

# AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

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## **The American Geographical Society Awards O.M. Miller Cartographic Medal**

*Description: The O.M. Miller Cartographic Medal, awarded by the American Geographical Society (AGS), is one of several prestigious honors given by the Society. Mrs. Virginia T. Norwood, “The Mother of Landsat” will receive the medal in the next couple months.*

[New York City, NY] – [November 3, 2022] — The American Geographical Society (AGS) announced today that Mrs. Virginia T. Norwood, “The Mother of Landsat,” has been selected to receive the 10th O.M. Miller Cartographic Memorial Medal. “AGS is thrilled to join the bandwagon of people now recognizing the contributions of Virginia Norwood. Her multispectral scanner that was to be a small side experiment on the first Landsat mission opened up the field of remote sensing that has expanded our understanding of conditions on Earth,” says AGS Vice President and Chair of the Honors and Awards Committee, Dr. Deborah Popper.

Established in 1968, the O.M. Miller Cartographic Medal acknowledges outstanding contributions in the field of cartography or geodesy. It was named for Osborn Maitland Miller, who brought forth new map projections, original survey methods and instrumentation, and pioneered developments in aerial photography, photogrammetry, and new cartographic techniques.

Mrs. Norwood is a retired American physicist, best known for her contributions to the Landsat program, having designed the Multispectral Scanner which was first used on Landsat 1. For this work, she has earned the title, “The Mother of Landsat.” In June of 1947, Mrs. Norwood graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology with a degree in mathematical physics. Her understanding of physics enabled her to find innovative approaches to solving problems, exemplified by her three U.S. patents, the first one being invented at the early age of 22. On July 23, 1972, Landsat 1 launched and for the first time, gave NASA the ability to capture high quality images from a satellite in orbit. She worked on Landsat instrumentation for a decade before moving onto other projects, however she considers Landsat to be her greatest achievement because of its positive societal impacts.

The American Geographical Society is a 21st-century learning society dedicated to the advancement of geographic thinking, knowledge, and understanding across business, government, academe, social sectors, and most importantly with teachers and students. Established in 1851, AGS is the oldest professional geographical organization in the United States. It is recognized worldwide as a pioneer in geographical research and education for over 168 years. The mission of AGS is to advance and promote geography in business, government, science, and education. Our goal is to enhance the nation’s geographic literacy so as to engender sound public policy, national security, and human well-being worldwide. AGS seeks to engage the American public, from its youngest to its oldest citizens, with new and amazing ways to understand and characterize our changing world. The Society maintains its headquarters in New York City.



***Mrs. Virginia T. Norwood***

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