

PRESS RELEASE

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NEW JERSEY WOMEN TO BE INDUCTED INTO THE NATIONAL 4-H HALL OF FAME

CHEVY CHASE, MD (October 7, 2016) – Estella (Stella) Almeida of Eatontown, New Jersey will be inducted into the National 4-H Hall of Fame on October 7 for her lifetime achievements and contributions to 4-H.

Honored by the New Jersey 4-H Youth Development Program, Almeida will be one of 16 people inducted during the ceremony at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland.

The National 4-H Hall of Fame honorees are nominated by their home states, National 4-H Council, the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents (NAE4-HA) or 4-H National Headquarters/National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) based upon their exceptional leadership at the local, state, national and international levels.

Honorees will be presented with a National 4-H Hall of Fame medallion, plaque and memory book during the ceremony. The National 4-H Hall of Fame was established in 2002 as part of the Centennial Project of the NAE4-HA in partnership with National 4-H Council and National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA. For more information about the National 4-H Hall of Fame event and past recipients, visit www.nae4ha.com/hof

“We are proud to acknowledge the outstanding 2016 National 4-H Hall of Fame honorees for the passion, dedication, vision and leadership they’ve shown toward our young people during their many years of service to 4-H,” says Jeannette Rea Keywood, National 4-H Hall of Fame Committee Chair.

Stella Almeida is a vibrant and motivated woman who loves to volunteer her time to the New Jersey 4-H Program as well as other organizations. Stella became involved in the Monmouth County 4-H Youth Development Program when her children joined 4-H in 1980 and is now in her 36th year as a 4-H volunteer. She began as a dedicated 4-H horse club leader, but over the years Stella has also volunteered to chaperone State delegations to national 4-H events, assists with county advisory councils and plan events major equine events including the State 4-H Horse Show. Even after her children aged out of the 4-H program, Stella has continued her belief, service and dedication to the 4-H mission and positive youth development.

Mrs. Almeida is a professional and committed 4-H volunteer who has embraced the program at its core and contributed on the county, state, national and international levels. She is a diligent volunteer who works long hours and commits her expertise and professionalism to the organization which helped her children. Stella has a passion for youth and can be heard saying “It’s not about the project it’s about the program; it’s about the kids.” She is an invaluable volunteer who embodies the core of character for our youth to emulate. Stella is passionate about the importance of public speaking and she leads by example. Stella developed county 4-H presentation curriculum, has been a state public presentation contest judge, a State 4-H Equine Presentations

team coach, and is currently the National Chair of the Eastern National 4-H Round Up Equine Presentations program.

Stella contributes to her county 4-H program as a mentor and leader and also supports the state 4-H program, not just equine, but also civic and citizenship trips for our state delegations to Citizenship Washington Focus and the International Japanese Exchange. Stella was on the planning committee when New Jersey hosted the Northeast Regional 4-H Leaders' Forum as she recognized the importance of educating and supporting other 4-H volunteers. Over the years, Stella has consistently stepped up to take on various county and state leadership roles. For more than 30 years, she has served as the coordinator for the Monmouth County and Tri-County 4-H Horse Shows. Stella has been chair of the New Jersey 4-H Horse Project Advisory Council several times and has also served as Vice Chair and Secretary of that organization. She has chaired the State 4-H Horse Show for 25 years and served as the New Jersey 4-H Equine Presentations coach for many years prior to becoming a member of the of the Eastern Regional National Round Up Equine Presentations Planning Committee 10 years ago.

Stella Almeida exemplifies outstanding citizenship in her attention to the needs and concerns of others. In support of the 4-H program, Stella has coordinated benefit horse shows to raise money for St Jude's Hospital and the Ronald McDonald House several years. Every Memorial Day, she encourages Patriotic horse project participation in parades with horse and riders decorated in red, white, and blue. She donates hand flags for all 4-H parade participants. Her club has been recognized with a Community Service award for writing letters to active duty military members and for providing donations for military packs. She has developed a 4-H partnership with local VFW and Veteran Organizations. Stella has provided opportunities for 4-H members to participate in Armed Forces Day at Monmouth County military bases – Ft. Monmouth and Earle Naval Weapons Station. Outside of 4-H, she has contributed as a citizen in her community by helping needy families and supporting Veterans groups with her husband Manny, who is an active member of the State and Local Veterans organizations.

Stella has been recognized for her contribution with the New Jersey Association of 4-H Agents Volunteer of the Year award in 2001; the 2002 NJ Agricultural Experiment Station/Rutgers Cooperative Extension Volunteer of the Year Award; and the Eastern National Round-Up Outstanding Service Award in 2014.

Stella is not only an excellent role model for 4-H members, but she provides support and encouragement to 4-H leaders and inspires them to be active and step up when help is needed. She always goes well beyond what is expected and the standards in her 4-H life and personal life are a beacon for all who know her.