



# News Release

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## Mary MacRae Named to National Women's Business Council

**Washington, DC** – Mary MacRae, Immediate Past President of the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO), has been appointed to a three-year term on the National Women's Business Council representing NAWBO. Based in Ashland City, Tennessee, MacRae has almost 30 years experience in the business, civic and political communities, including 13 years as the owner of MJM Enterprises, which offered speaking, training and consulting services, focusing on economic development, small business start-ups and women entrepreneurs.

The National Women's Business Council is a bi-partisan Federal government council created to serve as an independent source of advice and counsel to the President, Congress, and the U.S. Small Business Administration on economic issues of importance to women business owners. Members of the Council are prominent women business owners and leaders of women's business organizations. The Council is committed to:

- *Conducting* research on issues of importance to women business owners and their organizations;
- *Communicating* these findings widely;
- *Connecting* the women's business community to public policy makers; and
- Providing programs and platforms for *change* in order to expand and improve opportunities for women business owners and their enterprises.

"I am delighted to welcome Mary MacRae to the National Women's Business Council," said Marilyn Carlson Nelson, Chairman and CEO of Carlson Companies and Chair of the National Women's Business Council. "As both a woman business owner and as a national leader in women's business advocacy, Mary brings a wealth of valuable experience to the Council. I'm confident the Council will be enriched by her participation."

The National Association of Women Business Owners is a national organization representing the interests of all women entrepreneurs in all industries. It currently has over 8,000 members in nearly 80 chapters nationwide and is affiliated with Les

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Femmes Chefs d'Entreprises Mondiales (World Association of Women Entrepreneurs) in 35 countries.

Since 1996, Mary and her husband, Johnny MacRae, have worked together managing their family-owned businesses, which include an agribusiness operation and an independent music publishing company, which includes catalogs of award-winning, Grammy-nominated country music songs.

In addition to serving as NAWBO's National President, MacRae has also served as the President of the Nashville NAWBO Chapter and the President and Founding Member of the Women's Resource Center – Tennessee's first SBA supported women's business center. She has served as Charter President of the Cheatham County Chamber of Commerce and Charter Trustee of Leadership Cheatham County, both located in Tennessee. MacRae is the recipient of many awards including NAWBO's Advocate & Member of the Year Award (from the Nashville NAWBO Chapter); the Economic Leadership Award from the Women's Business Institute of the South; and the International Order of Merit from the Biographical Institute in Cambridge, England.

"I am thrilled for this opportunity to serve on the National Women's Business Council," said MacRae. "As a leader in NAWBO -- our nation's oldest and largest organization exclusively for women business owners -- I look forward to working with the Council to strengthen and promote its programs and resources that encourage women to achieve, what I believe is, the true American dream – owning your own business. And, as NAWBO's representative to the Council, one of my goals will be to educate our members, volunteer leaders and staff about the Council's research projects, platforms and, the positive impact NWBC makes for and on behalf of women entrepreneurs."

As the nation's advocate for the more than 10.1 million women-owned businesses in the U.S., the National Women's Business Council works to promote increased access to affordable health care; access to capital; access to federal contracts and international markets; and access to the information and expertise women business owners most need to succeed.

Women business owners currently represent almost 46% of all U.S. firms, employing 18.2 million people and contributing \$2.32 trillion in annual revenues.

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