



LAKE COUNTY  
*women's*  
HALL OF FAME

2020



**LAKE COUNTY**  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
*County Policy*

Title: LAKE COUNTY WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME

Number: LCC-32

Cancel: LCC-32

Dated 5/05/98

Approved: 7/07/15

I. **OBJECTIVE**

To establish a Hall of Fame to recognize the outstanding achievements of Lake County women.

II. **DEFINITIONS AND REFERENCES**

- A. Hall of Fame: A specific place where instruments of recognition will be displayed to honor recipients of Hall of Fame status.
- B. Outstanding Achievements: Significant contributions to the improvement of life for women and for all citizens, and to the enhancement of women in this county.
- C. Florida Statute 265.001: Expresses the intent of the Florida Legislature to recognize and honor women of outstanding achievement. Language from this statute is contained in the criteria on the nominating form (EXHIBIT A).
- D. Florida Statute 125.01: Provides that the County Commission is empowered to adopt its own rules and procedures.

III. **DIRECTIVES**

- A. Implement procedures for establishing the Lake County Women's Hall of Fame.
- B. Establish a set of criteria for determining the selection of candidates to the Lake County Women's Hall of Fame.
- C. Establish a selection committee who will screen candidates and submit the individual(s) to be inducted into the Hall of Fame to the Board of County Commissioners for approval.
- D. One inductee may be inducted each year.

IV. RESERVATION OF AUTHORITY

The authority to issue or revise this Policy is reserved to the Lake County Board of County Commissioners.



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Jimmy Conner  
Chairman, Board of County Commissioners  
Lake County



**LAKE COUNTY**  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
*County Procedure*

Title: LAKE COUNTY WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME

Number: LC-16

Cancels: LC-16  
Dated 9/16/13

Approved: 7/8/2015

Originator: County Manager

Review:

**I. PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

The purpose of this procedure is to establish a Lake County Women's Hall of Fame to provide for the recognition and honoring of outstanding accomplishments achieved by women in Lake County.

**II. DEFINITIONS**

- A. Hall of Fame: A specific place where appropriate means of recognition will be permanently placed to honor recipients of Hall of Fame status.
- B. Outstanding accomplishment: Significant contributions to the improvement of life for women and all citizens, and to the enhancement of women in this county.
- C. Florida Statute 265.001: Expresses the intent of the Florida Legislature to recognize and honor women of outstanding achievement. Language from this statute is contained in the criteria on the nominating form (Exhibit A).
- D. Florida Statute 125.01: Provides that the County Commission is empowered to adopt its own rules and procedures.

**III. PROCEDURES**

- A. It shall be the responsibility of the Board of County Commissioners to approve the membership of a selection committee which shall meet once a year.
- B. The Administrative Support staff of the Board of County Commissioners will make it known to the public that nomination forms (Exhibit A) are available through the office and on the website.
- C. The Administrative Support Office will receive nominations submitted on the official nomination form (Exhibit A) and will forward all nominations to the selection committee.
- D. It shall be the responsibility of the selection committee to review nominations to screen for applicability to criteria, which shall be:

1. Nominee will, through her life and works, have made significant contributions to the improvement of life for all citizens of Lake County
  2. Nominee will have made a significant contribution in the field of: art, agriculture, athletics, business, community service, environment, government, health care, humanities, philanthropy, science/education.
  3. Nominee must be born in or have adopted Lake County as her home county and the base of operation.
  4. Nominee must have lived in Lake County for at least ten years.
  5. Nominee may be living or dead.
- E. The selection committee will meet each year during the month of August or September and will present the individual to be inducted into the Hall of Fame to the Board of County Commissioners for approval.

The number of nominations includes those resubmitted from 1 previous year. One inductee may be inducted each year. The approved candidates will be inducted into the Lake County Women's Hall of Fame at an appropriate later date.

- F. A framed certificate or plaque will be presented to the inductee into the Lake County Women's Hall of Fame. The Women's Hall of Fame exhibit located in the Board Chambers will display framed photos of each inductee.

#### IV. RESERVATION OF AUTHORITY

The authority to issue or revise this Procedure is reserved to the County Manager. The County Manager may authorize exceptions to this procedure when deemed appropriate.

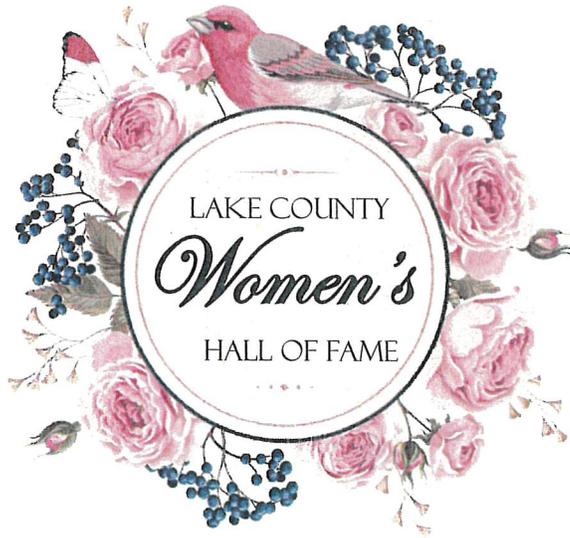


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David C. Heath  
County Manager  
Lake County

*Women's Hall of Fame Nominees – 2020*

- Gail Ash
- Lou Buigas
- Cathie Catusus
- Carol Clendenin
- Cheryl Fishel
- Dianne Garvis
- Kimberly Grogan
- Stephanie Hicks
- Catherine Hoechst
- Lori A. Humphrey
- Emily Lee
- Loretta Maimone
- Rita Renee Milota
- Dot Pentecost
- Ashley Rachel
- Marie Kaiser Rich
- Kimberly Stephens
- Paula Stegall Stinson
- Kelly Wright Stone



Nominee's name: Gail Ash

Address: 685 W. Montrose Street, Clermont, FL 34711

Phone: 352-241-7358

Resident of Lake County since: 1999 (minimum of 10 years required)

Date of Birth/Death: February 9, 1943

Submitted by (Name/Address/Phone):

Darren Gray

685 W. Montrose Street, Clermont, FL 34711

Relationship to nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason you are nominating this person: Mayor Gail Ash is the first and only female mayor in the history of the City of Clermont, Lake County's largest city. The 18-year Clermont resident has made significant contributions to improve the quality of life of those in the area by serving in an impressive array of roles.

Criteria:

- Nominee must have made significant contributions to the improvement of life for all citizens of Lake County.
- Nominee must have made a significant contribution in the field of art, agriculture, athletics, business, community service, environment, government, health care, humanities, philanthropy or science/education
- Nominee must have been born in or adopted Lake County as her home. Nominee may be living or dead.

Please attach a brief summary defining the nominee's accomplishments in one of the fields above. Do not include accomplishments that were achieved outside Lake County. Cite any awards, honors or commendation they may have received. Newspaper articles, letters, resumes, etc. are all acceptable forms of recognition. If no information is included other than the application form, it will not be considered. Petitions are not accepted.

Completed forms will be submitted to the Women's Hall of Fame Committee. Deadline for submissions is **September 20, 2019.**

Lake County Women's Hall of Fame  
Board of County Commissioners  
PO Box 7800  
Tavares, FL 32778-7800  
352.343.9849  
Email: [nbooth@lakecountyfl.gov](mailto:nbooth@lakecountyfl.gov)

# Nomination Application

## Lake County Women's Hall of Fame

*Gail L. Ash*



### Summary of reason for nomination

Mayor Gail L. Ash is the first and only female mayor in the history of the City of Clermont, Lake County's largest city. The 18-year Clermont resident has made significant contributions to improve the quality of life of those throughout Lake County as mayor, as a former council member and as an active board member of several important county organizations.

### Supporting documents

- 1) Letters of Support
- 2) Resume
- 3) Articles



## 1) Letters of Support

- a. Darren Gray, Clermont City Manager
- b. David Colby, President of the South Lake Chamber of Commerce



DARREN S. GRAY  
City Manager

352-241-7358  
dgray@clermontfl.org

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September 16, 2019

Dear Lake County Women's Hall of Fame Committee,

It is with great enthusiasm that I nominate Gail L. Ash for the Lake County Women's Hall of Fame.

Mayor Ash is most deserving of this recognition as the first and only female mayor in the history of the City of Clermont, Lake County's largest city. The longtime Clermont resident has made significant contributions to improve the quality of life of those throughout Lake County.

I have worked closely with Ms. Ash for the past five years in her capacity as Clermont's mayor and mine as city manager, as well as during her time as a Clermont City Council member from 2002-05 and on the Clermont Planning & Zoning Commission in 2007, 2008 and 2018, all during which I served as assistant city manager.

She is an incredible leader and an admirable person with a passion for serving the residents of Lake County. She has positively impacted tens of thousands of residents, business owners, visitors and employees in over a decade of service.

Mayor Ash continues to lead Clermont through an exciting time of unprecedented business and population growth with the city's rebranding to Choice of Champions, adoption of Clermont's award-winning Master Plan, revitalization of our Downtown and expansion into Wellness Way.

During her time as Mayor, the city has earned numerous awards, including Best Central Florida City to Live In, Best Central Florida City to Launch a New Business, Top 20 City in America for Retirees and Top 20 American Cities Leading the Way in Economic Development and Quality of Life.

As a longtime member of the Homeless Task Force, Mayor Ash has been an advocate for affordable housing. She also has played an active role as a board member of at least seven other important organizations highly impacting Lake County, including the Lake-Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization, the South Lake Regional Water Initiative Committee and the Central Florida Leadership Congress representing all Lake County cities.

Mayor Ash has initiated countless other enhancements to the city, including Clermont's inaugural youth council and the addition of fireworks for our 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration. She holds monthly coffees with the public to stay connected and inform our residents of the latest happenings.

I sincerely hope you will consider Mayor Ash for the Lake County Women's Hall of Fame. She would be an incredible addition. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or to request additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Darren", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Darren S. Gray  
City Manager



**SOUTH LAKE**  
CHAMBER of COMMERCE

352-394-4191

office@southlakechamber-fl.com  
www.southlakechamber-fl.com

620 W. Montrose Street  
Clermont, FL 34711

September 19, 2019

Lake County Women's Hall of Fame  
Board of County Commissioners  
PO Box 7800  
Tavares, FL 32778-7800

Dear Women's Hall of Fame Committee,

On behalf of the South Lake Chamber of Commerce it gives me great pleasure to write this letter in support of Mayor Gail Ash's application as a candidate for the Lake County Women's Hall of Fame.

If there was a person who epitomizes what this recognition stands for and is of the caliber of citizen that has been admitted in the past to this illustrious group of Lake County leaders, promoters and champions, it is Mayor Ash. Her impact in our community, especially within the business community has been profound. During her tenure as mayor, we have seen an expansion in the business community throughout the City of Clermont and especially with the revitalization of our downtown area.

It is my sincere hope that you will consider Mayor Ash for the great honor of being inducted into the Lake County Women's Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,

  
David B. Colby  
President & CEO  
South Lake Chamber of Commerce



## 2) Resume

## Resume of Gail L. Ash

**City Council:** Mayor Gail Ash was elected mayor in November 2014. She previously served on the City Council from 2002-2005 and on the Clermont Planning & Zoning Commission in 2007, 2008 and 2013.

**Occupation:** Ash is a retired educator who taught elementary school for 32 years; she was the first college graduate in her family.

**Boards, Committees, Memberships:** She formerly served as a board member of Project Head Start, as well as being a member of the Lake-Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization, South Lake Transportation Task Force, South Lake Regional Water Initiative Committee, Central Florida Leadership Congress representing all Lake County cities, and the South Lake Chamber of Commerce. Since becoming mayor, Ash has served on the board of the Lake Apopka Natural Gas District, as well as on the Homeless Task Force. She also served as president of her former neighborhood, Kings Ridge, one of the largest active retirement communities in Clermont, and on its master board.

**Accomplishments:** Under Ash's leadership, the City of Clermont rebranded from Gem of the Hills to Choice of Champions in 2014, adopted its award-winning Downtown-Waterfront Master Plan in 2015 and is seeing the revitalization of the Downtown District. She also voted for the annexation of the 250-acre Olympus project, which has plans for world-class sports and medical facilities, hotels, shops, restaurants and short- and long-term housing expecting to bring over five thousand jobs. She requested and approved the city's first ever Clermont Youth Council. She holds monthly Coffee with the Mayor events at a different business each time to be available to the public and educate them about new businesses, events, master plan updates and more. She also regularly engages with citizens at the twice-yearly Citizens Academies put on by the city. She has been a strong advocate for affordable housing, supporting the first affordable housing community opened in decades, Woodwinds. She was responsible for bringing fireworks to Clermont's 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebrations.



### 3) Articles

- a. "First-ever Woman Mayor Takes Reigns of Lake's Biggest City" – *Orlando Sentinel*
- b. "Getting to Know Gail Ash: Running in a 3-Way Race for Mayor of Clermont" – *South Lake Tablet*
- c. "Meet Clermont's Mayor: Gail Ash" – *Clermont Neighbors*
- d. Social media posts showing Mayor Ash participating in events around the community – *City of Clermont Government Facebook Page*

# First-ever woman mayor takes reins of Lake's biggest city



Clermont Mayor Gail Ash, pictured on Tuesday, January 20, 2014, becomes the first woman mayor of Lake's largest city. She defeated council member Rick VanWagner in the November election. Tom Benitez/Orlando Sentinel. (Tom Benitez, Orlando Sentinel)

CLERMONT — Gail Ash, the first woman to serve as mayor in Clermont, said she is bringing a woman's "broader view" to the job.

Ash, 71, took the seat in a November election against City Council member Rick VanWagner and is leading Lake's largest city with about 31,745 residents.

"Women take on so many responsibilities at home besides working," Ash said. "We're not just job orientated."

Ash, who served on the council from 2002 to 2005 and on the Planning and Zoning Commission in 2007, 2008 and 2013, said she was pleased to see another woman, Diane Travis, also elected to the council.

Former mayor Hal Turville said he's known Ash for quite a while. They served on the council together.

"She's going to make an excellent mayor," said Turville, who was mayor for 16 years. "She has all the attributes of what I think it will take to do a good job. She's

tenacious. She'll hang in there to make sure to do her very best to have it be right."

First on her agenda is to get reacquainted with the residents of Clermont by being available to them in informal meetings. A program called "Coffee with the Mayor" is scheduled to start in Clermont cafès and restaurants in March.

"I think sometimes residents feel that city government is above and beyond them, unless it has something to do directly with them," she said. "This will open up a forum where they can come and talk about their concerns and issues."

Ash said she is concerned about urban sprawl and about Cemex Construction Materials' request to the county to open a sand-mining facility just south of Clermont.

"The whole point of that sector is residential and light commercial," she said. If approved, the company "would be having heavy trucks coming in and out 24/7." She said that would be detrimental for the city.

On a positive note, Ash said, "We're growing by leaps and bounds just in our own boundaries." There's the 219-acre park at Hiawatha Preserve, which opened its first phase of 15 acres in November and the 69,000-square-foot Clermont Arts and Recreation Center on U.S. Highway 27 that began welcoming the public in June. The Clermont Boathouse at Waterfront Park is to open later this month, followed next month by the splash pad for young children. The second phase of the Hiawatha Preserve project is to be finished in June.

Ash was born in New York City and earned both her bachelor of arts degree and master's in education from Hunter College in Manhattan. She taught elementary school for 32 years on Long Island and retired in 1996.

Ash said she left Long Island, where the cost of living is expensive and made her way to King's Ridge in 1998. When she resigned from the council in 2005, it was to return home to care for ill and aging family members. She stayed for three years, then returned to live at Heritage Hills in 2011.

"I missed it so much. I didn't like all the snow and ice after living in Florida for 10 years."

<https://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/lake/os-lk-new-clermont-mayor-gail-ash-20150221-story.html>

## Getting To Know Gail Ash: Running In A 3-Way Race For Mayor of Clermont

*Gail Ash Is More Than A Mayor, She Is The First Woman Mayor Of  
Clermont!*



Mayor Gail Ash is probably the busiest political figure in Clermont. She is seen at most city events, new business openings, as well as her monthly Coffee with the Mayor.

The retired teacher of 32 years hasn't lost her feisty disposition... but there is no doubt, she cares about her community.

Ash was born in New York City and earned both her bachelor of arts degree and master's in education from Hunter College in Manhattan. She taught 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grade elementary school students in the Hicksville School District on Long Island until she retired in 1996.

I was able to catch up with the Mayor and ask her to tell the readers a little about herself.

**TABLET:** What made you decide to move to Clermont?

**Gail:** When I retired in 1996, I couldn't afford to live on Long Island. In 1998, I got on I-95 and headed south. I stopped wherever I saw signs for new developments. I wanted a new "senior" development, near a large city, with low taxes & cost. I stopped multiple times, to no avail. I ended up in Leesburg, where relatives lived. At that point, I have given up hope and was heading back north, planning on trying another time. Then, I saw a billboard for Kings Ridge. I figured, "What's another 22 miles?" Kings Ridge turned out to be exactly what I was looking for, plus it was located in the middle of the state and the homes were concrete construction, both factors lowering the chances of damage from hurricanes.

**TABLET:** It didn't take you long before you entered the Clermont political arena? Why?

**Gail:** Once I moved to Clermont, I wanted to find out more about the city that was so very different from New York and Long Island. I started attending council meetings. I didn't agree with some decisions that were being made so rather than just gripe, I decided to run for a seat on the council and thereby impact decisions. I was elected in 2002 and 2004.

**TABLET:** You resigned from the council in 2005, to return home to care for aging family members. After three years, you returned to live at Heritage Hills and, once again, got involved ... first serving on the Planning and Zoning Commission and then becoming the *first woman mayor of Clermont*.

Becoming the first woman mayor inspired many young women. That is, indeed, a shining accomplishment. What other projects are you most proud of?

**Gail:** The projects I'm most proud of are getting fireworks in Clermont at the July 4th celebrations and the revitalization of the downtown district, with the Victory Pointe project and other improvements that will be coming in the next few years included in the Master Plan.

I am also a member in the MPO, Orlando-Central Fla. Leadership Congress, Homeless and Hurricane Task Forces, Lake Apopka Gas Board and the Mayors/Managers Coalition.

**TABLET:** There must have been someone or something who sparked your interest in public service.

**Gail:** At the end of my first year of teaching, the senior teacher at my grade level **told** me that I was going to be my school's union representative the next year. That was the start of my 31 years of union activities. I served as a representative, officer, and negotiator.

**TABLET:** Do you have any future goals?

**Gail:** I am, once again, running for Mayor and if re-elected, I want to see the implementation and completion of the city's Master Plan and its future impact on the lakefront/downtown and thereby the city, as a whole.

**TABLET:** It's obvious that Clermont keeps you busy but do you have any hobbies or interests besides your duties as Mayor?

**Gail:** I enjoy playing bridge and doing needlepoint.

**TABLET:** Everyone has a "superhero"; a larger than life inspiring character. Who is your favorite superhero?

**Gail:** My favorite "superhero" is Amelia Earhart. Her love of flying pushed her into a career/life dominated by men. She made inroads for women in aviation and elsewhere. She was a "real life superhero!"

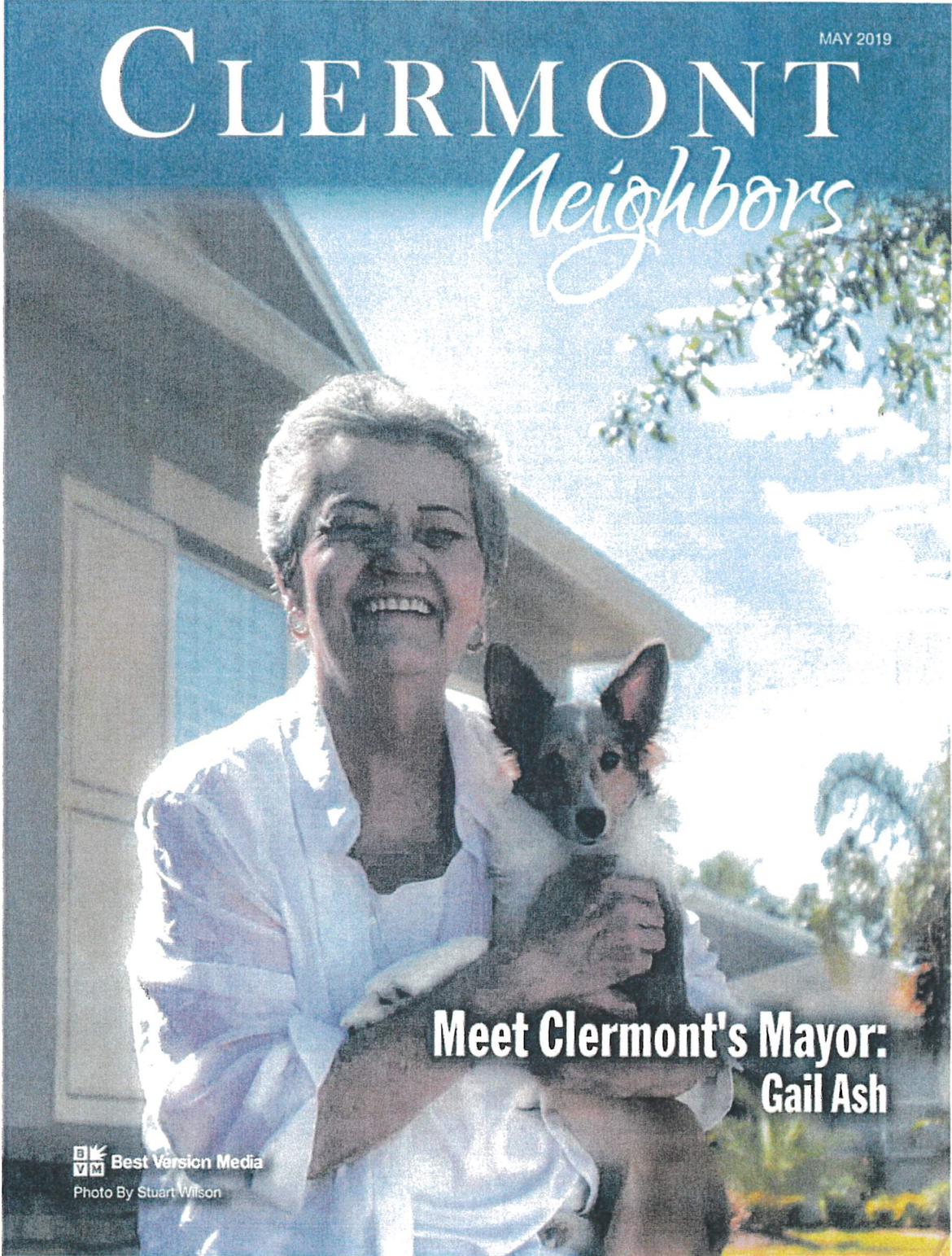
**Get to know the candidates and vote. The primary election will be held on August 28 and the general election on November 6.**

<https://sltablet.com/2018/08/16/getting-to-know-gail-ash-running-in-a-3-way-race-for-mayor-of-clermont/>

# CLERMONT

MAY 2019

## *Neighbors*



**Meet Clermont's Mayor:  
Gail Ash**

 Best Version Media  
Photo By Stuart Wilson

RESIDENT FEATURE



# Meet Clermont's Mayor: **GAIL ASH**

BY KATHRYN DEEN

PHOTOS BY STUART WILSON

Clermont Mayor Gail L. Ash resides in the picturesque senior community of Heritage Hills.

The retired school teacher's calendar is packed with meetings, ribbon cuttings and community events across the county.

"I love what's happening in our city," Gail said. "I love being a part of it."

When she's not wearing her mayor hat, she's recharging at home. She finds joy playing with her puppy, hosting family and doing needlepoint.

Her journey to Florida began a little over two decades ago. On a visit from Long Island to see family in Leesburg, she saw a billboard advertising Kings Ridge in Clermont.

Ash was impressed with the 55+ development and the daily activities that were offered.

"Seniors could stay, grow and thrive in – all Clermont," Gail said.

She ended up buying a house there in 1998. She recalls that Clermont's hospital was "maybe as big as my whole house," shopping meant a trip to Orlando, and the population was under 8,000.

"We had more students in our school district on Long Island," said Gail, who taught elementary school there for 32 years.

Now, Orlando Health South Lake Hospital's campus spans 160 acres, hundreds of shops have opened, and Clermont has about 39,000 residents.



As a resident, Gail appreciated Kings Ridge's recreation, finding time to make ceramics, do water aerobics and play bridge.

"I had great times in Kings Ridge," Ash said. "I made lots of friends and had so much fun."

