woman chosen a Florida community college president and is currently President Emeritus of Polk Community College. She was the founder and dean of the Community Career College of the University of Guam, which is now the Community College of Guam. In 1989 Dr. Peck was the first woman to be admitted into membership of the Winter Haven Rotary Club and later was the first woman to be elected President of that Club. In 2002 she led a Rotary Group Study Exchange to Iwate, Japan. Dr. Peck organized most of the student chapters of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE). She has received numerous civic awards, local honors and appointments for her selfless efforts and involvement in youth activities and helping those in need.

**Justice Peggy A. Quince** of Tallahassee is the first Black female Justice of the Florida Supreme Court and only the third female Justice. She has the distinction of having been appointed jointly by then-Governor Lawton Chiles and Governor-Elect Jeb Bush. Prior to her appointment to the Florida Supreme Court, she was the first Black female appointed to one of Florida's district courts of appeal with her appointment in 1993 to the Second District Court of Appeal. A graduate of Howard University-where she was initiated into Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority's Alpha Chapter-and Catholic University's law school, Justice Quince has served on the Florida Supreme Court since 1999. In all of her years as a lawyer and later a judge, Justice Quince has always had a special interest in serving and protecting all citizens especially minorities who are underserved. Peggy Quince was recognized as a

pioneering woman in the law by the American Bar Association Commission on Women in the Profession with the 2006 Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award.

Governor Charlie Crist chose the women from a list of 10 distinguished nominees selected by the Florida Commission on the Status of Women. "It is an honor for the Florida Commission on the Status of Women to be involved in the recognition of women and their accomplishments, the Governor has chosen two outstanding women," stated Kathleen Passidomo, chair of the Commission. "Their impact on all citizens of Florida provides evidence of the critical role that women have played in shaping our state."

Governor Crist will conduct the induction ceremony for the Hall of Fame on Tuesday, March 13, 2007 at 5:00 p.m. in the Capitol Rotunda in Tallahassee. The induction ceremony is open to the public. All persons attending the ceremony are encouraged to arrive at least 30 minutes prior to the event. This year marks the twenty fifth anniversary of the Florida Women's Hall of Fame. The Commission accepts nominations for the Florida Women's Hall of Fame from the public each year from April 1 - July 15. Additional information is available on the Commission's website at <http://www.fcsw.net>, or by calling 850-414-3300.

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