



American
Heart
Association.

LEADING
WITH *Light*

2023 NATIONAL
VOLUNTEER AWARDS

#AwardsWithHeart



Emcee

SONIA AZAD

Emmy Award Winning Health & Wellness Reporter and Micro Influencer



Hosts

RAY VARA

AHA Chairman of the Board, 2021-23



MICHELLE A. ALBERT, MD, MPH, FACC, FAHA

AHA President, 2022-23



NANCY BROWN

AHA Chief Executive Officer

2023 National Volunteer Awards

VOICE OF THE MISSION AWARD

Star Jones

WOMAN CHANGING THE WORLD AWARD

Jennifer Ashton, MD

LOUIS B. RUSSELL JR. MEMORIAL AWARD

Foluso Fakorede, MD

MORGAN STARK MEMORIAL AWARD

Linda R. Gooden

RON HADDOCK INTERNATIONAL IMPACT AWARD

Douglas Boyle

AWARD OF MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT

Bank of America

Alan Daugherty, PhD, DSc, FAHA

Dave Kapaska, DO, MBA

Ileana L. Piña, MD, MPH, FAHA, FACC, FHFS

Lynne Sterrett, RN, MBA and Kulleni Gebreyes, MD, MBA

AHA HEALTHCARE VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Linda M. Lambert, MSN, APRN, FAHA

AHA PHYSICIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Manesh R. Patel, MD, FAHA

DISTINGUISHED NATIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

Michelle A. Albert, MD, MPH, FACC, FAHA

Ray Vara

GOLD HEART AWARD

Ivor J. Benjamin, MD, FAHA, FACC

James J. Postl

Voice of the Mission Award



[Read Star Jones' feature story.](#)

STAR JONES

AHA National Volunteer

One thing people don't know about me is ...

I'm obsessed with Law & Order and SVU. I've seen every episode since they began over 25 years ago.

About the Award

Recognizes an individual or a family who has made a major impact by using their voice and telling their personal story to amplify the American Heart Association's mission.

Woman Changing the World Award



[Read Jennifer Ashton's feature story.](#)

JENNIFER ASHTON, MD

Chief Medical Editor & Correspondent, **ABC News**

Co-Host, **GMA3**

Board-Certified OB-GYN, Obesity Medicine, Nutritionist, Author/Speaker

**One thing
people don't
know about
me is ...**

When I was 4, I got a scallion stuck up my nose. I had to go to the emergency room because my cardiovascular doctor father who tried in vain to remove it kept pushing it further up my nose.

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



[Read Foluso Fakorede's feature story.](#)

FOLUSO FAKOREDE, MD

Chief Executive Officer, **Cardiovascular Solutions
of Central Mississippi and Fusion Vascular**

**One thing
people don't
know about
me is ...**

If I didn't become a doctor, I would have been a secret service agent. I believe greatness is measured in terms of compassion and service. I always wanted to believe in someone or something so strongly that I would take a bullet for them.

About the Award

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

Morgan Stark Memorial Award



[Read Linda Gooden's feature story.](#)

LINDA R. GOODEN

Retired Executive Vice President Information Systems
& Global Solutions, **Lockheed Martin**

**One thing
people don't
know about
me is ...**

As a child, I went to many car shows with my dad and gained an appreciation for the technology, beauty and speed -- particularly sports cars. Today, I own a Corvette which embodies the best of those characteristics.

About the Award

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

Ron Haddock International Impact Award



[Read Douglas Boyle's feature story.](#)

DOUGLAS BOYLE

*Co-Chair, AHA International Committee 2015-2021;
AHA National Board 2017-2023*

One thing people don't know about me is ...

I'm very good at changing bike tires.