Always looking to contribute to her community, she soon became president of her neighborhood and served on the master board. Gail also started attending Clermont City Council meetings to stay informed about her new city. That's no surprise since she was involved in leadership as a union officer and negotiator with the school district back in New York.

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At Orlando Health South Lake Hospital, we take pride in delivering quality healthcare to the communities of Lake County. Our 180-acre campus offers everything from an accredited Chest Pain Center and Center for Women's Health to orthopedics, sports training, rehabilitation and more. When it comes to offering the best possible care for you and your family, we've got you covered.

ORLANDO HEALTH | South Lake Hospital

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100 INSPIRING A NEW CENTURY

"I wasn't exactly quiet," she said. "I didn't like the decisions being made, so I ran for the council."

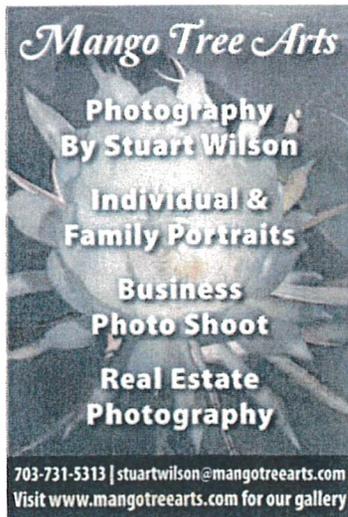
Running against the late "grand dame of Clermont" and South Lake Press owner Ann Dupce was no easy feat, but Ash won and was elected as a council member in 2002 and again in 2004.

In 2008, Gail moved back to New York to take care of ailing family for a few years. She eagerly moved back to Central Florida in 2011, landing this time in Heritage Hills. She was attracted to the newness of the community and was happy to find a move-in ready home.

Running for office again, Gail became Clermont's first female mayor in 2014 and has held the title ever since. No stranger to paving the way, she was the first college graduate in her family.

"I liked the vision City Manager Darren Gray had for the city and I totally agreed with it," Gail said. "It's exciting to see it happening."

The council adopted the Master Plan in 2015 to reinvigorate Clermont's charming Downtown-Waterfront District, shortly after rebranding the city to "Choice of Champions." This logo is going to become even more meaningful when the pending Olympus Project gets under way. Olympus, a 250-acre project, has plans for world-class sports facilities, hotels, shops, restaurants and housing.



*Mango Tree Arts*  
**Photography**  
**By Stuart Wilson**  
**Individual & Family Portraits**  
**Business Photo Shoot**  
**Real Estate Photography**  
703-731-5313 | [stuartwilson@mangotreearts.com](mailto:stuartwilson@mangotreearts.com)  
Visit [www.mangotreearts.com](http://www.mangotreearts.com) for our gallery



"The number of athletes we have training here is phenomenal, and that will be a specific part of our city designed for athletes," she said. "We already have major national companies wanting to reserve space there."

As she looks ahead as mayor, Gail is most enthused to see the changes taking place in Clermont.

"We've come a long way in a very short period of time," she said. "We have a lot to be proud of."

Back in her neighborhood, Heritage Hills has an incredible overview pavilion, and

Gail is a frequent visitor to unwind. By day, she brings her Sheltie, Skye, and enjoys the sunshine, breeze and view for miles. By night, she wows visitors there with Disney fireworks dancing across the night sky.

A social butterfly, Gail often stops in the club house for Friday night socials and drops in on bridge club meetings.

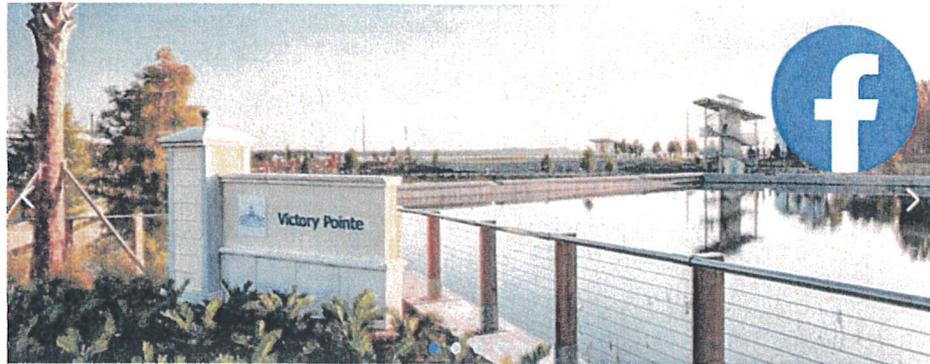
"Everyone's gathered around the tables, neighbors and friends," she said. "We truly have a wonderful community here."

And Gail certainly is a major reason for that.



City of Clermont  
Government  
@CityOfClermont

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## Social media posts showing Mayor Ash participating in events around the community

- Meeting with VIPs



City of Clermont Government

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Published by Kathryn Deen (?) · February 19 ·

U.S. Representative [Ross Spano](#) stopped by City Hall today to visit with Clermont Mayor Gail Ash and City Manager Darren Gray. They discussed the big projects happening in Clermont, including the Master Plan and Olympus. #CityOfClermont #ChoiceOfChampions



- Hosting Monthly Coffee with the Mayor Discussions at Local Businesses



City of Clermont Government

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Published by Kathryn Deen (2) · August 1 ·

#ThrowbackThursday to Clermont Mayor Gail Ash's July Coffee with the Mayor at the new Clermont Brewing Company in Downtown Clermont. What a great group! The August Coffee & Conversation with Mayor Gail Ash is set for 10 a.m. Aug. 17 at The Outpouring, a new coffee shop in Hancock Village that supports local and international causes. #CityOfClermont #ChoiceOfChampions #Clermont #CoffeeWithTheMayor



- Educating Youth About Clermont



City of Clermont Government

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Published by Kathryn Deen [?] · October 11, 2016

Mayor Gail Ash visited first-graders at Lost Lake Elementary to talk about what makes Clermont special.

A couple highlights:

- ★ We have incredible hills, on which athletes like to train.
- ★ We're at the halfway point from the east and west coasts of the state.

The kids also thought it was cool that Mayor Ash is the first woman mayor in Clermont!



- Participating in Charitable Events



City of Clermont Government



Published by Kathryn Deen [P] · April 15 ·

RECAP: Clermont Mayor Gail Ash participated in a charitable fashion show this weekend by Women for Hospice, Cornerstone Hospice & Palliative Care at Mission Inn Resort and Club. She is pictured second from left.

#CityOfClermont #ChoiceOfChampions  
#ClermontChampionsForHospice



- Inspiring Young Girls



City of Clermont Government

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Published by Kathryn Deen 171 - October 31, 2018

Today was a very special day for 9-year-old Andy. She got a surprise visit from Mayor Gail Ash at her classroom at South Lake Montessori School.

That's because Andy chose to dress up as Mayor Ash for the school's assignment to present on your favorite role model in history. Mayor Ash lent Andy one of her very own name badges to wear for the day!



- Showing Care for Animals



City of Clermont Government

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Published by Kathryn Deen (2) · March 11 ·

Clermont Mayor Gail Ash and City Manager Darren Gray recognized a four-legged Champion today 🐶 Beefy the pug's story has gone viral and stolen hearts across social media globally. ❤️ <https://bit.ly/2EQIU6W>  
#CityOfClermont #ChoiceOfChampions #ClermontChampionCanine





Nominee's name: Lou Buigas

Address: 110 E. lanthe St., Tavares, FL 32778

Phone: 352-205-5992

Resident of Lake County since: 2006 (minimum of 10 years required)

Date of Birth/Death: b: March 21, 1962

Submitted by (Name/Address/Phone):

Erika Buigas Rogers

2470 Ann Rou Rd. Unit 707, Tavares, FL 32778

954-562-8654

Relationship to nominee: Daughter

Reason you are nominating this person: \_\_\_\_\_

Lou Buigas made Lake County her home well over a decade ago, and since then she has been contributing to her community tirelessly. She has owned multiple businesses, served on numerous boards, and just last year became the FIRST Hispanic woman elected to a position in Lake County when she was elected to the Tavares City Council.

Criteria:

- Nominee must have made significant contributions to the improvement of life for all citizens of Lake County.
- Nominee must have made a significant contribution in the field of art, agriculture, athletics, business, community service, environment, government, health care, humanities, philanthropy or science/education
- Nominee must have been born in or adopted Lake County as her home. Nominee may be living or dead.

Please attach a brief summary defining the nominee's accomplishments in one of the fields above. Do not include accomplishments that were achieved outside Lake County. Cite any awards, honors or commendation they may have received. Newspaper articles, letters, resumes, etc. are all acceptable forms of recognition. If no information is included other than the application form, it will not be considered. Petitions are not accepted.

Completed forms will be submitted to the Women's Hall of Fame Committee. Deadline for submissions is **September 21, 2020.**

Lake County Women's Hall of Fame  
Board of County Commissioners  
PO Box 7800  
Tavares, FL 32778-7800  
352.343.9849  
Email: [nbooth@lakecountyfl.gov](mailto:nbooth@lakecountyfl.gov)

## Lou Buigas – Lake County Women’s Hall of Fame Nominee

Lou Buigas is no stranger to hard work. As a first generation American, the daughter of Cuban immigrants, she has known all her life that finding and fostering the “American Dream” is no easy feat. Since Lou and her family relocated to Lake County over a decade ago, she has been dedicated and has tirelessly served her adopted community. Her “day job” as a licensed General Contractor is only one small part of her daily “To-Do List.” Along with serving on numerous Board of Directors around the county, such as the Tavares Chamber of Commerce, Lake County Museum of Art (formerly Lake Eustis Museum of Art), Boys and Girls Club of Lake County and the Tavares Historical Society, and the Tavares Planning & Zoning Board. (Upon her election to serve on the Tavares City Council she resigned from the Tavares Planning and Zoning Board where she served for 3 years.) Along with these volunteer positions, she is also a 2015 graduate of Leadership Lake and is a member of the Lake 100. Mrs. Buigas successfully brought the Lake Eustis Museum of Art to Downtown Tavares at a time when it was struggling financially, drawing a crowd of over 400 to its June 2019 re-opening. In November 2019, Lou Buigas became the first Hispanic female to win any elected office in Lake County upon her election to the Tavares City Council. In addition to this small selection of her accomplishments and endeavors, Lou Buigas has also been married to her husband, George, for nearly 40 years, is a greatest mother Erika has ever had, and above all else, is “Momma” to her 3 beloved grandkids- who already think she’s a hall of famer, they just want to make it official.

EUSTIS — After nearly a quarter century in operation, the Lake Eustis Museum of Art will relocate to Tavares in an exodus from a city-owned building brought about by money woes.

“We’ve been struggling financially for a long time,” Lou Buigas, chairwoman of the board of directors of the group that sponsors exhibits and offers art classes in the museum at 1 W. Orange Ave., said Friday. “We’re not feeling the love, so we’ve got to go where we feel the love.”



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ADVERTISING

The museum will occupy 1,692 square feet in the lobby of one of the Key West Resort hotels in downtown Tavares, at 213 W. Ruby St., under an agreement with the Herbert Lehner Charitable Trusts, owner of the building.

The museum will have a new name, Buigas said, but she wasn’t sure what it might be.

Regarding whether it's a loss for Eustis, LeHeup-Smith said, "it's still Lake County and it's still here to enrich our communities."

Tavares, meanwhile, is thrilled to get the museum, partly because the city is "lacking that piece — arts and culture," said Tamera Rogers, the city's director of Community Services and Parks & Recreation.

"It's down near the water, a very nice location, a lot of activity, a lot of night life," she said. "It should do well for them."

Buigas called the impending move a "rebirth" for the museum. Over the next three weeks, volunteers and board members will pack up the operation in Eustis and begin building some movable walls and a classroom space in Tavares.

D.J. Varon of Mount Dora, who manages the assets of Lehner's trust, said the museum "took possession" of its new home Friday.

"They have their bathrooms, electric, drywall and that's it — it's a blank canvass," she said.

Buigas said she began negotiating with Eustis about 14 months ago over problems with the Orange Avenue building. Among the problems was that the floor was not level, which Neibert said will have to be dealt with before the city seeks proposals from new prospective tenants.

"It's certainly an attractive location," he said of the site near Lake Eustis.

The Lehner trusts were created about three years ago, Varon said, to distribute the "profits" from the three hotels. Among other donations to official charities are scholarships for students graduating from Tavares High School.

## Lou Buigas

Council Member

Council Seat #2

Current Term: November 2019 -  
November 2021

### Serves on the following Boards and Committees:

Tavares/Mount Dora/YMCA Trail  
Horizon Team

West Main Street Gateway Horizon  
Team

Lake County League of Cities -  
Alternate

Lake County Metropolitan Planning  
Organization Technical Advisory  
Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee

Lake County Metropolitan Planning  
Organization Governing Board  
Member Alternate



Lou Buigas  
Council Member  
[Email](#)

201 E. Main Street  
Tavares, FL 32778

Ph: (352) 205-5992

## Biography

Lou Buigas is a licensed building contractor and has been deeply involved in the City of Tavares for many years. She has served on several Board of Directors including the Tavares Chamber of Commerce, Lake County Museum of Art, Boys and Girls Club of Lake County and Tavares Historical Society. Upon being elected to serve on the Tavares City Council she resigned from the Tavares Planning and Zoning Board where she served for 3 years. Mrs. Buigas is a 2015 graduate of Leadership Lake and is a member of the Lake 100. In addition, Mrs. Buigas is the first Hispanic- American female to win any elected office in Lake County.

nary 2020: Meet candidates running State House Distri...



'Sorry to burst the magic bubble' says Florida lawmaker of...



Lake Schools to make Chromebooks free for all



Survivors mark 75th anniversary of world's 1st nuke attack



Florida History: Ghosts, car races and more in Sebring



# County recognizes first Hispanic public leaders



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### MOST POPULAR

**1** Play Life, Live Games column: DC FanDome reveals new games in Bat-universe  
Aug 27 at 10:56 AM

**2** Cruise around Ohio sculpture park via 'art cart'  
Aug 27 at 9:46 AM

**3** Tinseltown Talks column: After tying



▲ HIDE CAPTION

Tavares Councilwoman Lou Buigas, left, and Former Mascotte Councilman/Mayor Feliciano "Felix" Ramirez, on Tuesday, were

ry 2020: Meet  
ndidates running  
ate House Distri...



'Sorry to burst the  
magic bubble' says  
Florida lawmaker of...



Lake Schools to make  
Chromebooks free for  
all



Survivors mark 75th  
anniversary of world's  
1st nuke attack



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Official proclamations on behalf of the county and letters from Congressman Daniel Webster's office attested to the fact that Felix Ramirez and Lou Buigas are indeed the first-ever Hispanic male and female to serve as elected public officials in Lake County.

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TAVARES – County Commissioners on Tuesday honored Lake's first Hispanic elected officials.

In November 2019, city elections resulted in Lou Buigas, a successful businesswoman having been elected to the Tavares City Council.

City officials recognized Buigas as the first Hispanic woman ever elected to serve the city, but her camp wondered whether she was the first Hispanic woman to land a seat as an elected official countywide.

Buigas conferred with former Mascotte Councilman and Mayor Feliciano "Felix" Ramirez on the matter since he was previously declared by Mascotte officials as that city's first-ever Hispanic elected official.

On Tuesday morning during a County Commission meeting, suspicions that their achievement stretched countywide were confirmed.

Official proclamations on behalf of the county and letters from Congressman Daniel Webster's office attested to the fact that Ramirez and Buigas are indeed the first-ever Hispanic male and female to serve as elected public officials in Lake County.





Nominee's name: Cathie Catusus

Address: 34200 Positano Court, Sorrento, FL 32776

Phone: 407-760-1396

Resident of Lake County since: October 20, 2009 (minimum of 10 years required)

Date of Birth/Death: October 6, 1970/TBD

Submitted by (Name/Address/Phone):

Harry Fix

1702 Paradise Drive, Kissimmee, FL 34741

407-742-0294

Relationship to nominee: friend

Reason you are nominating this person: For Mrs. Catusus founding of and continued leadership in the Adopt-a-Lake Program which has been serving the citizens of Lake County since 2008.

---

Criteria:

- o Nominee must have made significant contributions to the improvement of life for all citizens of Lake County.
- o Nominee must have made a significant contribution in the field of art, agriculture, athletics, business, community service, environment, government, health care, humanities, philanthropy or science/education
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## Cathie Catusus contributions to the citizens of Lake County . . .

Employed by Lake County BCC since December 1996 and made Lake County home in October 2009.

Adopt-a-Lake Program founded by Cathie Catusus in 2008. Designed to encourage volunteers to help protect, preserve and restore Lake County's waterbodies. Cathie has served as the Program Coordinator since the program's inception. Since the program's inception in 2008:

- 2,706 water quality samples have been collected by volunteers and analyzed by the Lake County Water Lab
- 13,635 pounds of litter have been removed from Lake County waterbodies
- 64 miles of fishing line have been removed from Lake County waterways
- 138 educational presentations about water quality, shoreline protection, stormwater run-off and many other topics have been presented to over 14,000 participants which include many school children and teachers
- Total volunteer hours from the AAL Program and Lab Volunteer program – 12,775
- Numerous shoreline restoration projects

AAL Program received the Adopt-a-Waterway award in 2018 from Keep Florida Beautiful, received the Dr. Daniel Canfield Volunteerism Award in 2018 from the Florida Lake Management Society and received a National Community Improvement Award (End Littering) from Keep America Beautiful in 2018.

Created the AAL Calendar contest in 2010 to engage the community in showcasing and protecting Lake County's beautiful waterbodies. Over 3500 calendars have been distributed throughout the county and even out of state

As the Supervisor of Lake County's Water Laboratory – have educated citizens, realtors, and lenders on drinking water quality and what to test their water for

Volunteered at both MDMS and MDHS in their athletic departments as a volleyball scorekeeper.

Volunteered in many officer positions (President, Secretary, VP of Education, VP of Marketing, Treasurer, Area Governor) with the Lake Toasters Toastmasters club. Was a member of Lake Toasters from 2008 through 2019 and achieved 2 Distinguished Toastmaster designations. Served as a mentor to the Leesburg Toastmasters Club and the Golden Triangle Toastmasters Club.



Nominee's name: CAROL CLENDENIN

Address: 1001 Dundee Circle, Leesburg, Fl. 34788

Phone: 352-343-5448

Resident of Lake County since: 1969 (minimum of 10 years required)

Date of Birth/Death: 3/18/41

Submitted by (Name/Address/Phone):

Sherry Olszanski

P.O. Box 491000

Leesburg, Fl. 34749

Relationship to nominee: PAST CO-WORKER AND FRIEND

Reason you are nominating this person: CAROL has worked her whole life to improve our community and served as an advocate for so many in need. She pulls people together through leadership for the betterment of Lake County

Criteria:

- Nominee must have made significant contributions to the improvement of life for all citizens of Lake County.
- Nominee must have made a significant contribution in the field of art, agriculture, athletics, business, community service, environment, government, health care, humanities, philanthropy or science/education
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Completed forms will be submitted to the Women's Hall of Fame Committee. Deadline for submissions is September 20, 2019.

Lake County Women's Hall of Fame  
Board of County Commissioners  
PO Box 7800  
Tavares, FL 32778-7800  
352.343.9849  
Email: [nbooth@lakecountyfl.gov](mailto:nbooth@lakecountyfl.gov)

# LifeStream

September 19, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

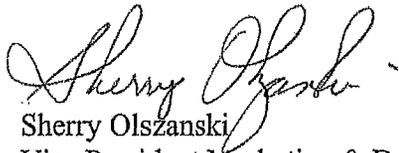
I have had the pleasure of knowing and working with Carol Clendenin for over 30 years. Carol is a dedicated, trustworthy individual who is always willing to "go the extra mile". She is diligent and can be depended upon at all times to fulfill not only her work responsibilities, but her community ones as well. Carol has always gone above and beyond to support her co-workers, friends and her community. She was the person who was instrumental in creating Leadership Lake and continues to serve on the board even in retirement. She serves on the Elder Council Board and is an advocate for our elderly.

In the early 80's, she was instrumental in helping LifeStream expand services for substance use and has always been an advocate for those that suffer with mental illness. She is like a magnet, pulling people closer together for the betterment of the community.

Her judgment, perspective and knowledge have always been key to her success and in receiving such high praise from our community and other national groups.

There is no question that Carol should be inducted into the Hall of Fame as she is truly a person who has made and continues to make a difference in our community!

Sincerely,



Sherry Olszanski  
Vice President Marketing & Development/  
Executive Director LifeStream Foundation



Nominee's name: Carol Smith Clendinen

Address: 1001 Dundee Circle Leesburg, Florida 32788

Phone: 343-5448

Resident of Lake County since: 45 years (minimum of 10 years required)

Date of Birth/Death: 3/8/41

Submitted by (Name/Address/Phone):

Susan Scott Ricci APRN, MSN, M.Ed., CNE

433 Long and Winding Road

Groveland, Florida 34737 (352) 978-1796

Relationship to nominee: Professional/personal friend

Reason you are nominating this person: Carol has worked tirelessly since she arrived in Lake County to bring people together and work toward making Lake County a better place to live and grow.

Criteria:

- Nominee must have made significant contributions to the improvement of life for all citizens of Lake County.
- Nominee must have a significant contributions in the field of art, agriculture, athletics, business, community service, environment, government, health care, humanities, philanthropy and science/education
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Completed forms will be submitted to the Women's Hall of Fame Committee. Deadline for submissions is **September 14, 2018.**

Lake County Women's Hall of Fame  
Board of County Commissioners  
PO Box 7800  
Tavares, FL 32778-7800  
352.343.9850  
Email: [nbooth@lakecountyfl.gov](mailto:nbooth@lakecountyfl.gov)

August 16, 2018

Lake County Women's Hall of Fame Committee  
Board of County Commissioners Office  
P.O. Box 7800  
Tavares, Florida 32778-7800

To Whom It May Concern:

Many local heroes go unnoticed, so it is with great pleasure that I nominate Carol Smith Clendinen to be considered for the 2018 Lake County Women's Hall of Fame in recognition of her outstanding leadership and activism within our community. It is my great honor and privilege to do so. Carol has long exemplified a level of commitment to Lake County and a voice for change that can serve as a role model to others. Lake County needs more shining stars like Carol. I offer my fullest endorsement of her nomination for this prestigious recognition.

Her impact on Lake County includes the following:

- Licensed Mental Health Counselor; Registered Nurse; Certified Addictions Specialist
- Psychiatric Hospital Administrator; Community Development Director for Hospice; Psychotherapist for Life Stream Behavioral Center; Consultant; Professional Speaker and trainer; Adjunct Instructor at LSSC for Nursing Department
- Member of Leesburg Chamber of Commerce Board for the past three years
- Member of New Life Presbyterian Church in Fruitland Park
- Member of founding group and board member for Lake County Elder Affairs since 2013
- Lake County resident for 45 years, married with three children, five step-children and numerous grandchildren
- Implemented Senior Squad group of volunteers in Scottish Highlands three years ago to help residents *age in place* offering various services and support.
- Lead monthly programs to educate seniors to take care of themselves, community resources available, and support groups if needed.
- Working with small groups and mission committees at Elder Grace Way Presbyterian Church for the past three years.
- Offer free, short-term counseling for several local churches and health care workers.
- Created People's Medical School at LSSC and lead program for six years... won state award for this initiative.
- National Speaker throughout the community on stress and wellness for the past 25 years to service, educational, church and numerous other groups.
- Presented >150 speeches locally and throughout the nation addressing the betterment of each person's mental health.
- Coordinated and chaired Leadership Lake County for five years

- Served on a multitude of Boards – American Cancer Society; March of Dimes; Hospice; Altrusia International; Leesburg Chamber of Commerce; Lake County Elder Affairs Coordinating Counsel; Children’s Commission; and Rails to Trails
- Graduate of Leadership Florida representing Lake County in 92-93
- Recipient of numerous awards: Lake County Boys & Girls Club Community service Award; Lake Toastmasters Communicator Award; Orlando Sentinel’s lake County Citizen of the Year Award; Florida Community College Association for Excellence in Education; AAUW’s Woman of Achievement.

As you can see from the list above, Carol has made a measurable impact as a passionate advocate for numerous causes within Lake County. She has encouraged and exemplified the virtue of being a good citizen; has touched or enriched the lives of others, specifically those who are vulnerable or less able to help themselves; she has shown ongoing initiative, leadership and dedication to Lake County’s various organizations; she has devoted herself to sustained and selfless voluntary service; she has earned the respect of her peers and become a role model for many; and demonstrated innovation in delivering lasting results through her service.

