



Forever
BOLD

2024 NATIONAL
VOLUNTEER AWARDS

#AWARDSWITHHEART



Emcee

KRISTIN DIAZ
Anchor,
NewsRadio 1080 KRLD



Hosts

MARSHA JONES
AHA Chairperson of the
Board, 2023-25



JOSEPH C. WU,
M.D., PH.D., FAHA
AHA President, 2023-24



NANCY BROWN
AHA Chief Executive Officer

2024 National Volunteer Awards

WOMAN CHANGING THE WORLD AWARD
Elisabeth Rohm

LOUIS B. RUSSELL, JR. MEMORIAL AWARD
Emelia J. Benjamin, M.D., Sc.M., FAHA
Willie E. Lawrence, Jr., M.D., FAHA

MORGAN STARK MEMORIAL AWARD
Alvin L. Royse, J.D., CPA

RON HADDOCK INTERNATIONAL IMPACT AWARD
DP Suresh, M.D., FAHA

AWARD OF MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT
The Kroger Co. | Rodney McMullen accepting
Alice H. Lichtenstein, Sc.D., FAHA
Chiadi Ndumele, M.D., Ph.D., FAHA & Janani Rangaswami, M.D., FAHA

EARL B. BEAGLE AWARD FOR STAFF EXCELLENCE
Gerald E. Johnson II

AHA HEALTHCARE VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD
Steven V. Manoukian, M.D., FAHA

AHA PHYSICIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD
Reginald Robinson, M.D.

GOLD HEART AWARD
Robert A. Harrington, M.D., FAHA

Woman Changing the World Award

Elisabeth Rohm

Director, Actor, Author, Philanthropist

Co-founder and Host, The RESPECT Project

Having lost her mom, aunt and grandmother to cardiovascular diseases in their 60s, Elisabeth Rohm shares their story to inspire women to prioritize their health. She joined the Go Red for Women® movement in 2010, walking the runway in the Red Dress Collection®. Rohm generously shares her time and talent as an AHA national volunteer, CPR/AED advocate, Go Red for Women spokesperson and passionate champion of women's health and well-being. As mom to a 16-year-old daughter, she is committed to guiding the next generation.

[Read more about Rohm.](#)

About the Award

Conferred upon one woman who is a leader in her field or community in driving significant change and outcomes that forward the American Heart Association's mission.



Louis B. Russell, Jr. Memorial Award

Emelia J. Benjamin

M.D., Sc.M., FAHA

Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology, Boston University

Vice Chair, Faculty Development and Diversity, Department of Medicine

Associate Provost for Faculty Development, Boston University Medical Campus

Emelia Benjamin is a foremost international expert on the epidemiology of cardiovascular diseases, specifically how social factors like education and income influence disease incidence, management and outcomes. Her dynamic leadership addressing health disparities is bringing us closer to a health care system where everyone has access to quality care and a longer, healthier life.

[Read more about Benjamin.](#)

About the Award

Honors outstanding contributions to communities of color and under-resourced populations.



Louis B. Russell, Jr. Memorial Award

Willie E. Lawrence, Jr.
M.D., FAHA

Cardiologist, Corewell Health Center for Wellness

Willie Lawrence's devotion to the AHA mission is inspired by deeply personal connections. His son had open-heart surgery at 5 months old, his daughter had a stroke at 15 and his mother died of stroke complications. So, he speaks from experience when he counsels his patients, most of them Black and low-income. He helps the AHA bridge the clinical setting and the community as leader of the National Hypertension Control Initiative volunteer advisory group, which has seen great strides in blood pressure control at participating Federally Qualified Health Centers.

[Read more about Lawrence.](#)

About the Award

Honors outstanding contributions to communities of color and under-resourced populations.



Morgan Stark Memorial Award

Alvin L. Royse

J.D., CPA

Past Chairperson of the Board, American Heart Association

Retired Senior Partner, Deloitte

For more than 25 years, Al Royse has been vital to the AHA's lifesaving mission. As national chairperson, he informed a strategic plan and value proposition leading to record revenues, increased collaboration and continued global expansion. His leadership launched Cardeation Capital, a venture capital fund to bring innovative health care products and solutions for heart disease and stroke to market. Most recently, he helped negotiate scientific publishing contracts for 11 of the AHA's 14 scientific journals.

[Read more about Royse.](#)

About the Award

Honors outstanding leadership in human resources, finances and organizational operations.



Ron Haddock International Impact Award

DP Suresh
M.D., FAHA

*Executive Medical Director, Florence Wormald Heart and Vascular Institute
St. Elizabeth Healthcare*

Since receiving his first research grant from the AHA in 1998, DP Suresh has dedicated himself to expanding cardiovascular science and medicine. With sudden cardiac arrest on the rise in India, he forged the AHA's work with Indian organizations to deliver high-impact CPR training to thousands of health care providers and community members. AHA guidelines in blood pressure and cholesterol management, stroke prevention and care, and heart disease are now improving patient outcomes across the country.