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



[Read Bank of America's feature story.](#)

BANK OF AMERICA

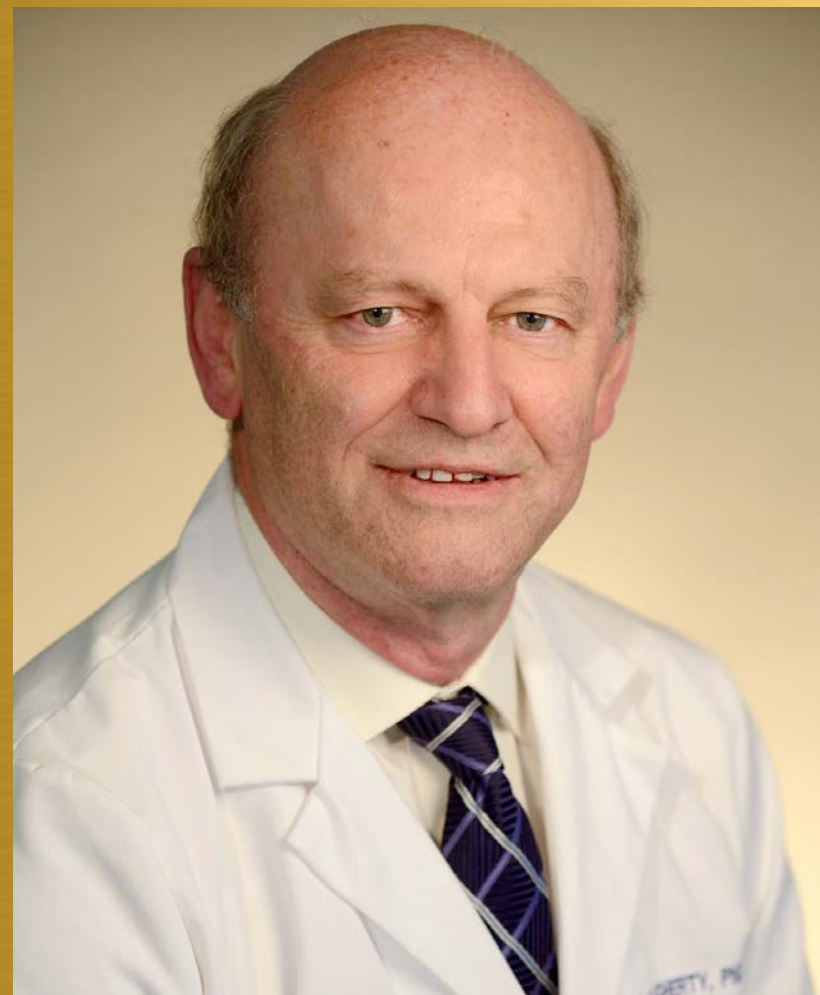
One thing people don't know about us is ...

At Bank of America, we make a powerful impact in our communities. Last year, our employees donated 2 million volunteer hours and directed over \$65 million in combined individual giving, matching gifts, volunteer grants, and other employee-directed giving programs, improving over 40,000 nonprofits worldwide.

About the Award

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

Award of Meritorious Achievement



[Read Alan Daugherty's feature story.](#)

ALAN DAUGHERTY, PHD, DSC, FAHA

*Director, Saha Cardiovascular Research Center
Director, Saha Aortic Center
University of Kentucky*

**One thing
people don't
know about
me is ...**

I came to this country with the thought of training for just two years – and forty years later, I'm still here! Very happy that I recognized early in my career that America was the optimal location for great cardiovascular research.

About the Award

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

Award of Meritorious Achievement



[Read Dave Kapaska's feature story.](#)

DAVE KAPASKA, DO, MBA

*Retired Regional President and CEO,
Avera McKennan Hospital & University*

**One thing
people don't
know about
me is ...**

During high school, I hand delivered Rexall Drug flyers door to door in my hometown of Sac City, Iowa. This work with my local pharmacy set the stage for a circuitous yet rewarding career in health care.

About the Award

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

Award of Meritorious Achievement



[Read Ileana Piña's feature story.](#)

ILEANA L. PIÑA,
MD, MPH, FAHA, FACC, FHFSa

*Robert Stein Chair, Quality for the Cardiovascular Line,
Thomas Jefferson University*

One thing people don't know about me is ...

I love to cook, especially Cuban food.

About the Award

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

Award of Meritorious Achievement



LYNNE STERRETT, RN, MBA

Managing Principal, Life Science & Health Care Industry –
Deloitte Consulting

One thing people don't know about me is ...

I have a creative itch that I need to scratch and I love to build and create new programs and things.

KULLENI GEBREYES, MD, MBA

Chief Health Equity Officer and US Consulting
Health Care Sector Leader, **Deloitte**

One thing people don't know about me is ...