Carol has truly inspired others to become more involved in the community, reach out to those in need, and share their talents with those around them in order to make a positive change in Lake County. Her ability to motivate and organize others has had a lasting effect on this county and the surrounding region. I am merely one of the many lives that she has influenced positively throughout her daily life.

As the award committee can take notice, Carol Smith Clendinen is well-deserving of this honor. She is a woman of high moral value and solid character within her activities in Lake County. Lake County is certainly blessed to have a gift of her many awesome talents working within it. Carol has continuously offered her skills, knowledge, and willingness to help others through her strong volunteerism. Carol’s efforts, activism and behaviors clearly demonstrate that she is well deserving of this recognition.

Sincerely,



Susan Scott Ricci

Lake County’s Woman’s Hall of Fame 1998



Nominee's name: Cheryl Fishel

Address: Before her death, Cheryl lived at 14146 Vista Del Lago Blvd., Clermont, FL 34711

Phone: Not applicable

Resident of Lake County since: 1999 (minimum of 10 years required)

Date of Birth/Death: Born April 19, 1963. Died July 26, 2020.

Submitted by (Name/Address/Phone):

Paul Rountree, President of Project Scholars

1515 E. Highway 50, Clermont, FL 34711

407-467-0685

Relationship to nominee: Friend and professional colleague

Reason you are nominating this person: Although Cheryl Fishel passed away this summer, her impact will be felt for generations to come. Please see attachment for a full description of our reasons for nominating Cheryl.

---

Criteria:

- Nominee must have made significant contributions to the improvement of life for all citizens of Lake County.
- Nominee must have made a significant contribution in the field of art, agriculture, athletics, business, community service, environment, government, health care, humanities, philanthropy or science/education
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Completed forms will be submitted to the Women's Hall of Fame Committee. Deadline for submissions is **September 21, 2020.**

Lake County Women's Hall of Fame  
Board of County Commissioners  
PO Box 7800  
Tavares, FL 32778-7800  
352.343.9849  
Email: [nbooth@lakecountyfl.gov](mailto:nbooth@lakecountyfl.gov)



Nominee: Cheryl Fishel  
Organization nominating: Project Scholars Inc.

Project Scholars is proud to nominate Cheryl Fishel for Lake County's Women's Hall of Fame. Mrs. Fishel died this summer, leaving behind a legacy that is almost unparalleled. She spent her life helping others and is credited with taking a small barbecue contest and turning it into one of the county's most successful charities, funding almost a half-million dollars in college scholarships.

Among the nonprofit events she managed and sometimes helped create are the following:

- Pig on the Pond Community Festival
- The South Lake Chamber's Taste of South Lake
- Annual Teacher Appreciation Breakfast
- Clermont Farmers Market – to boost downtown Clermont
- City of Tavares' Planes, Trains and BBQ

Her most well-known achievement was Pig on the Pond Community Festival, which to date has helped nurture the dreams of dozens of students awarding more than \$400,000 in college scholarships.

We have many testimonials from these students sharing how the scholarships changed their lives (see attachments). Some of these students, who were academic scholars but would not have been able to attend college due to challenging circumstances, have gone on to become stars in their field. One of those is Omar Mills, who is the North American Consolidation Accountant for American Honda Motor Co.'s headquarters in Torrance, California.

Mrs. Fishel not only helped by managing the annual Pig on the Pond Festival, she helped create a mentoring program so that each of the students receiving four-year scholarships, worth \$10,000 each, would have a mentor who was a leader in the student's chosen field of studies. She was a mentor herself and kept in touch with all of the students, encouraging them and crying with tears of joy over their accomplishments.

Another of Mrs. Fishel's efforts was helping to create and manage the Annual Teacher Appreciation Breakfast that serves as a pep rally for all educators in south Lake County. She tirelessly arranged for prizes, catering, sponsorships, programming and more.

Taste of South Lake is another popular community event she led, a polished evening under the stars that combines jazz with food and wine tastings to promote local businesses.

Mrs. Fishel was creative and kind. She would often create original trophies to save money for the event organizers so that the funds could go further for the charities putting on the events. She was intentional about thanking people and organizations. After each Pig on the Pond Festival, she would personally deliver pink carnations and certificates of appreciation to sponsors. She also held an annual Sponsor Appreciation Luncheon to hand each a plaque to express gratitude for their support.

It was that kind of personal touch that grew the event to one of the largest in Lake County and earned her the South Lake Chamber's Gem of the Hills Award for her community service.

Because Mrs. Fishel worked hard to maintain relationships with the community, it was a devastating blow when she learned that she had an aggressive form of leukemia in 2019. She held onto the belief she would beat the disease and come back to keep promoting the charities she cared so much about. But that wasn't to be. On July 26, 2020, she passed away leaving a heartbroken husband, children and grandchildren, as well as a grieving community.

Enclosed with our nomination are comments from others who support our nomination as well as other documents affirming Mrs. Fishel's service to the Lake County community. We encourage you to consider Cheryl Fishel as your next inductee into the Lake County Women's Hall of Fame.

Thank you.

**COMMENTS FROM STUDENTS WHO RECEIVED SCHOLARSHIPS FUNDED BY  
CHERYL FISHEL'S EFFORTS**

"I have so much love for the Pig on the Pond Scholarship Committee. Thank you for selecting me and giving me the chance to strive toward a higher level of education. Thank you for all that you do for Lake County. You show the recipients that education is essential and help us strive for excellence in all that we do and never to give less than our very best." – *Lisa H.*

"I come from a family of six; and as my parents cannot afford to support me, I am responsible for taking care of all my educational and living costs. The Pig on the Pond Scholarship has helped me in more ways than I can express. Because of this scholarship, I am able to pursue both my undergraduate and graduate degree at the same time. This scholarship has given me time and freedom to focus on my studies and extracurriculars. I am incredibly grateful for all that Pig on the Pond has given to me and continues to provide for me." – *Elizabeth N.*

"This scholarship has been such a blessing to me. My parents made it very clear that when I graduated high school, college is on me. Meaning that it is my responsibility to pay for my own education. I look back now and I am thankful for the financial decision that they decided because it led me to this scholarship. This scholarship has given me the greatest opportunity to get my education. I believe that if I didn't have this financial help I might not be in school anymore. College is pricy but it is so worth it. I have learned so much and continue to learn things that I am going to use for the rest of my life. THANK YOU!" – *Sara H.*



# Pine Ridge Elementary School

10245 County Road 561 • Clermont, FL 34711

<http://lake.k12.fl.us/pre>

352.242.2223 phone 352.242.2818 fax

*"Personalize Realize Engage!"*



September 11, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

It is a sincere honor to write this letter in support of Cheryl Fishel's nomination for the Lake County Women's Hall of Fame. Ms. Fishel made significant contributions to improving the quality of life in Lake County, most notably related to the field of education.

During my time as assistant principal and principal of Pine Ridge Elementary, Ms. Fishel's support for education was unwavering. She was instrumental in donating computer screens for classrooms and gift baskets for school events. Her daughter, Stephanie Henry, served as a teacher at Pine Ridge Elementary and Ms. Fishel took the initiative to donate funds to support the school's Exceptional Student Education (ESE) department. In addition, she provided a booth and materials for the Kids Zone at Pig on the Pond to support our National Elementary Honor Society students in their efforts to earn volunteer hours.

While Ms. Fishel made a tremendous amount of contributions behind the scenes, what truly stands out in my mind is her work supporting the South Lake Chamber of Commerce Teacher Appreciation Breakfast. Each year as we would arrive, I would always be drawn to Ms. Fishel's energy and excitement for the event. On stage, she was working diligently to make sure the event went smoothly for thousands of educators. That morning was the culmination of many hours of preparation, including partnering with local businesses to acquire gift baskets for giveaways. On a day full of excitement and support for education, Ms. Fishel led the way. Her smile was infectious and her enthusiastic support is deeply missed. Maya Angelou once said, "If you're going to live, leave a legacy. Make a mark on the world that can't be erased." Cheryl Fishel's legacy will live on in Lake County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laine Obando".

Laine Obando  
Principal  
Pine Ridge Elementary

Lake County Women's Hall of Fame  
Board of County Commissioners  
PO Box 7800  
Tavares, FL. 32778-7800

September 1, 2020

**Re: Women's Hall Fame Nomination Support Letter – Cheryl Fishel**

It is an honor to write this letter of support for the late Cheryl Fishel's induction into the Lake County Women's Hall of Fame. I say the late Cheryl Fishel because if she were still here, she would be embarrassed by any sort of public accolades for her work in the community. She was truly a humble servant and would shy away from all the attention with a no not me attitude, there are more worthy others out there....

I met Cheryl shortly after being recruited to head up the South Lake Chamber of Commerce in 2004 and came across this oddly named event called Pig on the Pond. I learned early on how much passion she had for a program that offered scholarships to Lake County students as well as offering opportunities for a plethora of not for profits to raise funds for their various causes serving Lake County's community needs – and all anchored by wonderful barbecue cookoffs.

Over a period of time Cheryl became heavily involved in planning and managing all of the Chamber's signature events, including the annual Teacher Appreciation Breakfast where our teachers were given the red carpet treatment for a few hours before the new school year began; the Howard Stockton Memorial Golf Outing that raised funds for more student scholarships; the biennial Hob Nobs that focused attention on local, county, state, and federal elections for both the business community and citizens at large - and when we needed a person to organize the first of many Taste of South Lake food events, Cheryl unflinchingly took on that challenge too.

All this and when she was not helping the Chamber in its own not for profit mission, she was leading Pig on the Pond - her baby – as it grew exponentially in size and scope and eventually incorporated separately from the Community Foundation, its original sponsor, becoming a nearly year-round endeavor. At the same time, she also took on a larger role with the Clermont Downtown Partnership in its own events working with Lake County government and others to help create and manage a Farmers Market, still running every Sunday in downtown Clermont.

Everything Cheryl did she did with an unassuming, dedicated passion - and grace - never thinking about herself first. She was as hard-working a person as they come and there were no tasks at any events that she would assign to others that she would not have taken on herself.

Cheryl belongs alongside all the illustrious women chosen in the past – both living and deceased – who are enshrined in the Hall of Fame. Her family, who had been so supportive of her efforts over the years, would especially have the pleasure of feeling pride in knowing her legacy will live on through this recognition though she is no longer with us. I strongly urge the Committee to select her for this year's honor. I can see her shyly smiling wondering what all the fuss is about.

Ray San Fratello  
(352) 552 - 8855 cell

**Lake County Women's Hall of Fame**  
**Application**

Nominee's Name: Cheryl Fishel

Address: Lived in Clermont, now Deceased

Contact Person: Doris Bloodsworth, 407-797-9393

Resident of Lake County: 20+ years

Date of Death: July 26, 2020

Submitted by: Rosanne Brandeburg

705 Palm Ave., Leesburg, FL 34748

352-551-6416

Relationship to Nominee: Colleague - associated through LSSC and Insight Credit Union since 2002.

Reason for nominating this person:

I had the opportunity to work with Cheryl Fishel when she was the Scholarship Manager for the South Lake Community Foundation. I was the Executive Director for the Foundation at Lake-Sumter Community (now State) College for 16 years. She dedicated her life to improving the lives of students and residents in South Lake County. Over the years until her stepping down (in February 2020) from coordinating the Annual Pig on the Pond event and working with the South Lake Chamber with the Annual Teacher Appreciation Breakfast, Cheryl raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to help high school seniors pursue their dreams of a college education. Many of the scholarship recipients started their college education at LSSC. After I left the college in 2016, I became the Business Development Director for Insight Credit Union, where I continued to work with Cheryl in being a sponsor for both Pig on the Pond and Teacher Appreciation Breakfasts. In 2015, the Education Foundation of Lake County approached Cheryl to see if they could include their No Duck Left Behind rubber duckie race that had been held in Tavares as part of the Pig on the Pond and she welcomed us with open arms. Cheryl is deeply missed but her legacy will continue to go on. I humbly ask that she be selected as a recipient of the Lake County Women's Hall of Fame.

# THE NEWS LEADER



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Volume 42 No. 11 • D-R Media & Investments LLC • 637 Eighth St., Clermont, FL 34711 • Ph: (352) 242-9818 • August 5, 2020

## Cheryl Fishel, Longtime Pig on the Pond Festival Manager, Passes Away

Longtime Pig on the Pond Festival event manager Cheryl Fishel died July 26 at South Lake Hospital after a battle with leukemia. She was 57.

"Cheryl is irreplaceable," said Paul Rountree, president of the Project Scholars board of directors, the parent organization of the festival. "Her passion to make the event successful in order to fund scholarships for young people was remarkable. She was one of the hardest-working, nicest people I have ever known, and we will miss her terribly."

In 1998, Fishel and a small group started Pig on the Pond Festival as a way to fund scholarships for deserving students graduating from one of the south Lake County high schools. What started out as a small barbecue competition grew into a three-day extravaganza with a carnival, fireworks, live entertainment and large food concessions. Fishel also worked hard to get sponsors and other participants, and opened up the event to other nonprofits so that they could share in the proceeds.

It is estimated that the scholarship fund has provided more than \$600,000 in scholarships for hundreds of south Lake County students.

For many years, Fishel also managed the South Lake Chamber's Taste of South Lake and the annual Teacher Appreciation Breakfast, co-sponsored by Project Scholars and the Chamber. The breakfast provided thousands of dollars for classroom needs.

Funeral arrangements are being handled through Brewer & Sons Funeral Homes in Clermont. In lieu of flowers, Fishel's family requests that contributions be made to the Project Scholars scholarship fund at link on [www.pigonthepond.org](http://www.pigonthepond.org). Visit Project Scholars at [www.ourprojectscholars.org](http://www.ourprojectscholars.org).



## Lake County Set to Receive \$64 Million in CARES Funding

Lake County is set to receive a total of \$64 million in Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) funding, with a direct allocation of 25% (\$16 million) being made available up front, and the remaining 75% (\$48 million) only accessible via reimbursement after the initial \$16 million has been spent.

The State of Florida's distribution of up to \$1.275 billion is intended to address economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic, and Gov. Ron DeSantis announced in June that the funds will be distributed to counties that have a population below 500,000 people. All CARES Act funds information and the application, once available, will be shared on [www.reopenlake.com](http://www.reopenlake.com).

The Florida Housing Finance Corporation will provide an additional \$1,366,903 from CARES Act funds through the State of Florida Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) program. CRF program funds can be used to assist eligible residents with a variety of activities, including the following:

*CARES Funding Continued on Page 3*

## VFW Post 5277 Donates Garden

The Clermont Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5277 recently donated a raised garden to the Lakes



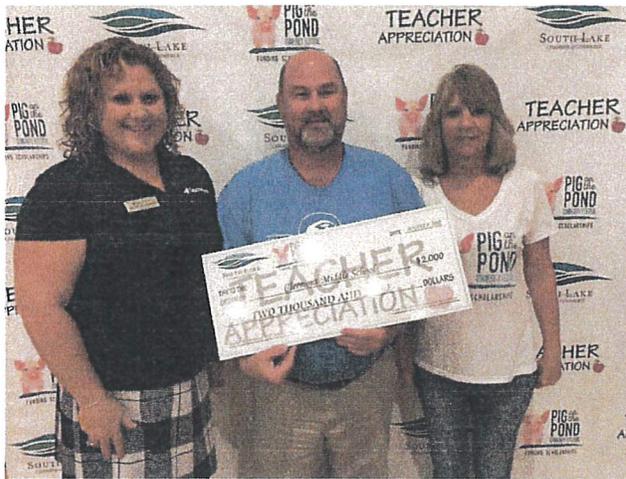
## Back to School Immunizations

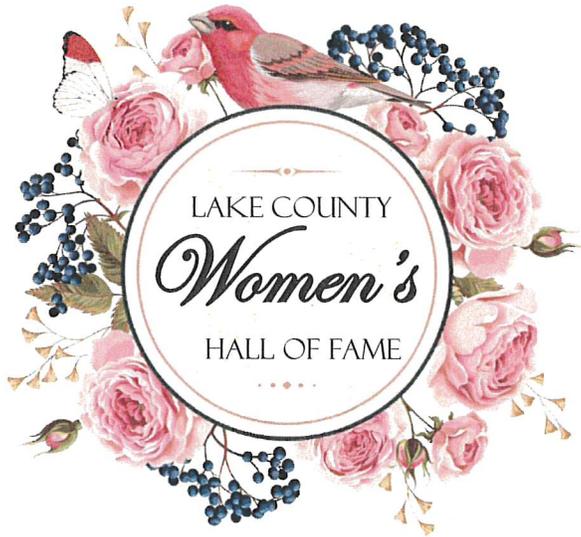
The Florida Department of Health in Lake County and Lake County Schools are conducting immunizations 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the following locations for school-age children: Aug. 6: East Ridge Middle School, 13201 Escullibur Road, Clermont 34711



# IMAGES OF CHERYL FISHEL

(In some, she is dressed up as the scholarship mascot)





Nominee's name: Cheryl Fishel

Address: (N/A: deceased)

Phone: (N/A: deceased)

Resident of Lake County since: for 21 years (minimum of 10 years required)

Date of Birth/Death: April 19, 1963 / July 26, 2020

Submitted by (Name/Address/Phone):

City of Clermont Government C/O Kathryn Deen

685 W. Montrose St., Clermont, FL 34711

352-348-1578

Relationship to nominee: The City of Clermont has worked with Cheryl as a major presenting partner of the event she ran on city property, Pig on the Pond, for almost 20 years.

Reason you are nominating this person: Through Cheryl's hard work, vision, leadership and dedication, she created and grew a legacy event for Lake County that has had a major impact on the area's youth and non-profits while fostering a sense of community.

Criteria:

- Nominee must have made significant contributions to the improvement of life for all citizens of Lake County.
- Nominee must have made a significant contribution in the field of art, agriculture, athletics, business, community service, environment, government, health care, humanities, philanthropy or science/education
- Nominee must have been born in or adopted Lake County as her home. Nominee may be living or dead.

Please attach a brief summary defining the nominee's accomplishments in one of the fields above. Do not include accomplishments that were achieved outside Lake County. Cite any awards, honors or commendation they may have received. Newspaper articles, letters, resumes, etc. are all acceptable forms of recognition. If no information is included other than the application form, it will not be considered. Petitions are not accepted.

Completed forms will be submitted to the Women's Hall of Fame Committee. Deadline for submissions is **September 21, 2020.**

Lake County Women's Hall of Fame  
Board of County Commissioners  
PO Box 7800  
Tavares, FL 32778-7800  
352.343.9849  
Email: [nbooth@lakecountyfl.gov](mailto:nbooth@lakecountyfl.gov)





## **City of Clermont Nominates Cheryl Fishel for Lake County Women's Hall of Fame 2020**

### *Supporting Materials*

- 1) Summary
- 2) Words of Support

#### **1) Summary:**

Cheryl Fishel has made significant contributions to the improvements of life of thousands of citizens in Lake County, especially non-profits and youth, through her leadership, hard work, vision and dedication creating and growing Pig on the Pond into a legacy event for Lake County.

Cheryl and a small group started the festival in 1998 as a way to fund scholarships for deserving students graduating from Lake County high schools. What started as a small barbecue grew into one of the area's largest events, a three-day extravaganza with thousands of people enjoying barbecue food, live entertainment, carnival rides, fireworks and more.

Cheryl not only managed the event but also worked hard to get sponsors and other participants. She opened up the event to other nonprofits so they could share in the proceeds. She would personally thank partners like the City of Clermont by bringing bouquets of pink carnations.

The event has been put on by Project Scholars, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization whose mission is to provide educational scholarships and other support to local students, positioning them to lead successful and impactful lives in their chosen communities.

Additionally, more than 20 local non-profit organizations participate in the festival as a means to conduct fundraising for educational purposes.

Thanks to the money that the festival made, four \$10,000 scholarships are awarded each year to students in Lake County. The festival has provided more than \$600,000 in scholarships for over 300 Lake County students since 20013.

The event has put Lake County on the Central Florida map as a regional festival destination, sparking countless economic benefits and opportunities.

Cheryl also managed for many years the South Lake Chamber's Taste of South Lake and the Annual Teacher Appreciation Breakfast, co-sponsored by Project scholars and the Chamber. The breakfast lifted spirits by including a giant pep rally for all educators in south Lake County at the beginning of the school year and provided thousands of dollars for classroom needs.

## 2) Words of Support:

- **Clermont Mayor Gail L. Ash:** "She was just relentless with what she set her mind to and it was always towards kids, so that made it even more special. She was a wonderful lady and the area is really having a loss with her gone. She was very special and had been for years."
- **Clermont City Manager Darren Gray:** "Cheryl Fishel was a Clermont Champion. She was such a great supporter of our youth across Lake County. Her death was a huge loss for our community."
- **Clermont Councilmember Jim Purvis:** "Cheryl Fishel was a special person to the City of Clermont. She worked tirelessly for years putting on Pig on the Pond. She was truly a pillar of this community and most people never knew the work that she did for this community."
- **Clermont Parks and Recreation Director Scott Davidoff:** "Cheryl Fishel was a driving force behind Pig on the Pond. Not only did Cheryl oversee the day-to-day operations of the event, but she could tell you what was happening every second from the time the first truck arrived on site to when the last garbage can was emptied. It was a pleasure to work with Cheryl and to have the peace of mind that everything would be running as anticipated. For someone who juggled so much before, during and after the event, she always had a smile on her face and kind words for those of us lucky enough to have worked with her."



Nominee's name: Cheryl Fishel

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Resident of Lake County since: 1999 (minimum of 10 years required)

Date of Birth/Death: 4/19/1963-7/26/2020

Submitted by (Name/Address/Phone):

David Colby / South Lake Chamber of Commerce

620 W. Montrose St., Clermont, FL 34711

352-394-4191

Relationship to nominee: Cheryl volunteered with the Chamber

Reason you are nominating this person: Please see attached letter.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Criteria:

- Nominee must have made significant contributions to the improvement of life for all citizens of Lake County.
- Nominee must have made a significant contribution in the field of art, agriculture, athletics, business, community service, environment, government, health care, humanities, philanthropy or science/ education
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Lake County Women's Hall of Fame  
Board of County Commissioners  
PO Box 7800  
Tavares, FL 32778-7800  
352.343.9849  
Email: [nbooth@lakecountyfl.gov](mailto:nbooth@lakecountyfl.gov)





☎ 352-394-4191

✉ office@southlakechamber-fl.com  
www.southlakechamber-fl.com

📍 620 W. Montrose Street  
Clermont, FL 34711

September 8, 2020

Lake County Women's Hall of Fame  
Board of County Commissioners  
PO Box 7800  
Tavares, FL 32778-7800

Dear Women's Hall of Fame Committee,

On behalf of the South Lake Chamber of Commerce it gives me great pleasure to write this letter in support of Cheryl Fishel's application as a candidate for the Lake County Women's Hall of Fame.

If there was a person who epitomizes what this recognition stands for and is of the caliber of citizen that has been admitted in the past to this illustrious group of Lake County leaders, promoters and champions, it is Cheryl. Her impact in our community, especially within the area of education has been profound. Cheryl co-chaired our annual Teacher Appreciation Breakfast for three years and worked tirelessly to ensure that our teachers received an exceptional welcome back.

It is my sincere hope that you will consider Cheryl Fishel for the great honor of being inducted into the Lake County Women's Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,



David B. Colby  
President & CEO  
South Lake Chamber of Commerce

**Lake County Women's Hall of Fame**  
**Application**

Nominee's Name: Cheryl Fishel

Address: Lived in Clermont, now Deceased

Contact Person: Doris Bloodsworth, 407-797-9393

Resident of Lake County: 20+ years

Date of Death: July 26, 2020

Submitted by: Rosanne Brandeburg

705 Palm Ave., Leesburg, FL 34748

352-551-6416

Relationship to Nominee: Colleague - associated through LSSC and Insight Credit Union since 2002.

Reason for nominating this person:

I had the opportunity to work with Cheryl Fishel when she was the Scholarship Manager for the South Lake Community Foundation. I was the Executive Director for the Foundation at Lake-Sumter Community (now State) College for 16 years. She dedicated her life to improving the lives of students and residents in South Lake County. Over the years until her stepping down (in February 2020) from coordinating the Annual Pig on the Pond event and working with the South Lake Chamber with the Annual Teacher Appreciation Breakfast, Cheryl raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to help high school seniors pursue their dreams of a college education. Many of the scholarship recipients started their college education at LSSC. After I left the college in 2016, I became the Business Development Director for Insight Credit Union, where I continued to work with Cheryl in being a sponsor for both Pig on the Pond and Teacher Appreciation Breakfasts. In 2015, the Education Foundation of Lake County approached Cheryl to see if they could include their No Duck Left Behind rubber duckie race that had been held in Tavares as part of the Pig on the Pond and she welcomed us with open arms. Cheryl is deeply missed but her legacy will continue to go on. I humbly ask that she be selected as a recipient of the Lake County Women's Hall of Fame.





