

## Arlington Historical Society

### Jean Marshall Crawford Biography (1947-2014)

Leader in the Virginia Campaign to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment, passed away February 5, 2014 at the Virginia Hospital Center. Ms. Crawford, Virginia National Organization for Women State Coordinator, made history in 1978 when she was unjustly arrested by the Virginia State Capitol Police while lobbying for the amendment. After 11 months of trials and court appearances, she was cleared, all charges dropped, and the arrest expunged from her record.

Ms. Crawford, a graduate of Transylvania University in Kentucky, moved to Virginia as a military wife, living first in Virginia Beach and subsequently in Barboursville and Reston before settling permanently in Arlington County. She served as the National Organization for Women's Reproductive Rights Director, setting the organization's policy and strategy on behalf of a woman's right to choose in the challenging years following the Roe v. Wade decision. She was also an elected member of the NOW National Board from 1983 to 1986.

Ms. Crawford worked for the Alexandria law firm of Waite, Finch and Chamowitz before being appointed Deputy Commissioner of Revenue for Arlington County, a position she held for 20 years. She was currently employed as the County's Legislative Counsel. She represented Ashlawn Precinct on the Arlington Democratic Committee, served the committee as Assistant Treasurer and was an Obama Captain in both 2008 and 2012. She led the renowned Kitchen Crew, credited with many Arlington electoral victories. She also served as President of the Board of Directors of the Animal Welfare League of Arlington and worked as a volunteer for many years.