While I've had many amazing life experiences, I didn't know how to ride a bike until I was 35 years-old. Having children inspired me to learn and is a good reminder that we can learn and grow in unexpected ways.

[Read Lynne Sterrett and Kulleni Gebreyes' feature story.](#)

About the Award

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

AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION
*Healthcare Volunteer
of the Year Award*



[Read Linda Lambert's feature story.](#)

LINDA M.
LAMBERT,

MSN, APRN, FAHA

Nurse Practitioner, **University of Utah School of Medicine**
Administrative Director Research-Heart Center,
Primary Children's Hospital

**One thing
people don't
know about
me is ...**

I was in a film that won the 1998 Oscar for Best Documentary (Short Subject), *A Story of Healing*, about a humanitarian trip to Vietnam. When they awarded the Oscar on TV, they showed me crying, which was kind of embarrassing. But it was an amazing opportunity, and it's a film worth watching.

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*



[Read Manesh Patel's feature story.](#)

MANESH R.
PATEL, MD, FAHA

*Chief of the Division of Cardiology and Co-Director, **Heart Center
Duke University***

One thing people don't know about me is ...

I was born in Uganda.

About the Award

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

Distinguished National Leadership Award



[Read Michelle Albert's profile from the start of her tenure as AHA President.](#)

**MICHELLE A.
ALBERT,**

MD, MPH, FACC, FAHA

President, 2022-2023, American Heart Association

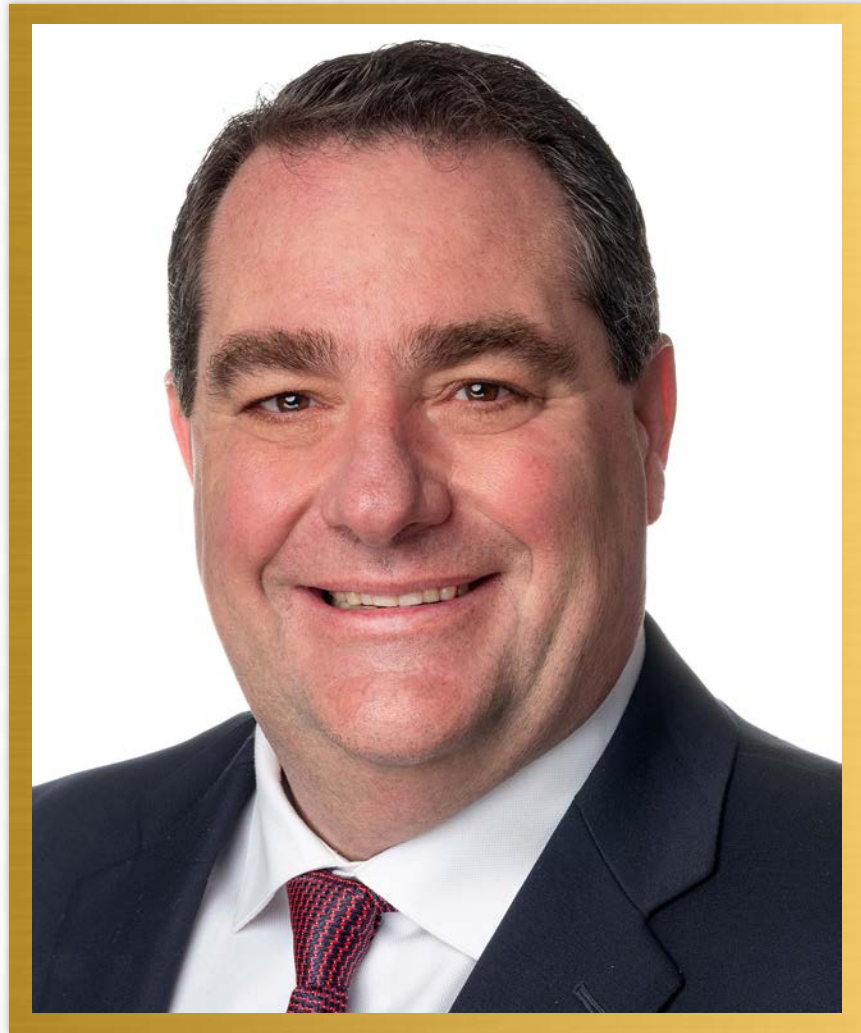
One thing people don't know about me is ...