Nominee's name: Dianne Garvis  
Address: 8711 Spyglass Loop Clermont, FL 34711  
Phone: 407-625-8236

Resident of Lake County since: 1983 (minimum of 10 years required)

Date of Birth/Death: 10/24/60

Submitted by (Name/Address/Phone):

JoAnn Nardolillo  
3601 Solana Circle, Unit D  
Clermont, FL 34711 407-616-3066

Relationship to nominee: friend

Reason you are nominating this person: Knowing Dianne is knowing someone pure of heart! After the loss of her parents, I met Dianne and learned of all her accomplishments. (Please see attached)

Criteria:

- Nominee must have made significant contributions to the improvement of life for all citizens of Lake County.
- Nominee must have made a significant contribution in the field of art, agriculture, athletics, business, community service, environment, government, health care, humanities, philanthropy or science/education
- Nominee must have been born in or adopted Lake County as her home. Nominee may be living or dead.

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Lake County Women's Hall of Fame  
Board of County Commissioners  
PO Box 7800  
Tavares, FL 32778-7800  
352.343.9849  
Email: [nbooth@lakecountyfl.gov](mailto:nbooth@lakecountyfl.gov)



I am nominating Dianne Garvis for Lake County Women's Hall of Fame for a number of reasons. Not only has she completely changed the life of my 30 year-old special needs daughter for the better, but she has positively impacted the lives of so many other individuals living in Lake County, simply from sharing the pure kindness within her heart. Dianne founded the Tiaras of Hope organization in 2015. After losing her father to a disheartening battle with cancer, then losing her mother shortly after that, she intended to share her love with others who are struggling with life in their own way. She wanted to give a very special "Cinderella moment" to kids, teens, and adults who need lifting in their spirits. My daughter, who Dianne knew only from selling her an Ariel mermaid doll online, was the recipient of one of those Cinderella moments, when she was greeted with a surprise coronation day at her place of employment last year. Dianne dressed in her Miss Florida garb and made this day one that my daughter will forever cherish. There was really no reason for Dianne to crown my daughter, but she did it solely for the purpose of bringing a smile to her face. Witnessing your child's happiness is one of the most significant and rewarding experiences a parent can cherish. Dianne gave this time and attention of herself, without expecting a single thing in return.

The more I learned about Diane, the more reasons I found to admire her giving nature. I found out that she moved to Montverde in 1983 and was crowned Miss Florida as she walked across the national stage in Nashville, Tennessee, proudly announcing that she is from this small Florida town. That Thanksgiving weekend she was crowned National America Miss and travelled the nation for a year, singing and sharing how the charming town of Montverde had welcomed and honored her with the title of Miss Montverde, trusting her to share the beauty of Lake County on a national stage.

In 2016 the Mayor of Groveland honored her with a Proclamation that November 1st is Dianne Garvis Day, for her work with Tiaras of Hope. In 2018 she sang and danced her way to winning the Mirror Ball trophy in a charity "Dancing with the Stars" event, helping to raise \$23,000 for the charity.

In 2020 Dianne, her husband, daughter and son all received their MBA's from Cornerstone Christian University. This same family unit were the ones to do a home makeover for a homeowner in need without cameras, but rather just hard work, sweat and an immense amount of love they have for people. They are an inspiration to us all.

There is no hidden agenda in Dianne's generosity, no money raised, simply a woman who has watched the world and felt she could give a glimpse of hope one tiara at a time. She will tell you the tiara is simply a symbol of hope!

I could go on and on about the many wonderful things this beautiful soul has done for the community. My heart swells with appreciation for this strong and kindhearted woman. Dianne Garvis deserves to represent the Lake County Women's Hall of Fame, a title she will bring honor to.

JoAnn Nardolillo



Nominee's name: Kimberly Grogan

Address: 518 South Disston Ave Minneola, FL 34715

Phone: 352 217 9291

Resident of Lake County since: 2004 (minimum of 10 years required)

Date of Birth/Death: 02/15/1979

Submitted by (Name/Address/Phone):

Kevin Grogan

518 South Disston Ave

Minneola, FL 34715 352 217 9290

Relationship to nominee: Husband

Reason you are nominating this person: Kimberly is owner of Dash Sports in 2 locations in Clermont; best retail (sports) in lake. she is the event director of

Clermont Parkrun that has been going on 5 years... A free 5K in Clermont. she is the founder of FloDash; an event production company that puts on not for profit races in Lake. Dash Sports has been around 15 years under Kimberly. Kimberly has also raced Ironman

Criteria:

- Nominee must have made significant contributions to the improvement of life for all citizens of Lake County.
- Nominee must have made a significant contribution in the field of art, agriculture, athletics, business Hawaii, NYC, community service, environment, government, health care, humanities, philanthropy or science/education Boston etc.
- Nominee must have been born in or adopted Lake County as her home. Nominee may be living or dead.

Please attach a brief summary defining the nominee's accomplishments in one of the fields above. Do not include accomplishments that were achieved outside Lake County. Cite any awards, honors or commendation they may have received. Newspaper articles, letters, resumes, etc. are all acceptable forms of recognition. If no information is included other than the application form, it will not be considered. Petitions are not accepted.

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Lake County Women's Hall of Fame  
Board of County Commissioners  
PO Box 7800  
Tavares, FL 32778-7800  
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Email: [nbooth@lakecountyfl.gov](mailto:nbooth@lakecountyfl.gov)





**\*first in a 2-part special series\* episode 94:  
retail expansion: the growth of a specialty  
run store**

*“Part of [what we do is] getting people to build more community with each other—bringing in the groups that are already formed and giving them a place to meet.”*

— Kimberly Grogan, founder of Dash-Sports (formerly Gear for Multisport)

Channel Mastery Podcast... go here to listen.

<https://channelmastery.com/kimberly-grogan-dash-sports-episode-94/>

## **EPISODE PREVIEW:**

An independent, specialty endurance-sports store in Clermont, Florida, is expanding from 400 square feet to 2,000 square feet.

As any specialty retailer knows, this is not a decision that's made lightly. In a two-part series, I'll be interviewing Kimberly Grogan, co-owner of Dash-Sports, to document the expansion. In this first episode, we drop in on the reasoning behind their decision to expand, why the time is now, and what strategies she and her partner/husband are employing to up the odds for success. The second will be about how the Grogans worked with their key brand partners to make a rolling, month-long grand opening a success.

The Grogans have complete focus on serving their target consumer and this show is a case study of how one specialty retailer was literally pushed by its devoted community for an expansion.

Dash-Sports (currently transitioning from its former name, Gear for Multisport) is also an excellent example of a retailer activating multiple channels toward a single goal: to engage and to be of service to its customer. Every decision they make is oriented toward providing a better experience for their consumer, and supporting and encouraging their consumers' active lifestyles. Dash-Sports turns customer lifetime value into a guiding philosophy, not just a metric.

In this episode, Kimberly and I deep dive into understanding their customer, and how service, experiences, community building efforts and event marketing have earned Dash-Sports so much devotion that its customers were volunteering to help them move! (Come on: even best friends won't do that without beer and pizza!)

The high touch retail experience doesn't end with customers. The Grogans also apply that same level of attention to the relationships they have with key brand partners. As a result, brands using every tool in their arsenal to guarantee success for Dash-Sports.

## **GUEST PROFILES:**

### **Kimberly Grogan**

Kimberly Grogan is a co-owner of Dash-Sports (formerly Gear for Multisport), in Central Florida. A lifelong runner, she ran at the collegiate level for Samford University in Birmingham, in Alabama. She has since been highly competitive in Ironman competitions, placing first overall at the Redman Ironman (Oklahoma) and first in her category at Ironman Louisville. Kimberly enjoys as many long training days as she can when she is not helping out her customers in the shop.

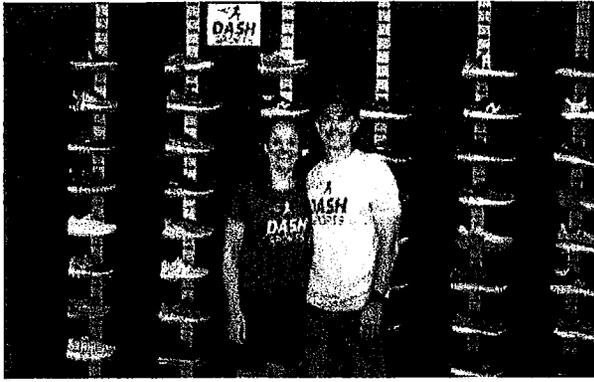
# Gear For Multisport Rebrands And Expands To Serve The Needs Of South Lake

July 11, 2019



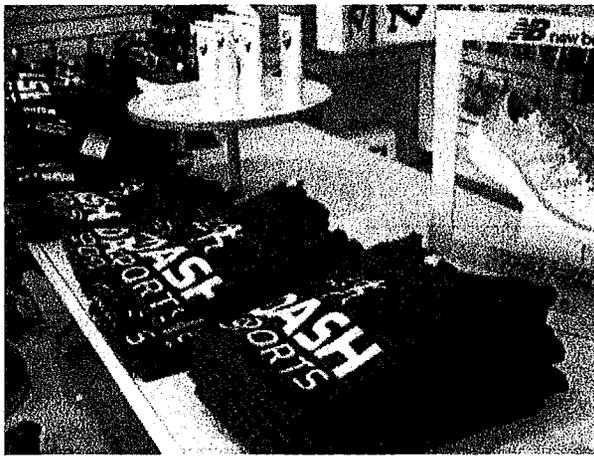
The Grogan Family

After 13 years of empowering the Clermont and surrounding the South Lake community to Live Actively, Kevin and Kimberly Grogan, owners of Gear for Multisport, announced a rebrand and expansion for their local business.



Kimberly and Kevin Grogan

On June 5, Global Running Day, the company name changed to **Dash-Sports** and expanded to two locations. The original location inside the National Training Center (NTC) in Clermont ([www.usantc.com](http://www.usantc.com)) has joined a new and expansive location at 741 West Montr ose Street in downtown Clermont.



“Our new name is symbolic of the passion that unites our growing community of multisport endurance athletes and active lifestyle devotees who we’re so proud to serve in our hometown community of Clermont and around the country,” said Kimberly Grogan, who co-founded the company with her husband Kevin in 2006.

The new name – Dash-Sports – refers to movement, with the ‘-’ representative of the span of life between birth and death. The name, Grogan said, captures the passion of the community they serve, comprised of active people dedicated to healthy living and sport.

“We love to serve our passionate athletes, whether they’re training for an Ironman, a 5k or a regular walking routine, our community counts on us to guide and support them through the well-rounded lifestyle of endurance and multisport; from training and preparation to competition to recovery,” Grogan added.

The new Dash-Sports location is an expansive, 2000-square-foot space envisioned to be the preeminent gathering place for South Lake's growing, endurance and active lifestyle community to #LiveActively.

The community can expect more events, clinics, services, and top-tier products, delivering a highly supportive experience tailored to the Florida lifestyle of the Dash-Sport community. In addition

to Brooks, Hoka, Altra, Saucony, Nike, Asics, Garmin, Aftershokz, Tifosi, Speedo, TYR, Spenco, and other quality brands, Dash-Sports will soon carry New Balance, Olukai, Groove, MySoxyFeet, and Balega.

A full recovery area, complete with self-massage and pressure recovery system tools, expanded product demo and rental opportunities, more group running and walking events, and a host of targeted training information sessions round out the offerings in the new space. Events are a big part of the Dash-Sports DNA, and the new location will serve as a hub for packet pick-up for races and multisport events.

Since 2013, the Grogans have supported the growth of the popular parkrun®, a free, weekly 5-K event. The couple also launched FloDash Events, LLC this year, with partners Amalie Skorman and Brian Boylan, to bring unique high-quality running and walking events to Central Florida.

The Grogan's existing 501(c)3 non-profit, South Lake Multisport Events (SLME), is part of Dash-Sports as well and exists to raise funds and organize support for leading endurance venues and events throughout the South Lake area. Last year SLME hosted the largest running event in South Lake County and raised funds to purchase an AED for Lake Hiawatha Park in Clermont. [www.facebook.com/Flodashevents](http://www.facebook.com/Flodashevents). Information about SLME is on the Dash-Sports website.

Additionally, Dash-Sports will be launching the convenience of an innovative locker



program for wetsuit rentals and returns, and on-to-go access to training and nutrition products, available 24-7 for the Dash Sports community.

Their current location inside the National Training Center at South Lake Hospital will remain as a swim and gym focused store. It too will be expanded to offer the specialty service of tech suit fitting and a wider variety of products in the swim and gym categories.

“We are extremely grateful for our first 13 years in business. Being a part of this active lifestyle community is part of our DNA, and our mission is to support it, so it continues to grow and thrive,” said Kevin Grogan. “We believe that the addition of this second location and our event business will allow us to spread #LiveActively to more people.”



**Grand Opening!**  
**Wednesday July 10th @Noon!**

The Grand Opening Fun spans 7 weeks!  
Each Wednesday from 4 PM - 7 PM

We will have brand reps, giveaways, try on gear, raffles, etc.

July 10th - Hoka and Garmin

July 17th - FloDash Events

July 24th - Altra, Skratch, Tifosi

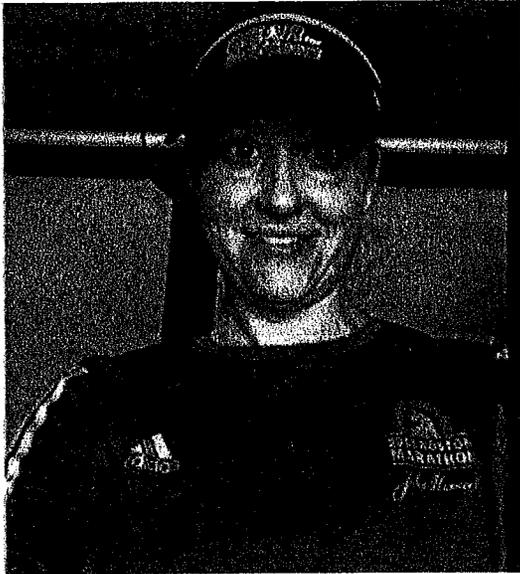
July 31st - Saucony, Aftershokz, Theragun, Body Glide, Nuun

Aug 7th - (local brands night)  
Endurance Sheild, Caterpy, My Soxy Feet

Aug 21st - Brooks

Dash-Sport store held its grand opening on Wednesday, July 10, along with a new website. The existing site will remain operational and offers an email opt-in to enable the Dash-Sports community to receive updates and information on the multi-week grand-opening festivities planned for June and July 2019. Sign up for emails here. Follow the progress with the new location on Instagram [@gear4multi](#) and Facebook, [Gear for Multisport](#).

To learn about events and races, follow FloDash Events on Instagram [@flodashevents](#) and Facebook, [FloDash Events](#).



Kimberly Grogan

The Boston Marathon has been called the Superbowl of Marathons. Runners only get in by hitting qualification standards in smaller marathons (26.2 miles). Kimberly Grogan, a local mom of two and with her husband Kevin owns and operates Gear for Multisport Athletic Store at the National Training Center.

Kimberly made her first trip to the point-to-point running event; the 2018 edition was not your typical run! This year's event had the worst weather conditions in race history; 30+ mph headwind (running straight into the wind) with frozen rain the entire way. Grogan sat down with the Tablet to reflect on the mental & physical adversity that she overcame to reach that finish line on Boylston Street in Downtown Boston.

**Tablet:** Describe race week and morning leading up to the start.

**Grogan:** Race week started when Kevin and I flew to Boston – before that is a blur of scheduling the store and kids and their activities. Hoping the weather forecast would change, I probably didn't pack everything I should have. The atmosphere in Boston on race week is awesome. The expo was the busiest place I'd seen in a long time, so I didn't spend much time there. I read and slept a lot. My last little run the day before the race left me laughing because a few times the wind and gusts shifted my feet around while both were mid-air, kind of freaky feeling. But it's Boston, so you don't worry about the weather, you face it.

**Tablet:** Conditions were harsh. Was there any part of the frigid rain or 30+mph winds that played into your favor?

**Grogan:** Last year I raced to try to qualify for Boston at DC at the Rock 'n Roll. The weather there had 30 mph winds and 30 degrees. Pace clocks were blown down all over the course, and there was a layer of ice that had formed on the top of the water cups. I thought nothing could be worse than that. I am hot natured, so I don't worry about the cold so much, but I was puzzled about what to wear to be comfortable.

**Tablet:** What will you remember about your Boston 2018 most?

**Grogan:** The collective feeling of positivity amongst the competitors even though we were all about embark on a 26.2-mile course of more unknowns for which we couldn't have prepared.

**Tablet:** What was your biggest obstacle on race day?

**Grogan:** My head once my body didn't feel great. Feet were frozen rocks for the first few miles (head: you're fine you had the same thing in DC), people are running past me in this deluge? (head: run your race and don't look at your watch), Ugh here's another gale of high gusts and extra rain (head: I wanna walk, no, you'll get to the finish line faster if you run), body tightened at about mile 16 (head: you should just quit, no you should adjust your goal from PR to qualifying for next year, just run easy, and you'll make it), watching runner's in the medical vehicles (head: don't look, but it would feel good to sit down, but you wouldn't get the medal)

**Tablet:** You trained hard leading up to the event. Was it a little tough now looking back on how the day's conditions played out?

**Grogan:** Yes, I wanted to run another marathon within a few weeks to use my fitness, but work and family obligations won't allow that to happen. Which is ok, my body was pretty tired.

**Tablet:** You've said that the volunteers were wonderful along the Boston route. As a race director, how much do you now appreciate them?

**Grogan:** I love how neither the RD nor the volunteers ever wavered in their belief that we could be better than the conditions. They never let on that we were experiencing anything abnormal. They were out there in their goulashes and GoreTex serving us all day long. Volunteers at any event understand the lifestyle and how we are all there to support each other to our goals.



**Tablet:** Describe how pro triathlete and runner Lisa Bentley helped with your Boston Marathon experience?

**Grogan:** She is a wealth of knowledge when it comes to racing and racing Boston. I was so fortunate to have her coach me and mentor me. She is an amazingly positive person, and I think if I hadn't had my 'list of assets' to draw on during the race my negative head would have won. I finished reading her recently released book, "An Unlikely Champion" the day before Boston and I drew on so much of its positivity before and during the race.

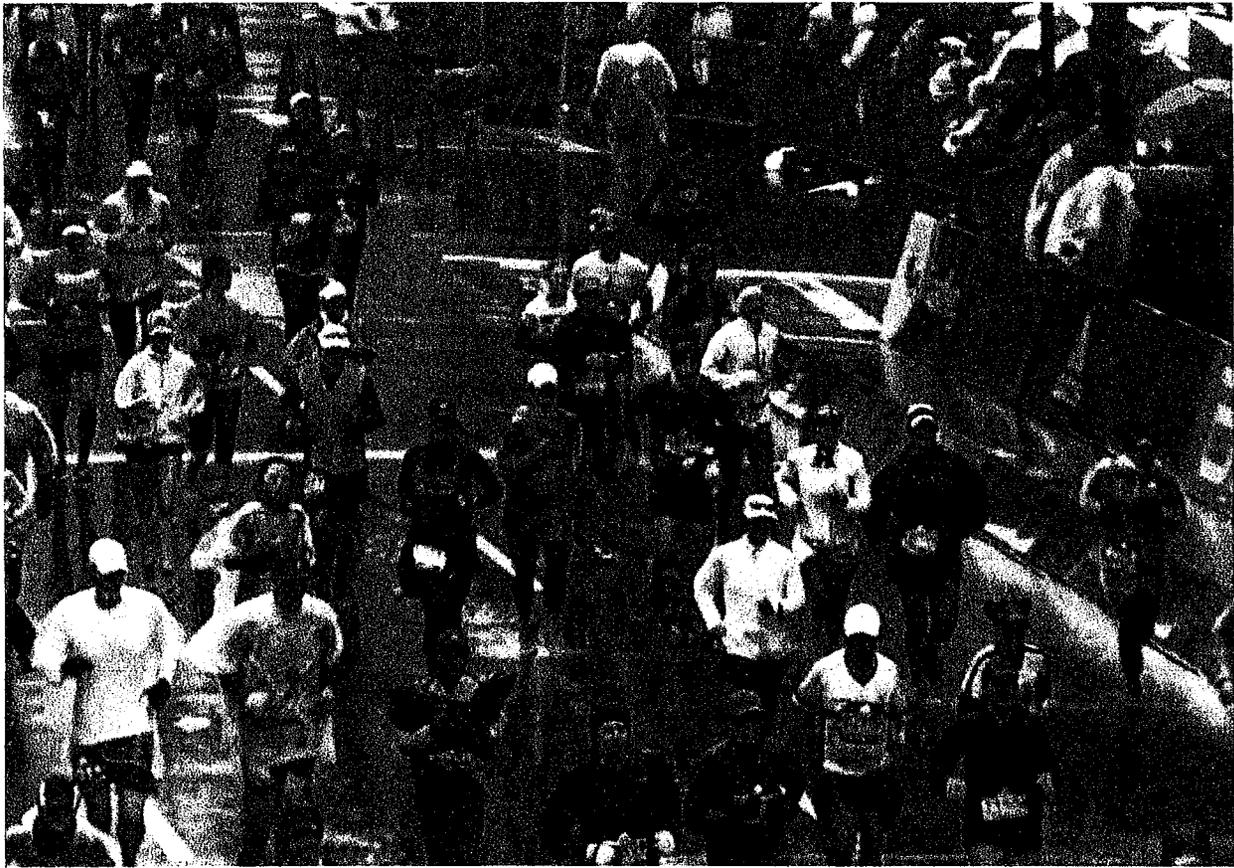
**Tablet:** On the plane back to Minneola five hours after you finish. How tough was that?

**Grogan:** It hurt. I just wanted to sleep, but anyone knows that sleep after a race is as restless as the night before because of the aches.

**Tablet:** What's next on your race radar?

**Grogan:** I will do a few running races close to home in preparation for the New York City Marathon in November.

**Tablet:** Anything else about your unique Boston '18 experience?



Boston Marathon

**Grogan:** It meant a lot to have my husband, Kevin, along on the trip. He helps me tremendously with his never quit and strong mind and helping me with the details of not forgetting anything that I need. It was also pretty cool that our 13-year-old, Gavin, had the race on the TV all morning during his homeschool and he was quite upset that they cut the feed after the pro women. He was super congratulatory when I spoke to him. Our daughter Nora, ten years old, was ready with ice packs and heating pads for me in the days after the race.

## About Kimberly...

In 2006, Kevin and Kimberly Grogan, decided to combine their passions and expertise in retail and physical education, to set up what was to become a great little business. Gear for Multisport helps people achieve their fitness goals and experience the pleasures of an active lifestyle.

Kevin and Kimberly are true fitness fans and are not only enthusiastic runners but also enjoy the triple challenge of a triathlon. Because they live the lifestyle, they know the ins-and-outs of all the major brands and products favored by athletes. They are well placed to understand the exacting needs of athletes and sportsmen alike.

It's for this reason that Gear for Multisport attracts customers from all over the country who know that they can get high-quality sports gear, unbiased expert opinions and up-to-date advice from a couple of real athletes.

Kimberly is founder of the Clermont Clay 15k

<https://runsignup.com/Race/Events/FL/Clermont/ClermontClay15K>

## Description

Run a 15K or 5k on the famous Clermont Clay loop. The event producer is South Lake Multisport Events, Inc a nonprofit created in order to raise awareness and money for running trails in south Lake County. Because of your love and support for the Clay Trail, there will be a portion of 5 Mile Road that will be turned into a dedicated dirt trail in the future. This dirt trail will have no car traffic and will have amenities which we believe will create an even better endurance venue! We do not have a timeline or many specifics at this time, but we will keep the Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/10-Mile-Clay-Loop>) updated with those details.

Thanks to the volunteer efforts of everyone involved, we've raised nearly \$54,000 year to date to put towards endurance venues in South Lake County.



Nominee's name: Stephanie C. Hicks

Address: 32145 Dewberry Lane, Sorrento, FL. 32776

Phone: 352-735-1326 cell: 352-516-2852

Resident of Lake County since: 1995 (minimum of 10 years required)

Date of Birth/Death: 10/12/1956

Submitted by (Name/Address/Phone):

Townie Page

1545 HEIM RD.

MOUNT DORA, FL. 32757

Relationship to nominee: SISTER-IN-LAW

Reason you are nominating this person: Stevie Hicks has dedicated 20

years of good cheer and hard work to TAVARES

Elementary School as Librarian! She arrives early,

stays late, works on her time off, tirelessly finding books and

activities for "her children!" She has taught countless classes

and volunteered at the library at Tavares Elem. untold hours.

