

## Press Conference

**When:** February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at 11:00am

**Where:** Room 406 Lowes House Bld.

### **Delegate Susan C. Lee introduces bill to place a statue of American Hero Harriet Tubman in National Statuary Hall**

**Delegate Susan C. Lee** (D-16) plans to announce the introduction of her bill to place a statue of Harriet Tubman, one of Maryland's all time great American heroes in the National Statuary Hall of the U.S. Capitol at a Tuesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 11am Press Conference at the Maryland House of Delegates, 6 Bladen Street, Rm. 406, Annapolis, Maryland. Delegate Lee, who is the President of the Maryland General Assembly's Women's Caucus will be joined by Senator Catherine Pugh (D-40) who is the lead sponsor of the bill in the Senate, other legislators, Maryland NOW President Linda Mahoney, and other top leaders of women's and community organizations. The bill already has **the support of the Women's Caucus (Women Legislators of Maryland), Governor Martin O'Malley, Attorney General Douglas Gansler, Montgomery County Exec. Isiah Leggett, Prince George County Exec. Rushem Baker, Maryland NOW, EVE, MD NAACP, and other organizations.**

Born a slave in Dorchester County, **Harriet Tubman** risked her life many times to lead countless slaves to freedom as a Conductor of the Underground Railroad, and during the Civil War served as a Union spy and army nurse and led military raiding parties. After the war, she fought for women's suffrage, orphans, and the needy and established freedmen's schools. If these efforts are successful, Harriet Tubman would be the first statue of an African American woman and enslaved person and make her one of 10 women represented in the 100 of our nation's capitol's statue collection. Lee stated, "This commemoration of Harriet Tubman will not only highlight the important contributions made by Maryland's women and minorities to the history, development and progress of our state and nation, but also stand as a beacon of inspiration for the millions of Americans and visitors to our U.S. Capitol each year."

The bill would replace a statue of John Hanson, who served as President of the United States in Congress assembled under the Articles of Confederation from 1781 to 1782. His statue would be returned to and enjoyed by visitors to the state capitol of Annapolis. In National Statuary Hall, each state is represented by 2 statues of noted colonial or historic figures. In 2000, Congress passed legislation to allow states to replace and update their original statues with those statues of extraordinary leaders who have made significant contributions to their state and have followed the original statues in time. California replaced one of its original statues with President Ronald Reagan and Kansas with President Dwight D. Eisenhower and will shortly replace a statue with trailblazer aviator Amelia Earhart.

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