I have a passion for planning fashion shows and hosting tea parties with beautiful decorations and personal touches.

About the Award

Presented to outgoing officers of the American Heart Association to recognize their exemplary service to its mission.

Distinguished National Leadership Award



[Read Ray Vara's profile from the start of his tenure as AHA Chairperson of the Board.](#)

RAY VARA

*Chairman of the Board, 2021-2023, **American Heart Association***

One thing people don't know about me is ...

My wife Tiffany and I had twins 26 years ago, and we recently became grandparents to twins.

About the Award

Presented to outgoing officers of the American Heart Association to recognize their exemplary service to its mission.

Gold Heart Award



[Read Ivor Benjamin's feature story.](#)

IVOR J. **BENJAMIN**, MD, FAHA, FACC

*Professor & Director, Cardiovascular Center,
Medical College of Wisconsin*

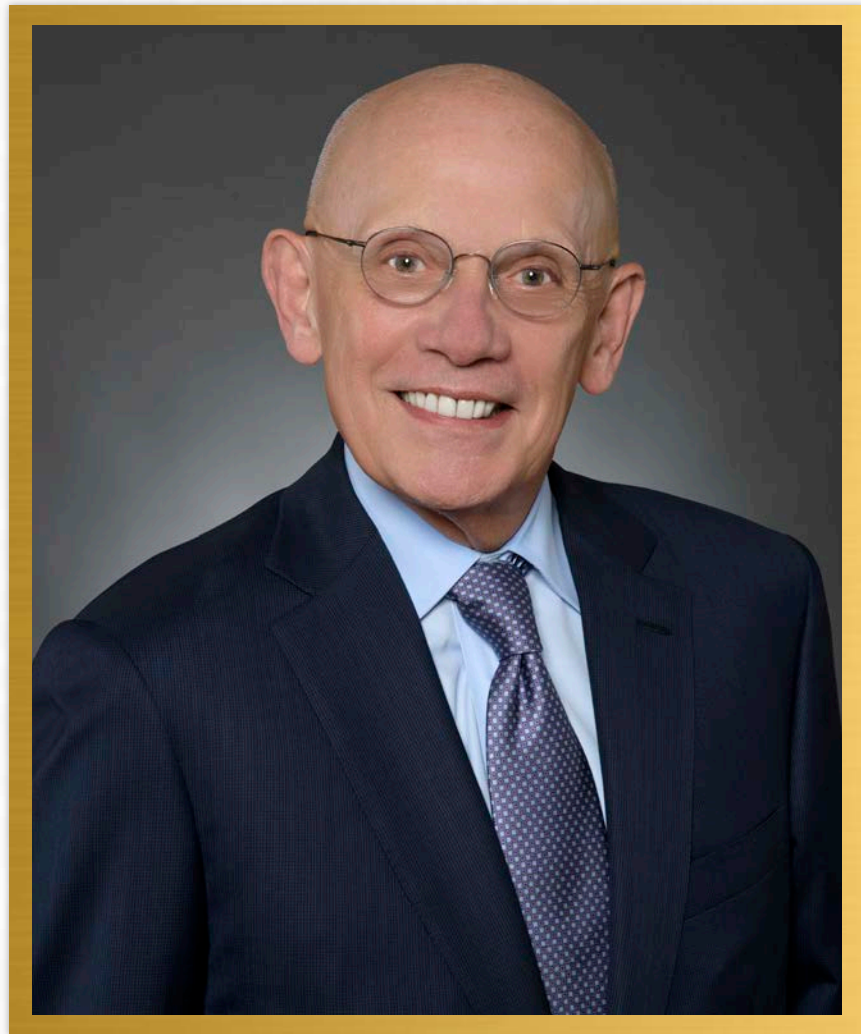
One thing people don't know about me is ...

I have a higher opinion of my golf game than I should, but on any given day, you never know when my Tiger Woods swing will show up.

About the Award

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

Gold Heart Award



[Read James Postl's feature story.](#)

JAMES J. POSTL

Past Chairperson of the Board, **American Heart Association**
Former President and Chief Executive Officer,
Pennzoil-Quaker State Company

One thing people don't know about me is ...

I played the violin for 12 years, from ages 6 to 18 and I played in the Manitoba Youth Symphony.

About the Award

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