Criteria:

- Nominee must have made significant contributions to the improvement of life for all citizens of Lake County.
- Nominee must have made a significant contribution in the field of art, agriculture, athletics, business, community service, environment, government, health care, humanities, philanthropy or science/education
- Nominee must have been born in or adopted Lake County as her home. Nominee may be living or dead.

Please attach a brief summary defining the nominee's accomplishments in one of the fields above. Do not include accomplishments that were achieved outside Lake County. Cite any awards, honors or commendation they may have received. Newspaper articles, letters, resumes, etc. are all acceptable forms of recognition. If no information is included other than the application form, it will not be considered. Petitions are not accepted.

Completed forms will be submitted to the Women's Hall of Fame Committee. Deadline for submissions is **September 21, 2020.**

Lake County Women's Hall of Fame  
Board of County Commissioners  
PO Box 7800  
Tavares, FL 32778-7800  
352.343.9849  
Email: [nbooth@lakecountyfl.gov](mailto:nbooth@lakecountyfl.gov)

Stephanie C. Hicks, known by her many friends and co-workers as “Stevie” has been a generous and loving citizen of Lake County for 28 years.

She has worked tirelessly for Lake County School system as Librarian for Tavares Elementary School for nearly 20 years. There she comes in early and stays late, organizes book fairs, orders countless books and has taught so many children over the years! She works during the summer during her time off, unstintingly, stacks books, tracks down borrowed volumes and provides activities for so many children.

Always cheerful and outgoing, she never misses an opportunity to help a friend or stranger in need. She taught her children to give back to the community, frequently volunteering her family's time singing at local nursing homes, donating food and toys to those in need, and attending fundraisers for organizations she believed in; such as the annual Bike-a-thon for Angel Flight.

Stevie Hicks regularly participates in blood drives, is a good friend and neighbor, and always goes the extra mile, driving out to the Lake County recycling center to drop off items not collected weekly. This lady leaves no one as a stranger; is inclusive of everyone she meets, each person is greeted with the friendliest “hello”. She spent time for many years meeting her 90 year old widower neighbor for breakfast just to keep him company. Stevie C. Hicks, Librarian and Teacher, has shown each person she has encountered over the years the true hand of friendship.

The following poem suggests some of the value of children's school librarian:

## The School Librarian

For the youngest reader bright pictures  
And short words,  
Caterpillars, moons, cats in hats, blackbirds.

For the first good readers short tales,  
Snowy days, brown bears, lots of cats, fish in pails.

For the wondering and the lonely  
Surprises of piggies, wild things for friends;  
Then something for the kids who want to know  
Where the sidewalk ends.

Dragons beckon from the shelves,  
Bratty little brothers play,  
Captains in strange giggly pants,  
Inventive little monkeys, and a pigeon  
To take you for a ride.

Then secret gardens for the brave  
And everlasting elves.  
All these she dusts, straightens, arranges on the shelves.

The minds that meet the librarian never leave bare,  
For she presents with outstretched hands,  
The sweetest, wildest, funniest, best, worlds to share.



Nominee's name: Catherine T. Hoechst

Address: 601 McDonald St. Unit 405, Mount Dora, FL 32757

Phone: 352-383-516-7745

Resident of Lake County since: 1983 (minimum of 10 years required)

Date of Birth/Death: October 27, 1948

Submitted by (Name/Address/Phone):

Alice Norford

601 McDonald St. Unit 606, Mount Dora, FL 32757

352-383-3417 cell 732-597-0888

Relationship to nominee: Mt. Dora neighbor and friend

Reason you are nominating this person: \_\_\_\_\_

Catherine (Cathy) Hoechst moved to Mount Dora in 1983, and since then has dedicated herself to community service with boundless energy, outstanding leadership skills, and a keen desire to achieve the best quality of living for the citizens of Lake County. She has worked diligently in a wide range of positions throughout our county in advocating and addressing the needs and concerns of all residents, businesses and service organizations. Through her advanced education in nursing and health administration, she has worked professionally as well as in volunteer programs in the county, and has received numerous awards for these efforts as noted on the next page. Through all this she successfully weathered a bout of cancer and also managed to keep up her compassionate endeavors, always displaying exemplary work on her part as president, board member or committed worker. Catherine is an amazing person who shines at everything she does and is always willing to do more. For these reasons, I proudly nominate Catherine Hoechst for the Lake County Women's Hall of Fame.

Completed forms will be submitted to the Women's Hall of Fame Committee. Deadline for submissions is **September 20, 2019**.

Lake County Women's Hall of Fame  
Board of County Commissioners  
PO Box 7800  
Tavares, FL 32778-7800  
352.343.9849  
Email: [nbooth@lakecountyfl.gov](mailto:nbooth@lakecountyfl.gov)

## **Catherine T. Hoechst**

### **Thirty-Six Years of Community Service in Lake County Since Moving Here in 1983**

- Worked on service projects in Lake County with Rotary Club of Mt. Dora and Kiwanis Club of Mt. Dora; served on both boards; past president and presently secretary of Kiwanis
- Christian Home and Bible School in Mount Dora. Junior Achievement Volunteer for 6 years
- Community Services Network - Past Board Member
  
- South Lake County Foundation— Past Board member
- South Lake Hospital - Management Board/Board Member 1995 to 2013, 10 yrs. as treasurer
- Mount Dora Area Chamber of Commerce. Volunteer before joining staff in 2003. President November 2003-May 2013.
  
- Mid-Florida POP Warner Football Assoc.- Past Board Member for 25 years; Coaches' Training Coordinator
- Sonnentag Theatre at the Ice House, Mount Dora. Board chair 2005-2006
- Lake County Junior Achievement, Chair of Board 2005-2006
  
- Key Club Advisor at Mount Dora High School: 2009 to present
- Lake Cares Food Pantry, volunteer and board member since 2009. Present Chairperson of Board
- Mt. Dora Citizen Police Academy graduate 2014
  
- Mount Dora City Mayor Nov. 2013- Nov. 2015
- Mount Dora City Council Woman at Large and Vice Mayor Nov. 2016-Nov. 2018
- Mount Dora Friends of the Library, Board member 2010-2018
  
- Lake Receptions Vice President Marketing - hosted numerous civic and social events for Lake County 2013-2019
- Villa Dora Management, Inc. Condominium Association, Board President 2019

### **Awards and Special Recognition**

- Lake County League of Cities: Community Service Award 2009
- Mount Dora Area Chamber of Commerce Volunteer of the Year, 1989 and 2014
- Lake Magazine Hero 2009 — as Community Volunteer
  
- Southeast Region Pop Warner Volunteer of the Year
- Top Ten National Women of the Year — American Business Women's Association
- 20 Years Volunteer Annual Certification Training for over 10,000 volunteer youth sports volunteer coaches
  
- Mid Florida Pop Warner Volunteer of the Year
- Pop Warner Volunteer of the Year - Southeast Region
- Pop Warner Southeast Pioneer - 20 Year service

CATHERINE T. HOECHST, R.N., B.S.N., M.S.H.A.  
601 N. McDonald Street, Unit 405  
Mount Dora, Florida 32757  
352-516-7749  
CathyHoechst@gmail.com

RESUME

**SUMMARY:** Business and healthcare executive with 30+ years of experience for an integrated delivery system with clinical and administrative background.  
Chamber executive with 9 years of on the job training

**EDUCATION:**

1988-1990	MASTERS OF SCIENCE IN HEALTH ADMINISTRATION	Medical College of Virginia/Richmond, VA
1985	NURSE EXECUTIVE PROGRAM	Wharton School/University of Pennsylvania
1982-1983	BACHELOR OF SCIENCE	Florida Southern College
1980-1982	JOINT PROGRAMS FOR NURSE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT	AHA and University of Illinois/Chicago
1966-1969	DIPLOMA NURSE GRADUATE	Orange Memorial Hospital School of Nursing Orlando, Florida
1962-1966	HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA	Seacrest High School Delray Beach, Florida

**CAREER  
EXPERIENCE:**

November 2016- to November 2018;	<b>Mount Dora Council woman at large; Vice Mayor</b>	520 Baker Street Mount Dora, Fl. 32757
November 19, 2013 to November, 2015	<b>Mayor, City of Mount Dora</b>	520 Baker Street Mount Dora, Fl 32757
September, 2013 to April, 2019	<b>Lake Receptions Vice President Marketing</b>	4425 N. Highway 19A Mount Dora, Fl 32757
November 1, 2003 To May 2013	<b>Mount Dora Area Chamber of Commerce President</b>	341 Alexander St Mount Dora, Florida 32757

LAKE  
COUNTY

2001 til October 2003	<b>Retired</b>	
December 1993 to December 2001	<b>ORLANDO REGIONAL HEALTHCARE SYSTEM Vice President/Chief Information Officer</b>	1414 Kuhl Avenue Orlando, Florida 32806

Page 2 does not pertain to Lake County  
Accomplishments on page 3 are noted in summary with nomination for

*This page out of county*

October 1987 to November 1993	<b>ORHS/SAND LAKE HOSPITAL</b> Executive Director/Vice President Operations	Orlando, Florida 32819
June 1983 32806 to October 1987	<b>ORLANDO REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER</b> Vice President Operations	Orlando, Florida
December 1981 to June 1983	<b>ORLANDO REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER</b> Vice President Operations/Nursing	Orlando, Florida 32806
June 1979 to December 1981	<b>ORLANDO REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER</b> Assistant Hospital Administrator/ Director of Nursing Service	Orlando, Florida 32806
October 1978 to June 1979	<b>ORLANDO REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER</b> Interim Director of Nursing	Orlando, Florida 32806
April 1977 to October 1978	<b>ORLANDO REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER</b> Associate Director of Nursing	Orlando, Florida 32806

**EXPERIENCE:**

August 1974 to April 1977	<b>ORLANDO REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER</b> Clinical Coordinator for Medical/ Surgical Nursing Units	Orlando, Florida 32806
July 1971 to August 1974	<b>ORLANDO REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER</b> Head Nurse for 60-bed Medical/ Surgical Unit	Orlando, Florida 32806
November 1970 to July 1971	<b>ORLANDO REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER</b> Assistant Head Nurse for 60-bed Medical/Surgical Unit	Orlando, Florida 32806
June 1969 to November 1970	<b>ORLANDO REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER</b> Staff Nurse/Urology Unit	Orlando, Florida 32806

**ORGANIZATIONAL  
ACTIVITIES**

**Professional**

American Organization of Nurse Executives--Past Member  
American College of Healthcare Executives--Past Member  
American Hospital Association -- Past Member  
Central Florida Healthcare Executives--Past Member  
Florida Hospital Association---Past Member  
Florida Southern Nursing Advisory Council--Past Member  
Orange County Emergency Medical Services Council--Past Member  
UCF College of Health & Public Affairs Advisory Council -- Past Member  
Valencia Nursing Advisory Committee--Past Member

**Civic**

American Business Women's Association--Past Member/Past President  
Elected "Boss of the Year" for 1989-90 by Orlando Action Chapter  
Elected "Woman of the Year" for 1991 by Orlando Action Chapter

Selected as one of the "Top Ten Women of The Year" by the  
National American Business Women's Association  
Crimeline – Past Board Member  
Junior Achievement of Central Florida—Past Board Member  
Classroom Volunteer – 23 years  
Henry Cragg Award - Outstanding Volunteer of the Year  
1998 Bowl-A-Thon Fund-raiser – Chair  
Junior Achievement Lake County Chair of Board 2005-06  
Leadership Orlando – Past Member  
Leadership Florida – Member  
Mid-Florida Pop Warner Football Association – Past Board Member for 25 years;  
Volunteer of the Year - Southeast Region  
Southeast Pioneer - 20-year service  
Coaches' Training Coordinator  
Rotary International--Lake Buena Vista – Past Member/Board  
Rotary International-- Mount Dora Club member  
South Lake County Foundation – Past Board Member  
South Lake Hospital – Management Board/Board Member 1995 to 2013;  
Community Services Network – Past Board Member  
IceHouse Theatre—Chair of Board 2005-06  
Mount Dora Kiwanis- member 2008; past President; presently Secretary;  
Key Club Advisor at Mount Dora High School: 2009 to present  
Community Service Award 2009: Lake County League of Cities  
Mount Dora Friends of the Library Board -2010 to 2018;  
Lake Cares Food Pantry Board member 2009; presently Chairperson of the Board  
Mount Dora Area Chamber of Commerce Volunteer of the Year 2014  
Mount Dora Citizen Police Academy graduate 2014  
Villa Dora Management, Inc. condominium association Board President 2019

### PRESENTATIONS/LECTURES

Florida Organization of Nurse Executives--"Nursing Shortage"  
Florida Hospital Association Small and Rural Hospitals  
Meeting: "Nursing Shortage"  
Sand Lake Hospital Community Service Program "Women and Self Esteem"  
Teleconference Panel Participant "Florida's Health Care: An Agenda  
for Change"  
College of St. Francis Masters' Program Adjunct Faculty Member  
Sand Lake Hospital Staff - "You Make a Difference" Program

### PUBLICATIONS:

HOSPITALS, October 1, 1983  
Employee Benefit News, October 1989, "Child Care Emerging as Benefit  
for 90's"



## PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, *Cathy Hoechst* served the citizens of Mount Dora as Mayor and as Vice-Mayor for a grand total of two non-consecutive two-year terms ending in November 2018. *Cathy Hoechst* has served this City with distinction, taking an active role in the accomplishment of various strategic priorities set by City Council; and

**WHEREAS**, *Cathy Hoechst* has represented the citizens of Mount Dora with poise, grace and clear communication; and

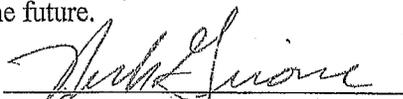
**WHEREAS**, *Cathy Hoechst* frequently indicated her appreciation for staff and the support shown even through challenging times; and

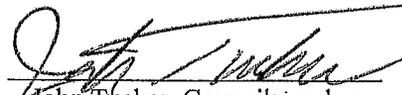
**WHEREAS**, during terms served, *Cathy Hoechst* remained actively involved with the City of Mount Dora City Council and continues involvement as a volunteer in many capacities throughout the City; and

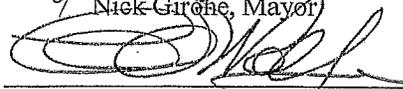
**WHEREAS**, the current City Council recognizes the valuable contributions made by *Former Mayor and Former Vice-Mayor Cathy Hoechst* to the City Council and to the City as a whole. The citizens of Mount Dora have benefited greatly from numerous projects and lists of accomplishments completed under the leadership of a City Council on which *Cathy Hoechst* served several years. Some of the projects to which *Former Mayor Hoechst* has contributed include phases of a major downtown streetscape project, implementation of aspects of the Envisioning Plan, a long term strategic plan for the City; and ongoing progress with respect to the Wolfbranch Innovation District; and

**WHEREAS**, *Cathy Hoechst* has given most generously of her time, talents, and energy to preserve the character and quality of life in Mount Dora for the benefit of all the citizens and the influence she had upon development in this City and the gracious residential atmosphere its citizens enjoy is apparent to all.

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Nick Girona, Mayor of the City of Mount Dora, and on behalf of the City Council of the City of Mount Dora, do hereby proclaim deep appreciation for the dedicated service and contributions Mrs. Catherine T. Hoechst has made during her tenure. Also, on behalf of the citizens of Mount Dora, please allow me to extend heartfelt gratitude and best wishes for continued success and happiness in the future.

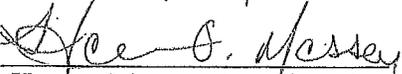
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Nick Girona, Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John Tucker, Councilmember

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Cal Rolfson, Vice-Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Marc Crail, Councilmember

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Laurie Tillett, Councilmember

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Harmon Massey, Councilmember

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Crissy Stile, Councilmember

# MOUNT DORA POLICE



## Certificate of COMPLETION

Presented to

**Catherine Hoechst**

For your participation in the Citizens  
Police Academy presented by the  
Mount Dora Police Department

October 22, 2014



*John O'Grady*

John O'Grady

Chief of Police

# Cathy Hoechst

Story by Heather Graham  
Photos by Sheri Manus and  
courtesy of Cathy Hoechst

Mount Dora  
Chamber of Commerce  
Director

**M**ount Dora resident and Chamber of Commerce Director, Cathy Hoechst, sits down and talks about what makes Mount Dora so special. Her love of this city led her out of retirement and into the Chamber where she works to promote Mount Dora's economy while helping to maintain its small town charm which she first fell in love with.

**FOCUS:** Tell me a little about yourself.

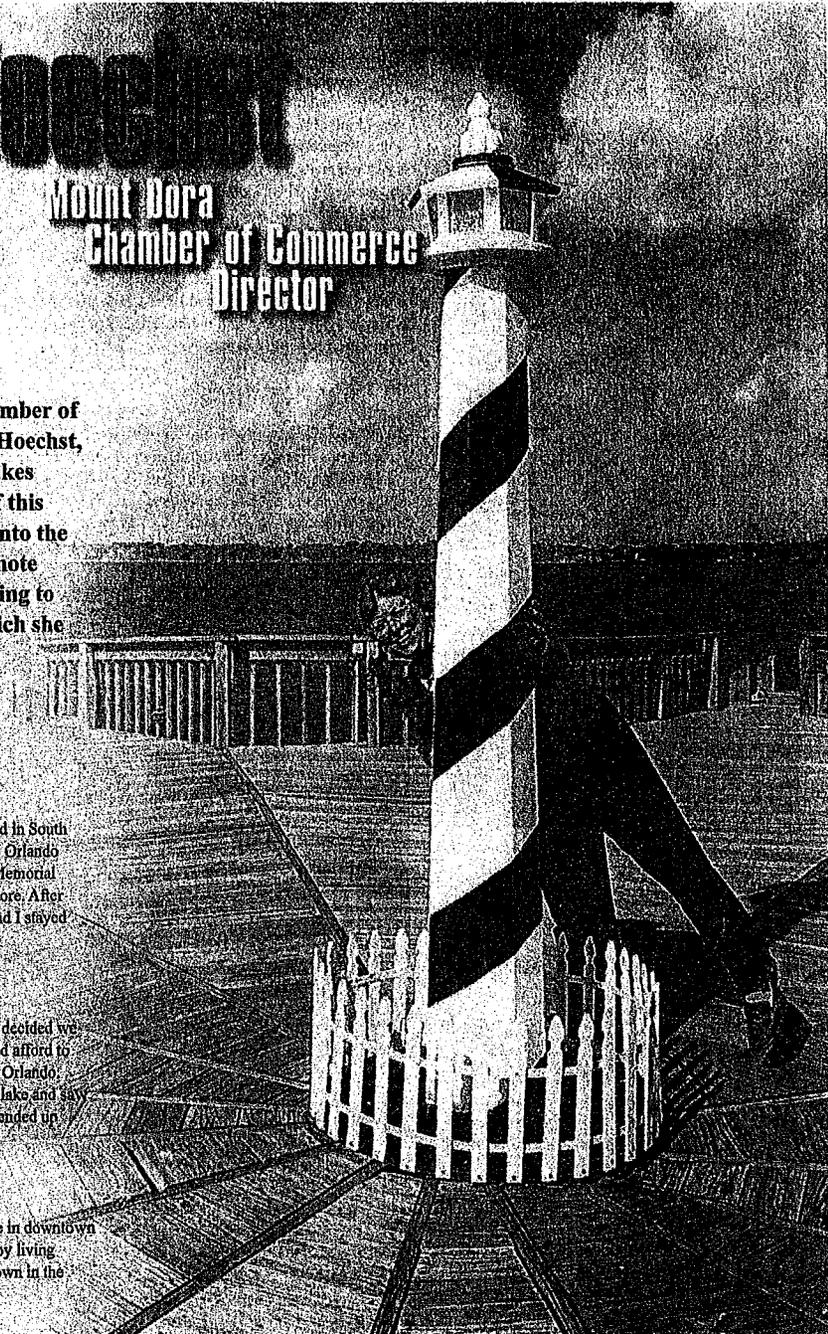
Cathy: Well, I'm a native Floridian; born and raised in South Florida - went to school in South Florida. I came to Orlando in 1966 to go to nursing school. I went to Orange Memorial Nursing School in Orlando, which isn't there anymore. After nursing school, I was hired by Orlando Regional and I stayed there for thirty-five years.

**FOCUS:** How did you end up in Mount Dora?

Cathy: Oh, well, in 1983 my husband, Barry and I decided we wanted to live lakefront and the only place we could afford to live lakefront was to drive twenty-five miles out of Orlando. We came up here on a Sunday and drove along the lake and saw a house of interest and followed up and ultimately ended up buying it. We lived there from 1983 to 2000.

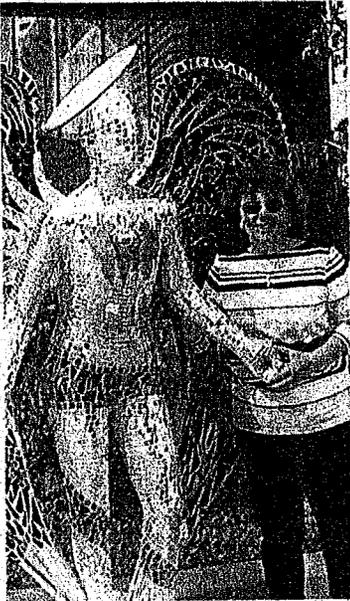
**FOCUS:** And you still live in Mount Dora?

Cathy: Now Jack and I live in a historic home here in downtown Mount Dora. It is a 1917 arts and craft home. I enjoy living in downtown. I can walk to work. I like to come down in the



# Cathy Woodard

Mount Dora  
Chamber of Commerce  
Director



evenings and have dinner and be able to walk home. We enjoy the outdoors – the flowers and lakes.

**FOCUS:** What do you think makes Mount Dora special?

Cathy: It's a small town. You know everyone – or most everyone. It's a traditional town, an All-American town. We celebrate the 4th of July with a big parade and anyone can be in it. We do all the lighting at Christmas... just all the traditional holiday stuff. Sometimes those things get lost in the busyness of the world today.

**FOCUS:** How did you get involved in the Chamber?

Cathy: I was a volunteer for the Chamber for an

event called the Mount Dora Bike Festival. This is when I worked at the hospital. We used to sponsor a Health Fair, back in the 80's when Health Fairs were very popular. And, so I started as a volunteer to do the Health Fairs and after that, because I lived here I kind of kept up with what the Chamber was doing. Then, after I retired in 2001, I stayed out for a year not really doing anything except enjoying life and gardening. Then, I got a call from someone here at the Chamber who said "Hey, I heard you did this event a number of years ago and we are kind of in a bind, would you mind coming in and helping?" When I came in to discuss the Bike Festival, they were also in need of a Director. So – I said I could stick around a couple of months and help out. Well, that was five years ago; I'm going into my fifth year.

**FOCUS:** So – it sort of stuck?

Cathy: Yes. Well, it's interesting. The Chamber is a business; it's a membership organization. Healthcare is a business and its dealing with people. So, a lot of the skill sets I had from the business side of Healthcare transposed into running a Chamber. I can tell you the biggest challenge in almost all professions is communication. Being able to communicate what you are trying to accomplish in a "language" so to speak that the person listening

truth. I figure the truth lies somewhere in the middle, because I'm affected by how I was brought up, my education, my life experiences, and so is the other person involved in whatever the discussion is about. And the reality is the actual truth of the situation is somewhere in the middle of what you are trying to accomplish; it's not a black and white situation. So, I think sometimes when you approach something like that, you listen a little differently and you are more likely to come to a resolution.

