

To whom it may concern:

I strongly recommend Kim Burdick for this national recognition and believe her service to the people Delaware cannot be overstated.

Having spent 40 years as a reporter specializing in local history and heritage with The News Journal Media Group of Gannett Co., our state's only statewide news organization, and now serving as a writer with the Delaware Public Archives, I can say authoritatively and without reservation that no one is doing more to raise awareness of and generate interest in our past than "Ma Burdick" -- as she affectionately is known.

In addition to holding numerous community discussions that are free and open to the public, she hosts many guest speakers and other events at the Hale-Byrnes House, which she helps preserve and share as resident curator.

She has greatly increased public visitation and involvement in that unique historic house, where General George Washington held war council after the Battle of Cooch's Bridge, the only Revolutionary War fight on Delaware soil.

Her work leading the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route (W3R) organization, serving as the first female president of the George Washington Society and founding the American Revolution Round Table of Northern Delaware are only a few of her important efforts that have continued to enrich our community, helped preserve our past and demonstrated her commitment, knowledge and talents.

Ms. Burdick also has become well-recognized for her engaging Delaware Humanities Forum talks and programs on topics such as the role of African-Americans in the Revolution and Delaware's vital link in the Underground Railroad.

Her new book, "REVOLUTIONARY DELAWARE: Independence in the First State," not only inspires residents to learn about the people living here through this crucial time in our history, but also solidifies her role as a preeminent historian and dedicated advocate.

She also works tirelessly behind the scenes -- as well as providing much-appreciated moral support -- to help nonprofit organizations and individuals who are starting to find their way in preservation efforts and discovering our remarkable history.

If I may be of any further assistance in your consideration of Kim Burdick for this honor, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

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