

2013 Marie Lamfrom Woman of Distinction

Barbara Roberts



Barbara Roberts was elected Oregon's first female governor in 1990, also becoming one of the first 10 female governors in the United States. Previously, she held public office for 24 years, including Oregon House Majority Leader, Oregon Secretary of State and 10 years as a school board member. She is a strong advocate for the environment, human and civil rights, affordable housing and government reinvention.

Governor Roberts has served on dozens of non-profit boards and committees over the past 30 years, including Girl Scouts of Oregon and Southwest Washington, Oregon Hospice and the Columbia River Gorge Commission.

A native Oregonian, Roberts is a published author, active public speaker, mother of two grown sons and the grandmother of 16. She was married to the late Senator Frank Roberts for 20 years.

“My first real awareness that women played a role in American history came while working on a Girl Scout badge. Who knew I would one day be a part of that history as one of the first 10 women governors in our nation.”