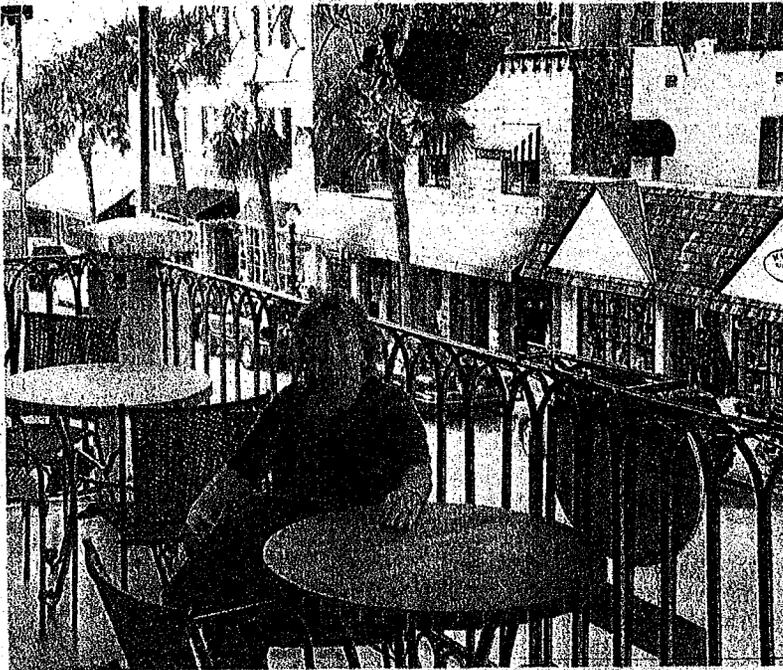
**FOCUS:** What sort of exciting events does Mount Dora and/or the Chamber have going on or coming up?

Cathy: Well, the Chamber is getting ready for some big events. We have the Business Expo coming up and it's a Tri-Chamber event. This is an opportunity for three Chamber Director's to come together and provide a business to business expo from all of our chambers to come together and learn about each other. It's an all day event, starts at 10 and goes until 7. Big Business After Hours from 4:30 until 7:00. Anywhere from 45 to 55 exhibitors participate. And then a nice education session at lunch time and this year it focuses on marketing. Then, the event the Chamber does is in May – it's the Taste of Mount Dora. We organize ten to fourteen restaurants and



understands what you are trying to do. There are different dynamics out there and people have different outlooks. I've always believed there are three sides to every story – mine, yours, and the

set up tents in the street and tables and chairs for everyone to sit. We sell a little over seven hundred tickets, which people can buy and then come taste the food from each of the participating restaurants.



**FOCUS: Is this a fundraiser?**

Cathy: Yes. It is a restricted fundraiser. All of the proceeds go into the restoration of this depot, which was built in the early 1900's. The final piece is the baggage room, then we have to deal with the outside of the building. So, all the money goes to that. The event is going into it's 7th year and is a really popular event. We usually sell out of tickets. Then, of course, the big event is the Bicycle Festival. It's going into its 34th year. It's in October and last year we had just under a thousand bicyclists from all over the state and probably seven or eight out of state people, from North Carolina and New York, coming in for it.

**FOCUS: How many chamber members do you have?**

Cathy: We have just under 600 members and we try to support them. We have information out in the lobby about them. We have a directory. We try to stimulate the economy of the area.

**FOCUS: How many visitors do you get per year?**

Cathy: Well, I don't know how many actual visitors we get to Mount Dora. But - actual people that walk into this Chamber office... See, we actually run

the Visitor Center for the city of Mount Dora. We actually have between 25,000 and 28,000 people walk into this center every year. They come in to get maps, brochures, real estate information... So - we have two different sets of visitors that come here. We have the day people that come just for a specific event and then the ones that come for longer. When you start adding it all up, you get a pretty big number. We have a Craft Fair, a Sailing Regatta, the Antique Show, a Fishing Tournament... when you add it up, we get some pretty big numbers.

**FOCUS: If somebody was going to visit Mount Dora for their very first time, what is the one thing you would tell them to be sure they did or saw while they were here?**

Cathy: I would send them on the trolley ride, and I will tell you why. Normally it runs just about every day and it is an hour narrated about Mount Dora. It takes you through the historic district and some of the houses, pointing out the different flare of architecture. They take you through downtown and show you different stores and things. The ladies that run it have a really good feel and I have heard from many, many people what a good narrator she is. It is weather controlled; it's closed in. So, in the winter it's warm and in the summers its cool. It's reasonably

priced. If someone is looking to get a really good feel for the town, it's a good way to do it in an hour. The train and the horse and carriage rides are nice, but they have limited schedules and the trolley has more flexibility. Now - for the nature lovers, I would definitely recommend the boat tours. They take you out on the water and through the Dora Canal. You see eagle nests. Again, the boat captains are very good narrators and knowledgeable on the wildlife you come across. And, of course, they can embellish a little and entertain the guests.

**FOCUS: What do you do in your spare time?**

Cathy: I like to read. I have certain authors I particularly enjoy; murder mystery authors. I just enjoy sitting on my porch with my glass of tea and a good book. I enjoy gardening. My husband, Jack, and I have done a lot of renovations on our home. And what is turning into a hobby for us - is archiving all the family photos. I am trying to get all the boxes and boxes of photos organized and then eventually put into digital albums.

**FOCUS: Well, thank you for your time and we look forward to seeing you at the Mount Dora events!**



**Cathy Macalister**  
 Mount Dora  
 Chamber of Commerce  
 Director

# Lake Sentinel

LAKESENTINEL.COM

## Cancer keeps things in perspective for mayor

There's Mount Dora Mayor Cathy Hoechst at food-truck night. There she is chattering away about how cool it is that TJ Maxx and Ross Dress for Less are coming to town. Now she's handing out awards to third-graders who named the city's two new police dogs.

Count on Hoechst to be the last one working the concession and the first to start getting the folding chairs placed in rows for a concert.

Unless, of course, she's sitting down.

Mount Dora's mayor is doing more of that since Aug. 5, when she began what seems a ceaseless whirl of doctors, nurses, blood tests, appointments, trips to Orlando and now, chemotherapy treatments.

Please turn to **RITCHIE, J3**



**LAUREN RITCHIE**  
Lake Front

**Canines compete at Busis event** J2

**Business** J12  
**Movies** J6  
**Pickles** J9  
**Seniors** J4

## RITCHIE

Continued from Page J1

Contracting breast cancer in her first term as mayor was not part of Hoechst's plan. Neither were some of the other unexpected things she encountered as a first-time mayor.

"I wasn't a politician — I didn't know people could be so nasty," she observed, sipping an apple juice at an iron table on the sidewalk outside the Village Coffee Pot on Donnelly Street last week.

"But I learned how to navigate," Hoechst said. "You have to know which battle to win and which to lose — the war is more important."

Excellent advice for surviving in politics — and for fighting cancer.

"I'm winning this cancer battle. I'm not planning on not winning this battle," said Hoechst, 66.

Unless personally acquainted with Hoechst, few people likely have noticed a change. By luck, the chemotherapy treatments that leave her wiped out are administered on the opposite weeks Mount Dora's commission meets.

Still, Hoechst has quietly resigned from boards of directors of nonprofit agencies and trimmed back the time she spends on her feet at events.

"I pick and choose. I show up, say hello, let people know I'm supporting them," she said. "You learn how to use your time. You learn what you can do and force yourself to accept that route and accept the fact that you can't do what you used to do."

"I listen to my body — the need to eat, nap, sit down for a while. I don't feel embarrassed by it, I know I need to sit, so I just do it."

Hoechst has handled her illness so gracefully, calmly chatting about city plans, encouraging business people, helping to organize events — always

focusing on the other person — that her cancer hasn't overwhelmed her. She doesn't feel the need to tell everyone about how she got out of bed last week and had to drag herself back in for a few more hours.

"We over-communicate, and we're over-connected," she said. "Sometimes we don't have any breathing room."

Life has become a little cyclical for the registered nurse who once headed the oncology department at Orlando Health and then rose to become the first woman vice president before retiring. She realizes that cancer has given her the chance to slow down a little and reflect — to consider what is important in life and what can wait.

It turns out that many things do not require her instant attention. Your definition of an emergency that requires a call to the mayor on her cellphone may not quite meet Hoechst's these days.

"Every now and then, I think, 'This can just wait.' I recognize that everything is not an emergency," she said.

So, folks, lighten up on the mayor. She's got a long road before she can shrug off this cancer, and she's undergoing a new way of attacking the disease.

So far, Hoechst has had one form of chemotherapy and is in the midst of a series of treatments with a second drug. She's hoping to have December off and then have surgery to remove what is expected to be a dramatically shrunken tumor in January. Already, she said, neither the tumor in her breast nor the cancerous cells that invaded two lymph nodes can be seen on scans. A month after surgery, she'll start having radiation five times a week for six weeks.

And, she said, if her six-month



LAUREN RITCHIE/STAFF

Mount Dora Mayor Cathy Hoechst is battling breast cancer while serving her first term in office.

scan is clean, she'll decide whether to seek a second term in office.

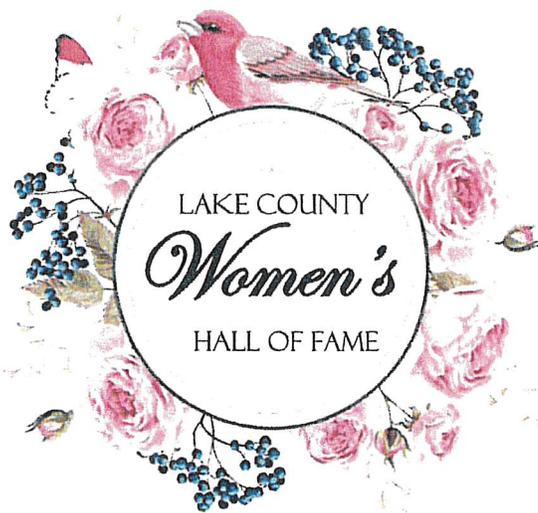
All this sounds so matter-of-fact and organized, just like the mayor. Don't be fooled. It's bothering her.

She said that some people who know her realize that she is wearing a wig — all her hair has fallen out from the treatments — and she sees their reaction register in their eyes: How sad. Then, she'll see them walk over to someone she's close to and get their suspicion confirmed.

"You don't want them to feel sorry for you because you're fine. You don't want to say anything because you'll get emotional, and they'll get emotional."

"And then everybody will be crying. I don't want that."

*Lritchie@orlandoseñtinel.com. Lauren invites you to send her a friend request on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/laurenorlake](http://www.facebook.com/laurenorlake).*



Nominee's name: Lori A. Humphrey

Address: 201 W Burleigh Boulevard, Tavares, Florida 32778

Phone: (352) 742-6941

Resident of Lake County since: \_\_\_\_\_ (minimum of 10 years required) See attached

Date of Birth/Death: November 7, 1972

Submitted by (Name/Address/Phone):  
Esther B. Coulson, City Clerk, 506 W Berckman Street, Fruitland Park, FL 34731

(352) 360-6790

Relationship to nominee: Professional

Reason you are nominating this person: See attached

Criteria:

- Nominee must have made significant contributions to the improvement of life for all citizens of Lake County.
- Nominee must have made a significant contribution in the field of art, agriculture, athletics, business, community service, environment, government, health care, humanities, philanthropy or science/education
- Nominee must have been born in or adopted Lake County as her home. Nominee may be living or dead.

Please attach a brief summary defining the nominee's accomplishments in one of the fields above. Do not include accomplishments that were achieved outside Lake County. Cite any awards, honors or commendation they may have received. Newspaper articles, letters, resumes, etc. are all acceptable forms of recognition. If no information is included other than the application form, it will not be considered. Petitions are not accepted.

Completed forms will be submitted to the Women's Hall of Fame Committee. Deadline for submissions is **September 20, 2019.**

Lake County Women's Hall of Fame  
Board of County Commissioners  
PO Box 7800  
Tavares, FL 32778-7800  
352.343.9849  
Email: [nbooth@lakecountyfl.gov](mailto:nbooth@lakecountyfl.gov)

## LAKE COUNTY WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME

**Nominee's name:** Lori A. Humphrey

**Address:** 201 West Burleigh Boulevard, Tavares, FL 32778

**Phone:** (352) 742 6941

**Resident of Lake County since:** More than 10 years (unknown).former student at Leesburg High School, started school at Lake - Sumter State College during the 1990's.

**Date of Birth/Death:** November 7, 1972

**Submitted by (Name/Address/Phone):** Esther B. Coulson, 506 W Berckman Street, Fruitland Park, Florida 34731, (352) 360-6790

**Relationship to Nominee:** None, Professional

**Reason you are nominating this person:** Ms. Humphrey's name was offered for nomination by the community in Lake County, local government elected officials, educational faculty staff, and not-for-profit organizations.

**Criteria:** Ms. Humphrey has made significant contributions to the improvement of life for all citizens of Lake County in the following areas:

- **Community Service,**  
involved with a group of faith-based organizations, local businesses (profit and non-profit) organizations known as "Operation Bless Fruitland Park" since 2015 to create an atmosphere of generosity with the focus on impacting the local school.
- **Government,**  
Lake County School District, Lake County Government (Lake County Animal Shelter), South Lake Animal League advocate, 2015 Class of Leadership Lake County, Lake County Sheriff's Network, State of Florida Department of Juvenile Justice;

- **Health Care,**  
organized Lake County's Health Fairs and provided free dental care and medical services for families;
- **Humanities**  
Advocate and promotor for charitable organizations Disaster Relief Efforts, (*Leesburg High School Help the Bahamas*), United Way of Lake and Sumter Counties,
- **Education:**  
Served on a club representing Student Services helping students *Leesburg High School*,  
  
Works with students involved in the *Miss Leesburg Scholarship Pageant Award*  
  
Managed Eagle Ridge Cabin and Leesburg High School Bass Fishing Tournament and "the Jackets" Teams;  
  
More than 16 years with student services; is currently working at Leesburg High School and served as member of:
  - o the Leesburg High School's School Advisory Committee prior to serving as the school's Parental Specialist and
  - o the school Family Liaison

**Ms. Humphrey has adopted Lake County as her home, and she is living.**

*Lori is more than deserving of this nomination . . . faith-based leader, Operation Bless Fruitland Park*

*Great to work with, direct communicator and she has a wealth of knowledge . . . , Lake County Commissioner.*

*. . . Works for hours for the district and for the students . . . , Leesburg High School staff*

*Lori's work was focused on:*

- *suicide prevention,*
- *annual children's conference,*
- *involving the community group of all inter-agency bringing them together with the shared services network;*

- *coordinated resources with the Sheriff's Department, Lake Sumter Coalition, school district children and family services and homeless programs and evaluation services;*
- *facilitated and coordinated events to ensure that resources are available to all inter-agencies, and*
- *collaborated with Lake County's Children and Families and found methods to strengthen family members from different areas;*

*Lori's heart is the children and families and connecting them regardless of need. She addresses concerns such as mental health so that the families and the community have the needed resources as well as food, clothing and shelter, available to them. She is instrumental in connecting utility service providers and coordinating their services to those needing help. . . ., Lake County School Board Superintendent*



Nominee's name: LORI

Address: 1401 Yellow Jacket Way, Leesburg, FL

Phone: 352-787-5047 ext 7010

Resident of Lake County since: \_\_\_\_\_ (minimum of 10 years required)

Date of Birth/Death: 11/7/1972

Submitted by (Name/Address/Phone):

Michael Randolph

1401 Yellow Jacket Way

Leesburg, FL 34748

Relationship to nominee: Principal (LKS)

Reason you are nominating this person: LORI HAS SERVED ON LKS' SRC

BOARD PRIOR TO SERVING AS THE SCHOOL'S POTENTIAL

SPECIALIST. LORI WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN CREATING

LEESBURG'S ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE RUNNER.

Criteria:

- Nominee must have made significant contributions to the improvement of life for all citizens of Lake County.
- Nominee must have made a significant contribution in the field of art, agriculture, athletics, business, community service, environment, government, health care, humanities, philanthropy or science/education
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Please attach a brief summary defining the nominee's accomplishments in one of the fields above. Do not include accomplishments that were achieved outside Lake County. Cite any awards, honors or commendation they may have received. Newspaper articles, letters, resumes, etc. are all acceptable forms of recognition. If no information is included other than the application form, it will not be considered. Petitions are not accepted.

Completed forms will be submitted to the Women's Hall of Fame Committee. Deadline for submissions is **September 20, 2019.**

Lake County Women's Hall of Fame  
Board of County Commissioners  
PO Box 7800  
Tavares, FL 32778-7800  
352.343.9849  
Email: [nbooth@lakecountyfl.gov](mailto:nbooth@lakecountyfl.gov)





Nominee's name: Emily A Lee

Address: 308 W Blue Water Edge Dr Eustis, Florida 32736

Phone: 352.408.9291

Resident of Lake County since: 1998 (minimum of 10 years required)

Date of Birth/Death: 10/07/1945

Submitted by (Name/Address/Phone):

Isaac Deas

207 Bryan St

Eustis Florida 32726

Relationship to nominee: Friend

Reason you are nominating this person: Please see attachment.

Criteria:

- Nominee must have made significant contributions to the improvement of life for all citizens of Lake County.
- Nominee must have made a significant contribution in the field of art, agriculture, athletics, business, community service, environment, government, health care, humanities, philanthropy or science/education
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Lake County  
Women's Hall of Fame  
Lake County Board of County Commissioners

August 28, 2020

It is with great honor I nominate Emily A Lee to the Lake County Women's Hall of Fame. Emily is currently serving as Vice Mayor of Eustis but she has a stellar career serving the Lake County community.

Emily relocated to Lake County in 1998 to serve as Lake County Children's Services Director. Emily accomplished the following during her tenure:

- Wrote the planning grant and established the Lake County Early Learning Coalition.
- Established the Lake County Children's Foundation
- Coordinated the fund raising and construction of the Lake County Boundless playground
- Established the Early Learning Coalition Big Blue Bus Program

After retiring from the Children's Services position two years later, Emily was selected by Devereux Kids and Kids Central to establish a neighborhood program in the Bates Avenue area of Eustis. Emily developed a vision for the program and involved all segments of the community to accomplish the following:

- Established the Bates Avenue Resource Center in a house donated by the city and renovated by the community
- Conducted monthly meetings involving the community, City Commissioners Police Chief, school officials and students, business owners, and the faith community. These meetings promoted positive communication, community action and a sense of unity
- Through the City of Eustis donation of land Emily coordinated the establishment of a community garden for community members
- Through a partnership with Lake Technical College established a GED program
- Partnered with DCF to establish an ACCESS site
- Developed Saturday children's program
- Established a senior computer class
- The program was a success and the community benefitted from the services provided.

Lake County  
Women's Hall of Fame  
Lake County Board of County Commissioners

Emily was appointed by the Governor to the Lake Sumter State College Trustee Board for her fourth term. She is currently serving as Vice Chair of the Trustee Board. Emily has also served on the Lake Sumter State College Foundation Board

In April, 2019 Emily beat out 11 other applicants to be appointed to a vacant seat on the Eustis City Commission. In January, 2020 Emily was selected Vice Mayor by her fellow Commissioners. She has done an outstanding job serving the Eustis Community and on August 7, 2020, Emily was re-elected for a four year term as Eustis Commissioner due to no opposition for her seat.

Emily is a visionary and works tirelessly for her community. I think she deserves to be recognized and honored for hard work and selfless sacrifices she has made to improve the lives of Lake County citizens.



Isaac B. Deas,  
207 Bryan St  
Eustis, FL 32726  
(352) 406-1264  
ideas2@comcast.net



Nominee's name: Loretta C. Maimone

Address: 19913 Windy Hill Drive, Eustis, FL 32736

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Resident of Lake County since: 38 years (minimum of 10 years required)

Date of Birth/Death: 10/21/1954

Submitted by (Name/Address/Phone):

EBA Grizzard Real Estate  
934 N Magnolia Ave #301, Orlando, FL 32803  
(352) 787-6966

Relationship to nominee: Loretta's Real Estate Brokerage

Reason you are nominating this person: \_\_\_\_\_

Loretta Maimone has been a resident of Lake County for 38 years. From helping those who want to make Lake County their home through her impressive Real Estate career, to her genuine, giving nature showcased through her community involvement, Loretta has spent those 38 years making a true impact on Lake County. Please see the attached documents for all information on why we're nominating Loretta Maimone for the Lake County Women's Hall of Fame

Criteria:

- Nominee must have made significant contributions to the improvement of life for all citizens of Lake County.
- Nominee must have made a significant contribution in the field of art, agriculture, athletics, business, community service, environment, government, health care, humanities, philanthropy or science/education
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Loretta Maimone has been a resident of Lake County for 38 years. From helping those who want to make Lake County their home through her impressive Real Estate career, to her genuine, giving nature showcased through her community involvement, Loretta has made a true impact on Lake County.

She believes true happiness is in giving rather than receiving, and by doing so, she makes a positive impact in the community. She not only provides financial contributions but also donates her time and influence to help others. Giving is her passion, and in turn, she has directly impacted the lives of others in Lake County and has helped make it such a wonderful place to call home.

As a local REALTOR® in Lake County, Loretta has impressively made national headlines, ranked a top Real Estate agent in the U.S - #212 in the Nation. She has also been recognized as the #12 Real Estate professional in the state of Florida. Her Real Estate career accomplishments are extensive and noteworthy (noted in the attached resume), but more importantly to Loretta, she has also been the recipient of ERA Grizzard Real Estate's Humanitarian Award two years in a row, and is actively involved in many local charities.

She is an avid supporter and sponsor of Lake Cares Food Pantry, Deliver the Difference, We Care of Lake County, and more. Through her contributions to local organizations and passion for Lake County, she truly makes a difference to those who already call or home. For those dreaming of moving to the area, she helps make that dream a reality. Please see the attached resume for more information on Loretta's impressive accomplishments, contributions to her community, and why we're nominating Loretta Maimone for the Lake County Women's Hall of Fame.

More information on Loretta's Latest Accomplishment of being named a top Real Estate agent in the Nation: <http://blog.era-grizzard.com/presstalk/loretta-maimone-broker-associate-makes-national-ranking-headlines>

**Mission Statement:**

To provide the finest real estate service based on the highest standard of ethics, value, and client care. In so doing, we will earn the loyalty and trust of home sellers and home buyers who will become our lifelong clients and friends because we will always place their interest ahead of our own.

**Bio:**

REALTOR® Loretta Maimone is well-known as "The one to get it done" in Central Florida's Lake Country. After more than 35 years of active community involvement and assisting real estate clients throughout Lake Country, Loretta has her finger on the pulse of the communities she serves, and she freely shares that knowledge. Her boundless energy, dedicated enthusiasm, experience, and professionalism combine with her reputation and extensive professional network to produce successful outcomes for her buyers and sellers – and for the many charitable organizations, she supports. She always knows where to turn to gather information, solve problems, and overcome obstacles. Loretta not only listens carefully to understand her clients' wants and needs; she also has personal experience. She and her husband John, have purchased and sold numerous homes and investment properties in Lake Country. Loretta's clients know that she is dedicated to their well-being and that they can always rely on her to tell them what they need to know – even if it is a truth they'd rather not hear. It is no surprise that her clients turn into life-long friends and supporters.