[Learn more about Suresh.](#)

About the Award

Named in honor of the American Heart Association's 2012-13 Chairperson of the Board Ron Haddock for outstanding contributions to the achievement of international goals.



Award of Meritorious Achievement

The Kroger Co. Rodney McMullen accepting

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

Under Rodney McMullen's leadership, The Kroger Co. is an inaugural collaborator on the AHA's Health Care by Food™ initiative aimed at making healthy food access a covered medical benefit. Kroger Health also has been a strong supporter of the AHA's Healthy for Good movement, helping more people on their quest to live longer, healthier lives through better nutrition. In these ways, and so many more, Kroger and the AHA are working together to make an extraordinary impact.

[Read more about The Kroger Co.](#)

About the Award

Presented for a specific accomplishment or project that supports the American Heart Association's national initiatives.



Award of Meritorious Achievement

Alice H. Lichtenstein

Sc.D., FAHA

*Senior Scientist and Director, Cardiovascular Nutrition Team, Jean Mayer USDA
Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging*

*Stanley N. Gershoff Professor, Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy
Tufts University*

Preventing heart disease through healthy eating is the life's work of Alice Lichtenstein. Called a "grand dame of nutrition" by *The Washington Post*, she has volunteered for the AHA for more than 40 years — leading or authoring more than 40 scientific statements, advisories and guidelines. As the science of healthy eating has evolved, she has helped to spread the word about new findings on fat, cholesterol and sugar and how they contribute to cardiovascular risk factors.

[Read more about Lichtenstein.](#)

About the Award

Presented for a specific accomplishment or project that supports the American Heart Association's national initiatives.



Award of Meritorious Achievement

Chiadi Ndumele

&

Janani Rangaswami

M.D., Ph.D., FAHA

M.D., FAHA

*Associate Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology
Director of Obesity and Cardiometabolic Research
Division of Cardiology, Johns Hopkins University*

*Chief of Nephrology, Washington DC
Veterans Affairs Medical Center
Professor of Medicine, George Washington
University School of Medicine*

Drs. Ndumele and Rangaswami are advancing health and hope for the 1 in 3 U.S. adults with overlapping risk factors for cardiovascular disease, kidney disease and metabolic disorders — first defined by the AHA as cardiovascular-kidney-metabolic (CKM) syndrome. Their seminal work is improving CKM screening, bridging fragmented care and saving lives.

[Read more about Ndumele and Rangaswami.](#)

About the Award

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Earl B. Beagle Award for Staff Excellence

Gerald E. Johnson II

*Executive Vice President, Health Equity and Chief Diversity Officer
American Heart Association*

Building an inclusive workplace where all voices are valued, and all audiences are equitably served by the AHA mission, is what drives Gerald Johnson. His leadership helped launch the AHA Office of Health Equity, AHA Social Impact Funds, CEO Diversity Advisory Cabinet and more — sharpening the AHA's competitive edge, broadening its impact, attracting new business, and strengthening national and global alliances. He leads courageous conversations as teachable moments to raise our collective consciousness.

[Read more about Johnson.](#)

About the Award

Recognizes an employee who exemplifies leadership, professionalism, dedication and performance excellence.



American Heart Association Healthcare Volunteer of the Year Award

Steven V. Manoukian
M.D., FAHA

Senior Vice President, HCA Healthcare

One day, while contemplating the best way to explain the link between stroke and cardiac risk factors, a phrase popped into Steven Manoukian's mind: "Getting to the Heart of Stroke." His vision inspired a three-year American Heart Association/American Stroke Association initiative by the same name launched in 2022 and funded by a \$15.6 million grant by HCA Healthcare and the HCA Healthcare Foundation. The initiative deepens neurology-cardiology collaboration, addresses health care disparities and empowers patients to manage their stroke risk.

[Read more about Manoukian.](#)

About the Award

Celebrates achievements in cardiovascular diseases or stroke patient care, or improvements in the delivery of care.



American Heart Association Physician of the Year Award

Reginald Robinson
M.D.

