PRESS RELEASE

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SUBJECT: MERCY OTIS WARREN CAPE COD WOMAN OF THE YEAR COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES THE WINNER OF THE 15TH ANNUAL AWARD

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The Mercy Otis Warren Cape Cod Woman of the Year Committee is proud to announce that the winner of the 15th Annual Mercy Otis Warren Cape Cod Woman of the Year Award is Ann Williams, of Osterville. Chair of the Committee Judy Scarafile stated: "We were fortunate to have drawn a list of incredibly talented ladies hailing from many different towns and representing many different walks of life. The decision process was challenging but, in the end, unanimous"

ABOUT THE RECIPIENT: Ann Williams, her husband Joe and their seven children moved full time to Barnstable in 1967 and Ann has not slowed down since! Ann joined the Town of Barnstable's Finance Committee, quickly became chair and was the Town's representative in the organizing committee of the Cape Cod Regional Technical High School. A year after the Tech opened, she joined its Board and even now, at age 86, serves on its Executive Committee.

Ann graduated from Chestnut Hill College in 1950 and received her MA from Boston College in 1952. Trained as a biologist, she paired that interest with an interest in public health education and became the first Director of Community Affairs at Cape Cod Hospital. As the official hospital spokesperson, she was in charge of all the internal and external communications including public health publications. Additionally she was liaison to the Cape Cod Hospital 's Woman's Auxiliary, a group of independent branches which together offer a significant financial support to Hospital capital projects. When she stepped down after 20 years, Van Northcross quipped: "It took two men to replace Ann". He should know. He was one of them.

More than achievements reached during her career, Ann is being recognized for her extraordinary volunteer involvement in Rotary. After her husband Joe passed away, she began her international Rotary "career". She became President of the Osterville Rotary and later District Governor for the area that includes the South Shore, Cape and Islands, Southeastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island. As a Rotarian she travels world-wide in support of childhood immunization (medical mission to Nigeria) and pure water (multiple missions to Haiti and Honduras). She is especially passionate in efforts to reduce polio through the Rotary's International Polio Plus Program.

Ann currently serves on the Cape Cod Community Foundation Board, Cape Cod YMCA Board and on the Contributions Committee of the Marion Jordan Trust, which supports arts organizations. She works with special needs children once a week, is active in the Osterville Business Association and Our Lady the Assumption Church.
Ann has been described as effervescent, luminescent, inspiring, involved- engaged and engaging. The members of the Mercy Otis Warren Woman of the Year Selection Committee were proud to cast a unanimous vote in support of this nomination.

ABOUT MERCY OTIS WARREN: Mercy Otis Warren, born in West Barnstable in 1728, was a playwright, a historian, a pioneer in women’s causes, a champion of liberty, an advocate of the Bill of Rights and a patriot. In an era where it was unusual for women to be educated, much less to emerge as a leader, her advocacy for the cause of patriotism and a central role in the Revolution was remarkable.

ABOUT THE AWARD: The Mercy Otis Warren Woman of the Year Award was established in 2002 to annually recognize a Cape Cod woman who exemplifies the traits of leadership in the community and has made significant contribution to the arts, education, business, community involvement and/or volunteerism, embracing the ideals of patriotism. Past recipients have been: Marion Villeumieri (2002), Jean Gardner (2003), Eugenia Fortes (2004), Felicia Penn (2005), Bonnie Snow (2006), Lynne Poyant (2007), Josephine Ives (2008), Mary LeClair (2009), Gloria Rudman (2010), Susan French (2011), Judy Walden Scarafile (2012), Dorothy Savarese (2013) Mary Lou Petitt (2014) and Michelle DeSilva (2015).

On June 6 at 7 pm, Ann Williams will be presented the Award by last year’s recipient Michelle DeSilva, as part of the Tales of Cape Cod’s program at the Olde Colonial Courthouse in Barnstable Village. As part of the presentation, Vicki Oman, Plimoth Plantation historical actor, will do a reenactment of Bridget Fuller, midwife and wife of Deacon Fuller. Cape Broadcasting’s Matt Pitta will be the Master of Ceremonies. The award is a bronze statuette sculpted by Marstons Mills artist David Lewis. It is a replica of the statue of Mercy Otis Warren, located on the Superior Court House lawn in Barnstable Village. Ann will also be honored at the Barnstable West Barnstable Independence Day Parade at 9 am on July 4th.