

## **Ernesta Procope, NYC Insurance Broker, Receives Black Enterprise's Lifetime Achievement Award**

COLUMBUS, OHIO—May 16, 2014—Ernesta G. Procope, chairman of E.G. Bowman Company, a Manhattan insurance brokerage, today received the 2014 A.G. Gaston Lifetime Achievement Award from Black Enterprise magazine at its annual conference in Columbus, Ohio.

The award “recognizes the entrepreneurial spirit and the guiding light of an individual who has established an extended and consistently distinguished record of success.”

A resident of Queens, Procope founded E.G. Bowman as a storefront insurance agency in Brooklyn in 1953. Her firm has become a top minority-owned [insurance](#) brokerage, and she has been widely recognized as a trailblazing black businesswoman.

“History makers seldom have an example to follow; they make a path for others to follow them,” Black Enterprise said. “Procope blazed a new trail not only for African Americans, but for women.”

Procope was influential in the creation of the New York FAIR Plan. She persuaded New York Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller to support legislation to make homeowners insurance available to all in the state. She made history in 1979 when she relocated her business to Wall Street, making E.G. Bowman Co. the first African American-owned business to be located there. It moved to Hanover Square in 2012.

She has received numerous awards, including Ernst & Young's 1993 Entrepreneur of the Year, the African American Hall of Fame, the Minority Business Hall of Fame and Museum, Black Enterprise Women Of Power Legacy Award, Essence magazine's 2004 Power Award, Turner Broadcasting System's 2002 Trumpet Award, Business Insurance's Leading 100 Women in the Insurance Industry, and the U.S. Small Business Administration's Small Business Person of the Year.

Arthur George Gaston (1892 –1996) was a businessman in Birmingham, Ala., who played a significant role in the struggle to integrate Birmingham in 1963.

E.G. Bowman offers all types of commercial and personal insurance and surety bonds. Its clients include Fortune 500 companies, midsized and small businesses, government, nonprofits and individuals. It taps domestic and international insurance markets for both standard and specialized coverages. A leading provider of [group travel accident insurance](#), the firm also offers health and disability insurance.

More information about E.G. Bowman is online at [www.egbowman.com](http://www.egbowman.com),  
[www.facebook.com/egbowmanco](https://www.facebook.com/egbowmanco) and [www.twitter.com/egbowmanco](https://www.twitter.com/egbowmanco).

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