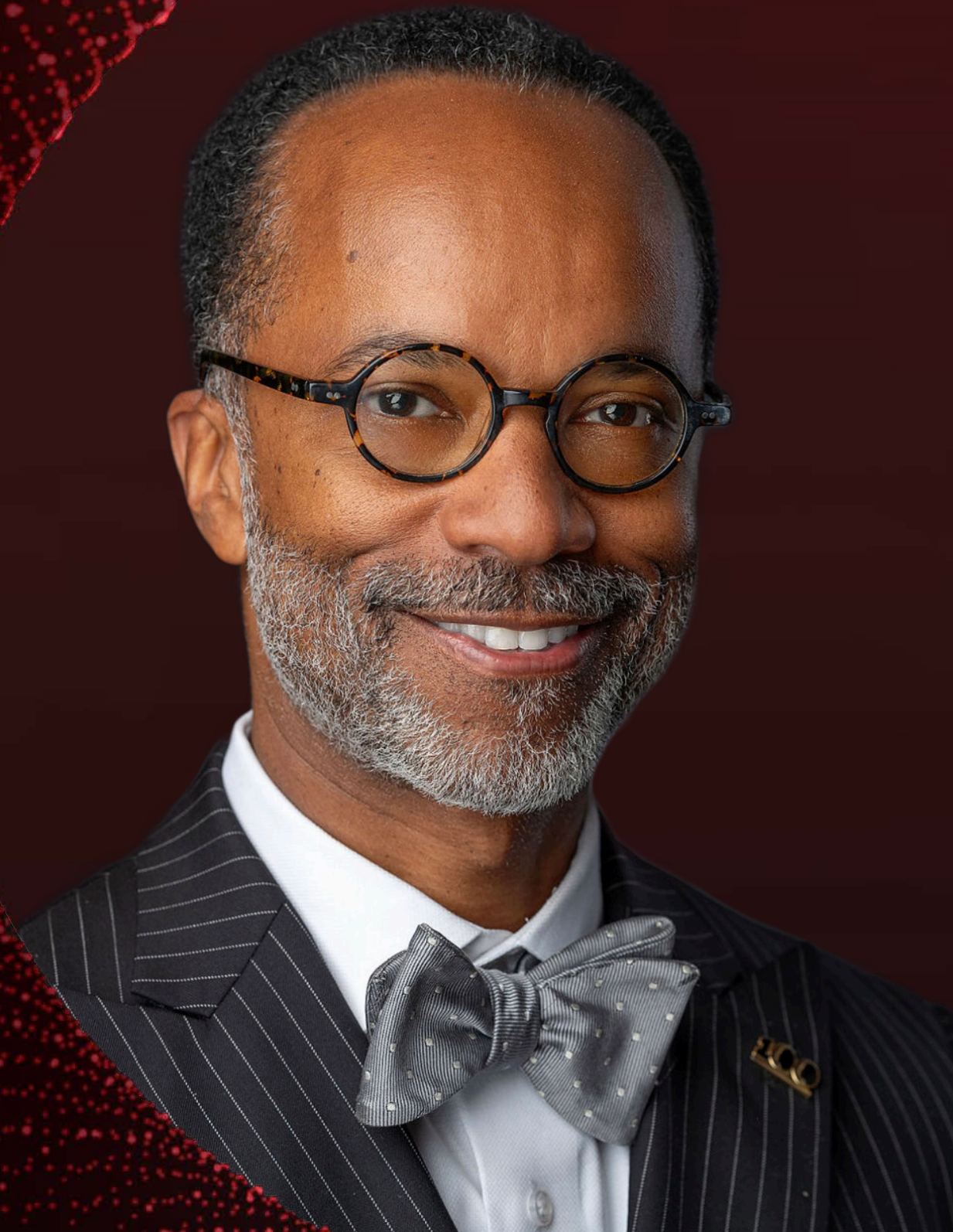
Cardiologist, MedStar Washington Hospital Center

Dr. Reggie, as he is fondly known, cares for his patients like family, administering doses of tough love to raise their awareness and reduce their cardiovascular risk. His approach to patient care honors the tradition of service to the community instilled in him at historically Black Morehouse College and Howard University College of Medicine. Early in his cardiology career, he connected with the AHA through participation in health fairs at Black churches. Today, he passionately promotes the AHA's legislative priorities by engaging policymakers in Washington, D.C.

[Learn more about Robinson.](#)

About the Award

Honors longstanding commitment to the highest ideals of patient care and exemplary leadership in the American Heart Association's mission.



Gold Heart Award

Robert A. Harrington M.D., FAHA

Past President, American Heart Association

Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean, Weill Cornell Medicine

Provost, Medical Affairs, Cornell University

As the AHA's 84th president, Bob Harrington guided the organization through an unprecedented global pandemic with its mission impact stronger than ever. His multifaceted leadership emphasized clinical excellence, research innovation, real-world evidence and health equity — all of which left an indelible mark on the AHA and the field of cardiology. This is just a sampling of Harrington's legacy, which also includes serving on the Executive Committee of the AHA Institute for Precision Cardiovascular Medicine, co-chairing the Research Leaders Academy Planning Committee and chairing the Silicon Valley Heart Ball.

[Read more about Harrington.](#)

About the Award

The American Heart Association's highest volunteer honor, recognizing a lifetime of transformative contributions.