**Accomplishments:**

- Real Trends Top U.S. Real Estate Agent of 2020 | Ranked #212 in the country
- Real Trends + Tom Ferry America's Best Real Estate Professional in Florida | Ranked #12 with 115.50 homes sold, and #94 in Florida with \$36,187,734 in sales
- Top 3 Finalist for the 2019 Brenda W. Casserly Memorial Award to ERA Top All-Around Sales Associate
- ERA Grizzard Real Estate Agent of the Year 2019
- ERA Grizzard Real Estate Company's Top Producing Agent for 2019

**Continuing Real Estate Education Courses Including:**

Military Relocation Specialist; Florida General Lines Property and Casualty Insurance Course; Productivity and Profit Improvement; Executive Development Systems; Successful Life Course; Effective Results in Marketing; Psychology of Achievement; Marketing Warfare; Psychology of Sales; Keeping Pace with Tomorrow; Going Green; Website Design; Website and Social Media Management, Excellence in Professionalism, ERA Top Gun Graduate, Peak Producers Course, RRC And ABR Courses

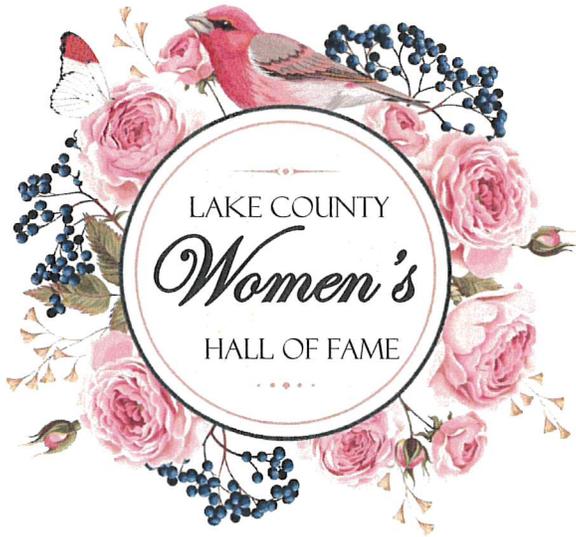
- Licensed Florida Real Estate Broker
- ERA Leaders Circle Global Network 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019
- Accredited Buyer's Resource (ABR Designation)
- Certified Residential Specialist (CRS Designation)
- Certified Negotiation Expert (CNE Designation)
- American Sign Language
- Florida Notary Public

**Professional Local Affiliations and Awards**

- Multi-Million Dollar Producer - Realtors Association of Lake & Sumter each year 2007- 2019
- ERA Grizzard Humanitarian Award 2016 and 2017
- Florida Association of Realtors Honor Society 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, & 2019
- REALTOR® of the Year for Realtors Association of Lake and Sumter Counties 2014
- Top 1% in Total Sales Volume 2010-2019 of Realtors Association of Lake & Sumter
- Realtors Political Action Committee Member 2015-2018
- Realtors Association of Lake and Sumter Counties Finance Committee 2018
- Realtors Association of Lake and Sumter Counties - Board Member 2010-2015
- Realtors Association of Lake and Sumter Counties - Grievance Committee 2010-2018
- Realtors Association of Lake and Sumter Counties - Vice President 2012 - 2014
- Major Investor of RPAC (Realtors Political Action Committee) 2009-2019
- Political Screening Candidate Committee RALSC - 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016
- Rotary Club of the Triangle Club Member 2008 -2020

**Favorite Local Charities**

- Eustis Heights 2017 Robotics Team
- The Open Door
- Deliver the Difference
- Lake Cares Food Pantry



Nominee's name: Rita Renee' Milota

Address: 1701 Lakeshore Drive , Mount Dora, Florida 32757

Phone: 352-383-8808

Resident of Lake County since: 1975 (minimum of 10 years required)

Date of Birth/Death: October 18, 1934

Submitted by (Name/Address/Phone):

Cathy Hoechst

601 McDonald Street Unit 405

Mount Dora, Florida, 32757

Relationship to nominee: True friend, mentor and fellow retired registered nurse

Reason you are nominating this person: Renee is the epitomy of a volunteer and supporter of our community and county. She is always available to help any organization and nothing is to small or dirty a job from moving tables and chairs, setting up displays, clearing tables, and making valuable suggestions from her years of experience to make the event or situation better and she truly expects nothing in return.

Criteria:

- Nominee must have made significant contributions to the improvement of life for all citizens of Lake County.
- Nominee must have made a significant contribution in the field of art, agriculture, athletics, business, community service, environment, government, health care, humanities, philanthropy or science/education
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## Rite Renee Milota

It is my honor to nominate Rite Renee Milota for the Lake County Women's Hall of Fame 2020. She is a role model for men and women alike. There is nothing she will not tackle and nobody can say "no" when Renee asks them to help whatever cause she is undertaking. She began her adult life as a Registered Nurse and that caring attitude has always been her core value.

Renee Milota has been in Lake County for over 30 years. She is known throughout the county and is an icon in Mount Dora. She has donated time and money in support of the arts, local businesses, healthcare and government agencies. It is rare for her to miss a Mount Dora City Council meeting and she actively engages in current events

Renee moved to Lake County in 1975 from Pennsylvania. She immediately got involved and was instrumental in forming the first Village Merchants Association in Mount Dora. This is the organization that started the Mount Dora Craft Festival – an event that has put Mount Dora on the map and drawn hundreds of thousands of visitors to town. She opened two shops in Mount Dora; i.e., the original Village Coffee Pot and a men's store, Just for Him. She has never stopped advocating for local small businesses.

Renee has been either a member, or a board member, of the following organizations over the years: Village Merchants Association, Mount Dora Library Association, Women's Committee of Fine Arts, Mount Dora Center for the Arts, Sonnetag Theater at the Icehouse and Patrons of the Community Building. She has spent countless hours helping these entities raise money, improve their visibility and image, and improve services to citizens. She has never expected anything in return.

She is also a volunteer for Women for Hospice and helps coordinate efforts to raise money for those in need. She is a graduate of the Mount Dora Citizens Police Academy and volunteers for virtually every project the Mount Dora Police Department undertakes in its community policing projects.

For 11 years, Renee chaired the successful Women's Committee of Fine Arts Mount Dora Christmas Tour of Homes. The time and effort she spent cannot be calculated. She organized hundreds of volunteers to champion this major fundraising effort.

She has been on the fundraising committees for the building of the W. T. Bland Library and the renovation and restoration of the Mount Dora Community Building.

Renee was awarded in 2008 Lake County League of Cities Community Service Award and was named the Mount Dora Area Chamber of Commerce's Citizen of the Year in 2013

Renee is the go-to-person to organize a silent auction for a fundraising event and is always willing to sell tickets for events. When you see Renee moving toward you in a meeting, you know you will be supporting some event in Lake County with either a ticket purchase or a silent auction donation. Nobody says "no" to Renee Milota.



Nominee's name: Dot Pentecost  
Address: 19633 Eustis Airport Road  
Phone: 352-589-7778  
Resident of Lake County since: 1971 (minimum of 10 years required)  
Date of Birth/Death: 8/14/1931  
Submitted by (Name/Address/Phone):  
Cecil Pentecost Jr.  
19633 Eustis Airport Rd  
Eustis, FL 32736  
Relationship to nominee: son  
Reason you are nominating this person: Please see attached letter ...

Criteria:

- Nominee must have made significant contributions to the improvement of life for all citizens of Lake County.
- Nominee must have made a significant contribution in the field of art, agriculture, athletics, business, community service, environment, government, health care, humanities, philanthropy or science/education
- Nominee must have been born in or adopted Lake County as her home. Nominee may be living or dead.

Please attach a brief summary defining the nominee's accomplishments in one of the fields above. Do not include accomplishments that were achieved outside Lake County. Cite any awards, honors or commendation they may have received. Newspaper articles, letters, resumes, etc. are all acceptable forms of recognition. If no information is included other than the application form, it will not be considered. Petitions are not accepted.

Completed forms will be submitted to the Women's Hall of Fame Committee. Deadline for submissions is **September 21, 2020.**

Lake County Women's Hall of Fame  
Board of County Commissioners  
PO Box 7800  
Tavares, FL 32778-7800  
352.343.9849  
Email: [nbooth@lakecountyfl.gov](mailto:nbooth@lakecountyfl.gov)

My Mom, Dorothy "Dot" Pentecost was born in W. Virginia and raised in South Florida till she married my Dad, Cecil Pentecost, Sr., in 1955. When my Dad retired from the Air Force in 1971, we moved to Eustis, Florida. My Mom started volunteering with Meals on Wheels in Umatilla at the American Legion Post in the early 1970's. Several years later she was instrumental in the City of Eustis allocating money to build the Senior Center. She created a place for all Lake County Seniors to meet, eat, and get involved with many activities for several hours a day, 5 days a week. This place was also the Hub for delivering all Meal's on Wheels to the Golden Triangle area.

She worked all the way up until she had a stroke in 2015. It broke her heart that she was not able to return back to work. She was in her 80's around this time.

Not only did my Mom work from the 1970's till her stroke in 2015; she was also involved in the American Legion Post 35, Eustis Moose, Eastern Star. She also served many years in Lake County, State and Federal government politics. She even received an invitation to Ronald Reagan's Presidential Inauguration.

My Mom spent most of her life helping other people. She would say that if you loved your job, you would never work a day in your life. And she LOVED her job and various community posts.

Her Legacy was paying it forward with Love. Dot's rules for Love & Life are to follow the Golden Rule, pay the kindness forward, KISS (Keep it Simple, Silly), it doesn't have to be complicated to have a positive impact and smile and hug.

My Mom would be an amazing candidate for the Lake County Woman's Hall of Fame.

## Dot Pentecost

Paying it forward with love for Dot

You've received a special gift from Dot Pentecost an angel above from one of her worker bees here on earth. We honor Dot in her dedication to service and selflessness. Honoring each and everyday keeping her loving touch going by "Paying It Forward".  
We love you Dot.



**Dot Pentecost**  
Paying it forward with love for Dot

**Dot's Rules For Love and Life**

- Follow The Golden Rule ~
- Do Unto Others As You Would
- Have Them Do Unto You
- Pay The Kindness Forward
- KISS = Keep It Simple Silly -
- it deesn't have to be complicated to
- have a positive impact.
- Smile ~ Hug ~
- Tell someone "I love you more"



Nominee's name: Ashley Rachel

Address: 1408 Spring Lake Cove Lane 3-106

Phone: 407 340-7449

Resident of Lake County since: 12 (minimum of 10 years required)

Date of Birth/Death: July 19, 1985

Submitted by (Name/Address/Phone):

Jennifer Mills

1415 W Schwartz Blvd, Lady Lake, FL 32159

352 348 - 4297

Relationship to nominee: co-worker

Reason you are nominating this person: See Attached

Criteria:

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Email: [nbooth@lakecountyfl.gov](mailto:nbooth@lakecountyfl.gov)

**Lake County Women's Hall of Fame**

Board of County Commissioners

Via email: nbooth@lakecountygov



Sept. 21, 2020

Dear Committee:

It gives me great pleasure to nominate Mrs. Ashley Rachel for Lake County Women's Hall of Fame. Lake County, specifically Leesburg is her mother's family hometown. Her grandmother moved here in the early 1930's. Ms. Rachel was primarily raised in Orlando but chose to return to her roots and make Lake County her home upon completion of her bachelor's degree. She has lived here for the last 12 years and immediately began contributing to the community.

Mrs. Rachel has enthusiastically served the children of our community through Lake County Schools for just over ten years. She began her career at Beverly Shores Elementary as a teacher assistant for P.E. then served as the Family School Liaison. Her passion for helping underprivileged children led her to teaching 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. She not only successfully helped children close their achievement gap, she also served as a positive role model for the kids always letting know they were loved and safe. Her ability to reach her kids and get them excited about learning was recognized and she was selected as Rookie Teacher of the Year for 2015/2016. Her effective and engaging instruction was also noticed by school administration and she was promoted to her current position as the Literacy Coach for Beverly Shores. In this role, she can use her skills to help more students by building the capacity of the teachers. She also volunteers as the Chairman for the School Advisory Committee, and is an active Participant of Community Action Team. She has organized and facilitated a Pride Camp for the last two summers. This program offers students the opportunity to get additional educational support during the summer at no cost to the families. She also coordinates after school tutoring. She mentors teachers and students. She organized several events to increase family engagement at Beverly Shores. Unfortunately, the students were not able to take the standardized tests last year. This was a disappointment to the students and staff as they were ready to show how far they have come in large part due to Ashley's efforts. She was the glue that held the school together as the administration changed.

In addition to her commitment to the students of Lake County, she served as the Publicity Chairman for the MLK Commemorative Committee. She is an active member of Impacting Words Family Worship Center located in Mount Dora where she serves as on the Youth Ministry, Media Ministry and Financial Committees.

Ms. Rachel is only 35 years old and is one of the most impressive young women I have met in my nearly 60 years. Thank you for this opportunity, I was so glad to be able to nominate her. She deserves this recognition. She is an intelligent, dedicated, compassionate woman that uses her time and talents to serve the needs of others.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Mills  
1415 W. Schwartz Blvd  
Lady Lake, Florida 32159



Nominee's name: MARIE KAISER RICH (Posthumously)

Address: was 941 No. GRANDVIEW St. Mount DORA, FL 32757

Phone: (SHYER) 352-735-5774

Resident of Lake County since: 1990 (minimum of 10 years required)

Date of Birth/Death: b. 1959 / d

Submitted by (Name/Address/Phone):

Shyer Wohl Maguire

951 Liberty Ave.

Mount DORA, FL 32757

Relationship to nominee: FRIEND

Reason you are nominating this person: Marie was a force of Nature.

She was one of the first residents I met when I moved to Mount Dora seven years ago. Her heart was huge not only for others and for the underserved but also for animals.

Criteria:

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## **Marie K. Rich**

I met Marie Rich in 2013, as she was almost single-handedly preparing, promoting and producing a city wide Charity event called FINDING DORA DRAWDY. It was the second of three such events in three years that raised over ten thousand dollars for women of Lake County who could not afford mammograms. For many years Marie's full time job was managing a branch of Habitat for Humanity, and later she supervised a transitional housing facility for homeless women and children.

In 2014, wanting to serve the community, Marie ran for Mount Dora City Council; and tied her opponent in a race that gave Mount Dora national news coverage. She prevailed, as I am certain was her destiny and she made well of it. As a council woman Marie passed a Trap, Neuter, Release resolution which is perpetually funded, and serves the three cities of Mount Dora, Tavares and Eustis. The feral cat population had become overwhelming and in the first year alone of her program being implemented the feral cat population was humanely cut in half.

She later founded the RICH CRITTER FOUNDATION with a twofold mission. Primarily, Rich Critter Foundation puts pet food in the local food pantry so animal owners on low incomes would be able to get pet food. The Rich Critter Foundation also helps when animals need Veterinary attention and the owners aren't able to afford the treatment. July 16<sup>th</sup> 2020, when Marie was killed in an auto accident, instead of flowers, all her friends

brought pet food to her home; (photo attached) Her home is in trust to her foundation so Lake County pets will be fed for many years!

Marie owned an old psychedelic painted VW Van. And she would park it outside a local restaurant, have her husband Randy Rich and his band mates, play music all evening and ask folks to "Stuff the Bus" bring dog or cat food and the restaurant would give them a free beverage. Then she would take the food to Lake Cares Food pantry!

Marie personally prepared and delivered around 70 trays of manicotti every Christmas season for the Fire Department, the Police Department, City Hall workers, etc. It was her tradition and she carried it on for over ten years. She took the Citizen Police course, and joined the Police Dept. effort at the beginning of every school year, stuffing backpacks for needy students.

She maintained her full time job and went to Real Estate school in her 50's. And as a Remax associate she outperformed her more tenured colleagues and was recognized in the various "million dollar clubs" etc. She thrilled at finding the ideal house for her clients.

She was honored with a Lake Edition STYLE magazine article earlier this year; which was well deserved. She genuinely cared for the community, as well as the people and pets in it. The City of Mount Dora is honoring her with a bench by the lake and a large brick outside the Chamber office! I know she is smiling her infectious smile!



PERSON OF INTEREST

# Marie Rich

Realtor, animal lover, and hippie

INTERVIEW: CHRIS GEMMA • PHOTO: ANDREW RAO

- Realtor with RE/MAX & Phoenix Realty, Mount Dora
- Founder of RICH-UP Foundation
- PMS, One Day, and 401s
- Retired for 26 years

**How pure of hell?** I never take words too much, but it's helping the people. It's really about helping a buyer get their dream home or someone selling their home and they're happy because they're getting more on to something else. And I just love it.

**How often do you travel?** I travel and travel for about a month for people who can't afford to get their dog out for a rest. On the second of Friday of each month, I take my dog to the Magic Mountain in Mount Dora, ARIZONA and travel for about a month for people who can't afford to get their dog out for a rest. On the second of Friday of each month, I take my dog to the Magic Mountain in Mount Dora, ARIZONA and travel for about a month for people who can't afford to get their dog out for a rest.

**Celebrity crush?** Paul McCartney. I actually saw Paul McCartney in May and I was in the crowd and I had a sign that looked just

like the hippie bus. I got some signs around it, and I said, "Hi, sign up for it." And you know what? Paul McCartney looked at me and read my sign.

**How is the story behind the hippie bus?** I've always wanted a VW bus, and ever in Orlando, the hippie bus was for sale on a Thursday weekend four years ago. It was parked similar to how I think it was parked. I had the same artist make some of it. The VW was where the Beatles are, and I didn't like the VW but as good as the Beatles. That bus just brings smiles.

**Hard to do in the past?** Batsmanistic, pessimistic, optimistic, confident.

**His power?** When people don't answer their phone, I don't want it. And then they'll text. Like, "Hi! Can you just answer the phone?" The reason I'm successful is I answer my phone. lol

Know a person of interest? Tell us! • For your recommendations to the Stateside magazine.com





Nominee's name: Kimberly Stephens  
Address: 12249 Warren Road Clermont FL 34711  
Phone: N/A

Resident of Lake County since: 201 (minimum of 10 years required)

Date of Birth/Death: \_\_\_\_\_

Submitted by (Name/Address/Phone):

J Brian Miles  
104 Isabel Street  
Minneola, FL 34715

Relationship to nominee: Friend

Reason you are nominating this person: Kimberly has lived and worked in Lake County for over 2 decades. She's worked for Lake County EMS, in a variety of positions, and served on several Lake County Boards. She deserves it.

Criteria:

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Board of County Commissioners  
PO Box 7800  
Tavares, FL 32778-7800  
352.343.9849  
Email: [nbooth@lakecountyfl.gov](mailto:nbooth@lakecountyfl.gov)

Lake County Women's Hall of Fame  
Board of County Commissioners' Office  
P.O. Box 7800  
Tavares, FL 32778-7800  
[nbooth@lakecountyfl.gov](mailto:nbooth@lakecountyfl.gov)

Attn Niki Booth:

Thank you for considering my Nominee, Kimberly Stephens. Kim is the Mother of my lifelong Best Friend. I've seen her work as an EMT, nurture as a Parent and love as a new Grandmother.

She's worked for Lake County EMS longer than I've known her, in a variety of capacities.

She has also called Lake County her home for all of these years and continues to reside in South Lake County to this day.

Kimberly has served on numerous Boards for the Lake County Board of County Commissioners and recently received a Public Service Award from the South Lake Chamber of Commerce.

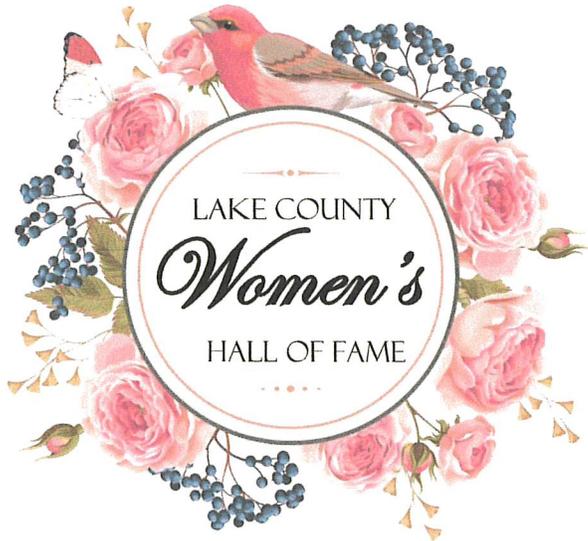
Her work ethic, attention to detail, skills and overall work history, in my opinion, qualify her for the recognition.

My hope is that her recognition may spur hopes of more Lake County Women to pursue careers in the EMT field and as First Responders.

Thank you again for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

J Brian Miles



Nominee's name: Paula Stegall Stinson

Address: P.O. Box 673, Tavares, FL 32778

Phone: (352) 250-9039

Resident of Lake County since: 1949 (minimum of 10 years required)

Date of Birth/Death: 5-15-48

Submitted by (Name/Address/Phone):

Ginger Babb

19029 Lk. Swatara Dr.

Eustis, FL 32736 352-978-0611

Relationship to nominee: life long friend

Reason you are nominating this person: Paula Stinson has lived in Lake County for 70 years. During most of her life she has made a difference in the community and in other people's lives. The attached letters and summaries will show significant contributions to Lake County in a variety of community service organizations.

Criteria:

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Nominee's name: Paula Jean Stinson

Address: PO Box 673 Tavares, FL 32778

Phone: (352)343-3500

Resident of Lake County since: 1949 (minimum of 10 years required)

Date of Birth/~~Death~~: May 15, 1948

Submitted by (Name/Address/Phone):

Carol Sue Tamsett

1839 Banning Beach Road

Tavares, FL 32778

Relationship to nominee: Longtime friend

Reason you are nominating this person: I have known Paula for decades. ~~She~~

She is one of the most altruistic people I know... always looking for ways to serve others! Attached, please find some of my personal experiences.

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Nominee's name: Paula Stinson

Address: 32801 Lakeshore Dr. TAVARES, FL 32778

Phone: 352-343-3500

Resident of Lake County since: 5/15/66 (minimum of 10 years required)

Date of Birth/Death: 5/15/66

Submitted by (Name/Address/Phone):

Mary Jane Ault

5436 Charleston Ave

TAVARES, FL 32778 352-250-6964

Relationship to nominee: Close Personal Friend

Reason you are nominating this person: She is the most dedicated community person I know. Where there is a need she finds a way to fulfill that need.

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## Introduction

This package is presented in support of the nomination of Paula Stinson for the Lake County Woman's Hall of Fame. We have listed some of her many contributions and their impact on the community. There is backup material for each. Please note the cross section of the community reflected in the many letters of support. They include fellow board members, elected officials, pastor and church leaders, friends, organizations staff and two from members of the Lake County Woman's Hall of Fame. You will note the strong fabric of concern for children and young adults as you learn of her service to her community. Paula has given herself to improve the lives of others in her community, especially children and families.

Paula Stinson is a wife; she has been married to the same guy (Jimmy) for 53 years. Paula Stinson is a mom; she has a devoted daughter (Tammie) and son (Scott). Paula Stinson is a partner in the family business (Stinson Electric). For twenty (20) years she ran the office. Paula Stinson is a daughter; her mom is a Lake County icon, Imogene Stegall, who was Supervisor of Elections for 44 years. One would think this is a full time 'job': wife, mother, office manager, and daughter. No, this is only the 'Clark Kent' that many folks see. Those that know Paula realize she is really 'Supercitizen' disguised as Paula Stinson. When reading the following information please realize this is really a small part of the amazing accomplishments and impact of Paula Stinson. We have extracted the information from many folks with 'fuzzy' memories that cannot recall all the many projects that they shared with Paula. The following is the tip of the iceberg. Many of the wonderful accomplishments of Paula are known to a few, and she certainly does not share or brag about them. Many of the endeavors are clearly evident and are listed below.

The criteria for selection into the Lake County Woman's Hall of Fame state:

*Nominee must have made significant contributions to the improvement of life for all citizens of Lake County*

After reading about some of her significant contributions and the impressive portfolio of letters from a vast cross section of the community; friends, fellow board members, elected officials, her pastor, educators, etc. it is evident Paula meets and greatly exceeds the criteria. It is hard to imagine anyone having the level of impact on her community that Paula Stinson has had on Lake County. It started in high school where she was selected Senior Class Projects Chairman (it was evident then that if Paula was involved you could consider it done!). Of course this fantastic leader had to be Captain of the Tavares High cheerleaders! She has never stopped being a cheerleader, always encouraging others to join her and get this project done. She is the leader that completely engages with all aspects of a project; generating financial support, organizing the effort, encouraging participation AND actually doing the work needed. She wants no credit or recognition; she truly loves her community (especially children) and wants to make it a better place for everyone. So it is time to reveal this Supercitizen behind the wife, mother, daughter, and office manager image. After reading about the tremendous impact Paula Stinson has had on her community, there can be no doubt that she needs to join her mother in the Lake County Woman's Hall of Fame.

## **Contributions and Impact**

1. Wooten Park – this well know landmark in Tavares was nothing more than a rundown old park that was rarely used until Paula Stinson decided it should be a first class place for families to enjoy. As President of the Tavares Junior Woman’s Club she led the effort to convert a dilapidated park to a first class escape for families, especially young children. She was the organizer of the effort, secured most of the private dollars and services needed, performed much of the grunt work and is recognized as the driving force that gave the City of Tavares a fantastic park that has been enjoyed by probably over a million visitors for almost 50 years.
2. Lake Sumter Children’s Advocacy Center – Paula was one of the first to recognize a need to provide services for children that are victims of abuse. She led the effort to establish the organization, been a member of the board for more than 20 years, was very instrumental in securing private funding, was responsible for having the Center establish their own Child Protection Team, and continues to be a vocal and active supporter of this organization that provides safety, crisis counseling, therapy and specialized medical exams to children that are the victims of abuse.
3. YMCA – In the late 1970’s a small group of community leaders got together to establish a YMCA for the Golden Triangle. Paula was a key member of the group. She used her unique skill set to make the Y happen. She was involved in setting policy, hiring the first Director, providing encouragement and generating dollars. When the decision was made to construct a facility Paula was at the forefront once again using her ‘lead by example’ approach to make it happen. She was one of the key individuals that is responsible for the Golden Triangle YMCA, not only the facility but all the family orientated, value building programs that makes our community a better place.

