

National 4-H Hall of Fame 2014

North Carolina



Elaine Folk Marshall North Carolina Secretary of State

Hometown: Lineboro, MD Nominated by: North Carolina

Major 4-H Accomplishments:

A 4-Her from age 9 in Lineboro, MD, a Maryland 4-H All Star, Older Youth State President, selected to represent Maryland as an International Farm Youth Exchange delegate to Brazil, and a National Scholarship Winner in the Breads Program. North Carolina Secretary of State - first woman ever elected to statewide executive office in North Carolina. Continues to volunteer as a speaker at 4-H events and as an advocate for the 4-H. Member of the North Carolina 4-H Development Fund for almost 25 years. Winner of the North Carolina 4-H Lifetime Achievement Award.

Biography:

From her early life as a farm girl in rural Maryland to her becoming the first woman in history ever elected to statewide executive office in North Carolina, Elaine Folk Marshall has made 4-H a large part of her life. Entering her fifth term of office in 2013, Secretary of State Marshall is North Carolina's top regulator for investor protection, business incorporations, charity and Notary Public regulations, among other duties. Her career has included being State Senator, teacher in the public school and community college systems, business owner, and private practice attorney. Secretary Marshall has received many major state and national awards for leadership in technology, government innovation, and women's leadership.

In addition to her 4-H honors, Secretary Marshall has won the North Carolina Association of Educators Women's Equality Award, been inducted into the Honor Society of Agriculture at N.C. State University, was named one of "The 50 Most Influential People in Notarization in the Last 50 Years" by the National Notary Association. Secretary Marshall was even awarded an official "Gold Record" by the Recording Industry Association of America for her law enforcement work to protect trademarked goods. She has received the highest civilian honor from the country of Moldova (a former Soviet state) for her leadership in the NC-Moldova Partnership. Secretary Marshall holds four honorary doctorate degrees, including one from Moldova.

Quote:

I never miss the opportunity to credit 4-H with helping me to gain the confidence and organizational skills I needed to turn life's stumbling blocks into stepping stones. I would never have broken the glass ceiling for women in North Carolina politics or become Secretary of State, without my years of 4-H to support me in all my challenges.



Elaine presenting her 4-H demonstration.



Elaine Marshall with North Carolina 4-H members.



Elaine Marshall speaks at North Carolina Cooperative Extension Centennial Proclamation Ceremony.