

WIFLE HISTORY BEFORE Women in Federal Law Enforcement, Inc.

Dr. DORIS MAE ROSS MCCROSSON

February 13, 1923 – June 4, 1992

When the United States Civil Service Commission (later the Office of Personnel Management) set up the predecessor to the current-day Women in Federal Law Enforcement, Inc. (WIFLE), it was a committee under the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and the U.S. Department of the Treasury (USDT) named ICWIFLE – the Interagency Committee on Women in Federal Law Enforcement. Its purpose was to examine reasons for the low numbers of women entering federal law enforcement - fields that opened to women only after President Richard Nixon signed EO 11478 on August 8, 1969. EO11478 provided equal opportunity in Federal employment for all persons; prohibited discrimination in employment because of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin; and promoted equal employment opportunity through a continuing affirmative program in each executive department and agency. Dr. McCrosson was appointed the Justice Chair and, by far, was the leader of the Committee. In a sense, she was the grandmother to the WIFLE Founders.

Doris' mother was Edith Ross Begg McCrosson, born in 1890 in Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire, Scotland. She died of malaria at the age of 34 in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, leaving behind her husband and three children. Doris' father was John Thomas McCrosson, born in 1856 in Glasgow, Scotland, and died in 1948 at the age of 92. An engineer by education and training, he raised the children in Hawaii, was a pioneer of the modern sugar industry in Hawaii, and supervised the construction of the Kohala and Hamakua irrigation ditches. The family scattered his ashes, according to his wishes, on the water outside a reef in Waikiki, near the Sans Souci Channel. Doris had two siblings, John Thomas McCrossin the 2nd and Isabelle Begg McCrosson Luedecke, who married retired Air Force Major General Alvin R. Luedecke, head of the Atomic Energy Commission under Eisenhower and former president of Texas A&M. Isabelle had complications from brain surgery that left her disabled. Despite her impairment, in 2006 she shared first place at an Alzheimer's art auction for a watercolor portrait.

Doris was highly educated with a master's degree and a doctorate in English literature from the University of Pennsylvania. She taught English literature at the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Missouri, and Pennsylvania State University. She also taught in the English Department at Wilson College in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, and became an associate professor. She worked at the Government Printing Office as the Federal Women's Program (FWP) Manager and later with the DOJ as the FWP. She authored a book about the English poet Walter de la Mare.

Throughout her Federal career, Doris was very active in programs advancing women. She was interviewed at the National Women's Conference in Houston, Texas, in 1977. At this conference, a program and task force were established as the Federal Women's Agenda, part of the National Plan of Action adopted at the conference. The plan specifically addressed the needs of women employed by the Federal Government. You can read more about the challenges in 1977, the advances, and the FWP task force through the National Women's Conference Article Digitized by Google Books, FWP Women in Action, Vol. 8, No.4 [here through WIFLE](#), or

online at [Google Books](#).

Doris lived on Capitol Hill and was a patron of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society, established for the purposes of identifying, documenting, and fostering historical landmarks on Capitol Hill and in the Capitol Hill Historic District. She was listed as a "Tour Patron" for the Society's [22nd Annual House and Garden Tour, 13 May 1929](#), last page. Doris hosted many ICWIFLE gatherings at her home, which also served as a central hub for award luncheons, training programs, strategic planning for the ICWIFLE Committee, and “stuffing parties” where a group of 10-15 women enjoyed potluck dinners and assembling material for mailing. WIFLE Founder Margaret M. Moore and WIFLE Board Members Dorene F. Erhard and Elizabeth M. Casey have fond memories of the many hours pre-WIFLE, Inc. that they spent in Doris’ company. Doris was fondly known as a smart and funny woman and for always wearing a small hat.

When Doris died in June 1992, the WIFLE Foundation, Inc. established the Doris R. McCrosson Award for Managerial Excellence, later absorbed in 1999 into the current WIFLE Award Program categories. The first recipient of the Doris R. McCrosson Award was Ruth L. Maze in 1992, a group manager with the Criminal Investigation Division of the Internal Revenue Service.

WIFLE honors Dr. Doris R. McCrosson during Women’s History Month 2023. Doris left us with a legacy that reflects her bright, articulate, energetic, steadfast, and unshakable quest for the equality of women in federal law enforcement. A legacy that continues to this day through WIFLE.