4. First United Methodist Church Tavares – Many folks are involved in a church. Paula is far more than involved, she is totally committed and a tireless worker. Included in this packet is a partial list of all the church acuties. Please note that her work does not stop at the church doors! Paula has led the effort to take her church into the community through an afternoon ministry and partnership with Tavares Elementary. She is committed to reaching out to her community and the church is one of the ways she accomplishes this goal.
5. Lake County Public Schools – Many Moms support their children’s school. They are classroom Moms, serve on PTA, bring cookies and help with events, etc. Paula did all that when her two children were in public schools. She could always be counted on to do whatever was needed to support the school. BUT, she went far beyond baking cookies or showing up at a PTA meeting. In her letter Sandy Pettitt, Administrator in Tavares High for 28 years says it best “She (Paula) was an active parent even when her children were not attending. Paula was our ‘go to gal’, the first one to volunteer on school committee. Paula was always willing to help raise funds and give her time. It would be hard to remember the many committees she chaired or served on during the years I was there.”
6. Hunter Foundation – Many do not realize there are several private benevolent associations in our area that quietly provide assistance to deserving individuals and organizations. The Matthew and Mildred Hunter Foundation was established in 1997 to help disadvantaged individuals in Lake County. Paula was instrumental in the establishment of the foundation AND has served on the Grant Committee since day one providing valuable input and guidance. She is instrumental in reviewing and approving all applications for assistance. Another one of her significant contributions to the disadvantaged members of our community.
7. Lake Sumter Foundation – This organization is affiliated with Lake Sumter State College with their mission to financially support deserving students. Paula was a member of the Foundation board for several years and

according to fellow board member, Sarah Hewitt, "Paula was instrumental in helping deserving students obtain scholarships. She would use her resources in the community to acquire funds." Paula would lead fund raising events such as dinners, auctions, golf tournaments, etc. to generate community support for the Foundation.

8. Eustis Service League –Is an organization of women that undertook a variety of projects to improve the city. Paula was an active member for a number of years and was closely involved in a number of projects while a member. The League provided scholarships to Eustis High students attending Lake Sumter Community college, assistance to Lake Technical Vocational Center, provided financial help to Eustis public schools and decorated a room in the OB section at the old Waterman Hospital when a renovation was done.

## Wooten Park

Thousands and thousands of children, parents, grandparents, business men and women, boaters, and park lovers have spent millions of hours enjoying this landmark in Tavares. According to a long time resident the land was given to the City of Tavares by the Wooten family. The area was a sad example of a park for a number of years. Then comes along Paula As President and leader of the Tavares Junior Women's Club she led a mammoth effort to re-establish a park and playground on the Wooten property. More than likely it was her idea she shared with a few friends. They thought it was a great idea, BUT it would be huge undertaking for a group of women! It was city property but they did not have the resources to covert the old park on the lake into a paradise for children.

Paula convinces the Junior Women's Club to undertake the daunting task of converting the crude park into a children's paradise. She probably greatly underestimated the enormity of the job! Once the commitment is made, a huge undertaking starts. There is no doubt that Paula invested more sweat hours than anyone else in the actual back breaking work of removing a tremendous amount of old stumps, vines, undesirable trees, and trash to get the site ready to accept the slides, swings, bars, and all the other magnificent items that make this children's park so unique. Paula's daughter remembers the family spreading mulch well into the night on a number of occasions. As in so many of her projects Paula leads by example. She does not ask anyone to do something she will not do. With her drive, enthusiasm, passion, hard work, and never ending focus on the end result Paula was able to generate an army of volunteers. Members of Women's Club would show up with husband, boy friend, sons, daughters, neighbors, friends, etc. Paula had it all organized. This needs to be done and that needs to be over here. She was the crew leader and worked as hard as anyone.

Paula also was generating financial support for the project. Selling the idea to businesses, professionals, families, and anyone that could help. Remember this was a community funded project not a government one. The City of Tavares provided the land, Paula did everything else. She also was involved in the design and layout of the 'new' park. She knew what children liked to do outside. The park reflects the thought and hard work she put into the entire project. If you ask Paula she will modestly tell you she was 'involved', not that if it was not for her Wooten Park would not exist. Best guess is the actual work start in the fall of 1975. Paula set a goal of opening the park on July 4, 1976! That was accomplished with folks could enjoying the annual Tavares 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks show from beautiful Wooten Park. It is the standard for other parks in the county and surrounding area. So the next time you happen enjoy or even drive by Wooten Park, know that the millions of hours of enjoyment it has brought, do in a huge part to Paula Stinson. She is a visionary that works hard to bring the visions into reality!

## Children's Advocacy Center

Paula Stinson loves children. Not just her own, but all children, especially those that need someone to look after them. She was one of the organizers and has been an active participant in the Lake Sumter Children's Advocacy Center. This organization provides safety, crisis counseling, therapy and specialized medical exams to children that are the victims of abuse. This organization is there to intervene and protect the interest of unwanted and abused children.

Paula is deeply committed to the Advocacy Center. She has been on the board of directors for more than 20 years. She has been President for a number of years and involved in many aspects of the center. She was instrumental in getting the facility constructed in Leesburg. She led the building committee and was involved in every aspect of securing the wonderful home for the Center. Now children needing love and lots of help have a safe place to start to enjoy life.

Paula was responsible for having the Center establish their own Child Protection Team. As Chair of the committee she advocated for the team so that children could be evaluated and receive all the services of the Center in Lake County rather than being taken to Gainesville. Having a 'home' in Lake County to take care of neglected children is critical. Her commitment to making sure 'we look after our own' allowed for the construction of a building and services that can be performed locally.

The Center needs community financial support! Once again we see Paula at the forefront in leading the effort to secure necessary dollars to keep the Center going. For many years she was a key member of the Finance Committee and was able to use her exceptional skill set to generate funding for the Center.

She has been a member of the Executive Committee for a number of years. As has been said many times, Paula is not one to just be a member or a supporter of a project or need. She is committed 100% and gives it all her enthusiasm, leadership by example, being available to do whatever is needed to assure success and sharing her vast network of friends, contacts, and knowledge.

The Lake Sumter Children's Advocacy Center has had an immeasurable impact on thousands of abused children in Lake and Sumter County. How can one put a value on rescuing a child? As the TV commercial says, "PRICELESS". Certainly Paula Stinson is one of the key individuals that have made it a strong and viable asset to her community. Another example of how Paula gives herself to serve others.

## YMCA

A small group of passionate individuals thought the Golden Triangle area needed a YMCA. In order for that to take place citizens must make it happen. The YMCA does not come in and build a facility; the local community must do all the work. The bigger organization, in this case the Central Florida YMCA will encourage and provide advice.

In 1978 several folks formed a 'Board' and moved forward to establish a Y. The first thing that was learned early on was that the Y was not a building, but programs. As the Y got started in the Golden Triangle, Paula Stinson was at the forefront. This is not a surprise as Paula is always at the front of every project she has ever been involved with. She does not lead by telling others what to do! She leads by showing others what needs to be done. She inspires others to make a commitment and get off their 'let someone else do it' position and join her.

Paula was a dynamic force in the YMCA movement. She became involved early on when the Y was programs; from typical sports for youth to exercise classes for ladies. She was there to encourage the first Director, help get new members and of course encourage financial contributions. As the Y moved forward, talk of a facility became more and more prevalent. Paula was a bit reserved. Programs were successful and the Y was established. The Central Florida Y conducted a long range study. The consultants decided Golden Triangle was not ready for a full facility. They suggested a pool and portable buildings! Paula said, "We are not going to do this half way, I say now is the time to build a facility!"

The Board agreed and a campaign was under way. Paula was among those in the lead. She generated dollars through her many contacts. She visited with C.V. Griffin, and he provided \$300,000 for the gym! She helped get money from the Donnelly Trust and the Orlando Sentinel newspaper. She contacted sub contractors in the area and was able to get their services donated or below actual costs. She was a cheer leader every time things started to slow down. There is no quit in Paula. She was part of a small group of hard working folks that made the Golden Triangle Y facility a reality. The experts said that maybe a campaign to build a pool could generate \$300,000. Paula said "let's build a full facility!" As a result a \$1.25 million dollar Golden Triangle YMCA facility was constructed! Paula was a key reason for this remarkable success. So add the Golden Triangle YMCA to that long list of accomplishments resulting from the hard work and strong leadership of Paula Stinson.

## First United Methodist Church Tavares

Many folks are involved in their church. Many of them are tireless workers. For Paula the church was and is her second home. Attached you will find a listing of her activities and involvement for the last several years. If one was to go back to high school years in the church the list would look like this one over the years (probably 20 pages at least). Paula has been one that has always been there whenever the church needed her. A fire destroyed the church a number of years ago, and everyone was devastated. Paula joined a hard working core of members that led the effort to rebuild.

A close look at the list of activities and responsibilities show a wide range of involvement. Church administration – Church Council, Trustee, Finance Committee, Strategic Planning and others. Then there are the teaching roles – Ladies Book Study, Perkins Book Study Group, Sunday School teacher and others. Next you see her role in congregational care – prayer chain, Women of Hope, etc. Next there is her role in what many call fellowship activities. She does so much to organize and coordinate events like wedding receptions, funeral services, anniversaries, congregational dinners, etc.

Paula does not stop at the church doors, she takes the church into the community. Take a look at all she has done just in the past several years. This is someone that is showing her faith. All the way from prayer vigils to organizing women of local churches to serve needs of community, to visiting those that cannot get out to organizing concerts and other events. The list of activities and impact are a tremendous testament to her commitment and service to her church. When reading the letters of support, note how many comment on Paula's role in her church. This is someone putting her faith into action, for her church AND the community.

**First United Methodist Church of Tavares – Paula Stinson, Groups/classes:**

05/18/2017-07/31/2018 (Chairman) Church Council;  
05/21/2017-07/31/2018 Finance Committee;  
01/01/2017 (Member) Office Volunteers;  
01/01/2009-03/31/2013 (Member) Trustee Committee;  
03/06/2009-12/31/2012 (Member) Prayer Team;  
01/01/2011-12/31/2011 (Member) Church Council;  
01/01/2009-12/31/2011 (Chairman) Nomination & Leader Dev;  
08/13/2018 Celebrate the Arts Patrons;  
12/12/2016 Bulletin - Email Copy;  
06/13/2016 (Volunteer) Church Summer Camps;  
09/01/2015 (Member) Children's Council;  
01/24/2013 Women of Hope;  
08/01/2012 (Member) Butterfly Effect Team;  
01/01/2012 (Member) Education Committee;  
09/01/2011 (Member) Strategic Planning;  
02/23/2011 (Member) Prayer Chain;  
01/01/2010 Bloodmobile Contacts;  
11/01/2009 (Member) Him @ 10 Planning;  
Bible Study-Women of Hope;  
Ladies' Book Study;  
Inquirers Sunday School Class;  
Intentional Discipling;  
Perkins Book Study Group;  
Sunday School Teacher – Subs

## **First United Methodist Church of Tavares – Paula Stinson, Groups/classes:**

As a member of Church leadership, in various positions over the years, Paula Stinson consistently advocates for community concerns, matching those needs to the Church's outreach.

Some of the many ways she has participated in the life of our local community and Church family are:

Supports sending children & youth in need to annual summer camps

Worked with committee to sponsor and host free concerts for the community

Raised funds for, and volunteered at, events benefiting community children

Organized public prayer vigils for community families and national events

Secured outside speakers for retreats, and teachers for short-term Bible studies

Responds to local immediate needs by collecting supplies or medical equipment, to benefit community members in disaster

Headed collective effort to feed poll workers working on campus for election days

Spearheading construction and personnel/program acquisition for children & youth after school programs

Part of the steering committee to bring together women from various local churches and denominations for fellowship and service projects

Instrumental in sharing our facilities for school & community group functions

Feeding local school's sports teams prior to games, and for end-of-year banquets

Routinely visits homebound and hospitalized from within the Church and community

Sees that the physical needs of bereaved individuals are met, beyond/after a celebration service

Organizes meals for families experiencing health stress/procedures

During pandemic, has kept in weekly contact with shut-ins, and delivered devotional books

## Public School System

To a large degree Lake County public schools depend heavily on volunteer assistance. This varies considerably from donating supplies to serving on committees to actually helping in the classroom and many other tasks associated with the school. Paula was the ultimate volunteer as she did it all. She would bake the cookies for the class party. She would chair fund raising events like a Fall Festival. She served on a number of committees providing input to school administrators on a number of issues. To sum up Paula's contributions to the public school system this is a quote from Sandra Pettitt, Administrator at Tavares High School for 28 years.

"She (Paula) was an active parent even when her children were not attending. Paula was our go to gal, the first one the volunteer on any school committee. Paula was always willing to help raise funds and give of her time. It would be hard to remember the many committees she chaired or served on during the years I was there."

This is Paula, doing whatever she can to help. Always there to generate funds, plan an event (she 'did' Project Graduation at the Y when her daughter graduated from Tavares High), provide input, help a teacher and the list goes on and on. Schools deeply need more Paula Stinsons to help take their campus to the next level. It is great for teachers and administrators to focus on teaching the children and have volunteers handle the other tasks. Paula did just that, she relieved some of the burden from teachers and administrators.

## Eustis Service League

Paula was a member of the Eustis Service League during the 1980's and 1990's. This organization was founded by community minded woman who were interested in supporting the Eustis and surrounding area community and its citizens.

With Paula's participation, the Eustis Service League raised money to provide scholarships to Eustis High School students for their enrollment at Lake Sumter Community College (now Lake Sumter State College). Grant money was also given to Lake Technical Center and area elementary, middle and high schools. The Eustis Service League funded a room at the old Waterman Hospital and maintained a median strip when the city landscaped Bay Street.

Even though Paula never lived in Eustis, she was active in supporting this Eustis organization for the benefit of its community and its citizens.

## Hunter Foundation

In 1997 Matthew and Mildred Hunter established a Foundation "to be used exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific, literary, or educational purposes. Preference shall be given to charitable organizations involved in assisting abused children and mentally retarded persons of all ages and educational institutions including high schools, colleges, universities, vocational technical schools and nursery schools, for the purposes of providing scholarships to students who need financial assistance."

Paula knew the Hunters and was involved with the Foundation from day one. One can 'see' her hand at work in the language above. Note the 'assisting abused children and mentally retarded persons..' and 'providing scholarships to students who need financial assistance". She has been a member of the Grant Committee since the beginning reviewing applications and making sure those in need receive support. Paula not only cares about others, she finds a way to help them. Note the letters from the Trustee and fellow Grant Committee member John Feldman.

## Lake Sumter Foundation

Changing lives and building futures is the mission of Lake Sumter Foundation. The Foundation is part of Lake Sumter State College and their 'job' is to secure private dollars to help deserving students. Now who do you think would be supportive of this worthy goal of helping deserving students? Right, Paula was up front leading projects from gala dinners, to raffles, to silent auctions, to golf tournaments and all the other activities to bring her community close to the local college where our future leaders are being trained. Once again Paula has a deep concern for young folks and uses her compassion, passion, and hard work to make sure deserving youth get the financial support needed so they can obtain an education. This is another place she supported and devoted her special skill set to draw the community into the college for the benefit of young adults.

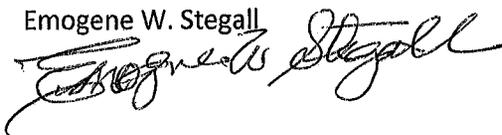
Paula Jean Stegall was born on May 15, 1948, in Waukegan, Illinois. When she was 15 months old, we moved to Tavares. While growing up Paula was always taking in animals and was a very active child. She was never one to sit for very long. Paula attended Tavares schools and was a member of the local Girl Scout troop. While at Tavares High School she served as President of her Sophomore class and headed up the fundraising projects for her class. She volunteered on Saturdays collecting newspapers to raise funds for the school. She was also a member of the cheerleading squad and serviced as captain. As a lifelong member of First United Methodist Church of Tavares, she was active in the youth group in her teens and is still an active member today. She has served on numerous committees and boards at the church throughout her years as a member.

Since Paula was a teen, she has had a servant's heart. From a very young age she was always working to help others and volunteering just seemed to be a passion of hers. She was always the first to sign up to help and always stayed to make sure the work was complete on a project. I also must point out that Paula in her teens is the one that had dinner on the table most nights. I worked 3 jobs at the time and her Dad had 2 businesses, so Paula took on the role as home maker most days during those years, especially during the Summer months. She shopped for groceries, planned the meals, and put them on the table.

After high school Paula attended Georgia Southern for a year before returning to Florida to marry her husband of 53 years, Jim Stinson. They started their family and their business shortly after that. Paula ran the office at Stinson Electric for more than 20 years, all while raising their children, Tammie and Scott. Paula stayed active in community involvement during these years as well. She played a major role in Tavares Junior Woman's Club when they renovated/updated Wooten Park. She was instrumental in bringing the YMCA to the Golden Triangle area. She was a member of the Eustis Service League. She served on the Foundation Board for Lake Sumter Community College. She was always very involved with the schools that her children attended. She is currently active with the Lake Sumter Children's Advocacy Center and has been for many years.

To say I am proud of Paula and all she has done for our community and others would be an understatement. Paula has always put others first and gives unselfishly of her time and talents to make our community a better place for all. I would be honored to have her join me in the Lake County Women's Hall of Fame.

Emogene W. Stegall

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emogene W. Stegall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "E".



25715 State Road 46 • Sorrento, Florida 32776  
Office (352) 383-3772 • Fax (352) 383-7066 • Toll Free (888) 652-7186

September 6, 2020

Members of the Selection Committee  
Lake County Woman's Hall of Fame

I am writing this letter in support of Paula Stinson. She deserves to be a member of the Lake County Woman's Hall of Fame! Even though my interaction with Mrs. Stinson was limited, I knew her by reputation. While serving the citizens of Lake County as a Commissioner, I recognized the tremendous value of volunteers and was instrumental in organizing a volunteer program for the county. It is obvious that many of the wonderful programs and services our community enjoys are the result of dedicated volunteers. Government can only do so much to meet the needs of the citizens.

When one looks at the list of activities and accomplishments of Mrs. Stinson they are overwhelmed. Now I see why I would learn of her involvement and impact in areas of interest to me. Her commitment to children is a perfect example. I too felt a strong desire to make sure our children were protected and had opportunities to excel. Her work with the Children's Advocacy Center is a classic example of volunteers taking over where the county needs help. Her love and concern for abused and abandoned children resulted in a critical need being filled due to her hard work. There are many other organizations that have benefited greatly from her remarkable heart. It is obvious she has a deep love for others and expresses that love through her service and friendship. What greater gift can we give than our service to others.

When I look at the remarkable record of service to others there is no doubt that Paula Stinson deserves to join her mother and myself in the Lake County Woman's Hall of Fame. I look forward to being there and welcoming her at the induction ceremony.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Catherine Hanson".

Catherine Hanson  
Former Lake County Commissioner  
Member Lake County Woman's Hall of Fame

**CAROL SUE TAMSETT**  
**Tavares, FL**

September 3, 2020

Selection Committee  
Lake County Woman's Hall of Fame

I have known Paula Stinson since we were children. Her family are long time residents of Lake County and her mother, Supervisor of Elections Imogene Stegall, is a legend in Lake County. From early adulthood, Paula has been involved in humanitarian efforts. She has been active in the Tavares Junior Women's Club, Eustis Service League, First United Methodist Church of Tavares, and Lake Sumter Community College. She was a business owner with her husband (Stinson Electric), an athletic supporter at Tavares High School, an organizer and founding member of the Triangle YMCA, and on the board of the Children's Advocacy Center in Leesburg.

There are many people who can post a list of organizations of which they have been members. Paula is different. When she is a member of an organization, she takes leadership positions and makes a difference.

I know you will receive many stories involving all the wonderful community improvements she has been responsible for. But, I want to tell you a personal story which I believe epitomizes her amazing abilities and huge servant's heart.

My husband was diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease in 2016. Along with that diagnosis came the necessity for us to make huge life-altering decisions. The first decision was to sell our large home on the lake and move into something smaller that I could care for myself. When it came time to pack and move, Paula was the "commander-in-charge." She brought in boxes, called a list of helpers and assigned them tasks, provided food and drink for the volunteers and oversaw the process to make sure everything we needed was taken care of. She repeated her efforts as we moved into the new home.

During the next two years, as Jimmie's disease progressed, she remained vigilant. She touched base every week, sometimes more often. She invited us to dinner and outings in the boat. She offered to run errands when I couldn't take Jimmie or leave him unattended. She and her husband drove us to Miami to visit our daughter and her family because he could no longer drive. That was the last trip out of Lake County he made.

As time went on and Jimmie's disease became more advanced, I found it necessary to find a facility for him to live. That didn't stop Paula. She went to work right away to help shop for the furniture, towels, and decorative items for his new home. She and her husband made frequent visits to Jimmie, taking magazines, candy, etc. Occasionally the four of us would venture out for an early dinner in the evenings. Their visits were the highlight of his week.

Jimmie passed away this March. On the day of his death, I walked outside his room shortly after he took his last breath, and standing there with open arms was.....Paula! I asked her how she knew he had passed and she said she didn't know but was nearby running errands and decided to stop in to check on us!!! As she always does, Paula sprung into action, calling the pastor, friends, family. She began immediately planning his memorial service.

The next morning she called me and said she and her husband were bringing boxes to the facility and would help me pack up Jimmie's personal issues and clear the room. They helped me sort things to keep, things to give away, and things to take to the consignment shop. They disassembled furniture and delivered items to the consignment shop. Within a couple of hours, we were totally moved out of his room and on the way home.

The date was early March and the Covid Shutdown was in its beginning stages. The memorial service was the following Saturday, one day before the church closed for the quarantine. Paula went about with a vengeance, planning the program, decorations, and food for the service. She chose a theme and decorated accordingly, borrowing golf clubs and Florida State memorabilia from friends and ordering color-coordinating flowers and tablecloths. As fate would have it, our sanctuary was previously booked for a wedding for that day, so we were relegated to the activity center. Paula redesigned the arrangement of the center to seat 200 people and found volunteers to move all the existing furniture and set up for the service.

Foreseeing an issue with two large events on the same campus she planned for two parking areas marked with signs stating "Funeral" and "Wedding" and asked for volunteer parking attendants to direct traffic.

As for food.....she wasn't satisfied with cookies and punch. We had a gorgeous buffet of sandwiches, sweets, veggies, assorted beverages, etc. Because of the Covid fear, tables were spaced appropriately, volunteers were stationed with gloves to serve the items, and large containers of hand sanitizer were placed throughout the event area.

Attention was paid to EVERY small detail. This is just a small example of the way Paula approaches everything she does! After the event, she doesn't dust off her hands and pat herself on the back. She sticks around and pitches in to clean up and pack up and support all the staff and volunteers. Nothing goes undone!! No detail is small enough to escape her eye.

I feel like this story epitomizes Paula Stinson. She never says, "Let me know if you need anything," or "Let me know how I can help." She sees a need and works tirelessly to get tasks accomplished.....from the planning stages until the last dustpan of dirt is gone and the dishes are stored away. This scenario is repeated hundreds of times in her life, no matter how she is involved...community, civic organizations, church, school, friendships. **No one deserves to receive the honor of Lake County Women's Hall of Fame Member more than Paula Stinson!!!**

Fondly,

*Carol Sue Jamsett*

August 18, 2020

Mr. John Jackson  
27603 Fairglade Dairy Road  
Sorrento, FL 32776

Dear Mr. Jackson,

It gives me great pleasure to recommend Paula J. Stinson for the Lake County Hall of Fame. I've known and worked with Paula for over 30 years. We worked together on the Lake Sumter Foundation Board and then on the Children's Advocacy Board for 20 years. While working for the college foundation, Paula was instrumental in helping deserving students obtain scholarships. Through her efforts, many Lake County students were able to achieve their educational goals. If there were not enough funds available at the time for certain scholarships, Paula would use her recourses in the community to acquire these funds. She is tireless with a positive attitude that is infectious with everyone she meets. Our community is truly better as a result of Paula Stinson.

She is a very special asset to our team at the Lake Sumter Children's Advocacy Center. Paula was one of the "first responders" in getting this community service established. She knows children are our future and they need to be loved and protected. She cares about and wants to help all our children to feel safe.

The Golden Triangle YMCA is also another community project that Paula was influential in getting established. She is a true leader that is committed to getting results. Paula is also very active in her church, coordinating and organizing events that not only benefit her church, but an outreach to the community. Her faith and love are strong and it shows.

Paula is a true champion of Lake County and deserves to be in the Lake County Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,



Sarah Jane Hewitt  
Children's Advocacy Board Member  
2928 Porto Bello Ave  
Leesburg, FL 34748  
(352) 408-1566

Sandra Pettitt  
1811 Morris St.  
Eustis, Fl.

Dear committee members ,

It is with great pleasure that I am nominating Paula Stinson for the Lake County Womens Hall of Fame Award.

I was in the Counseling office of Tavares High School for 28 years. Paula had two children go through the school during that time. . She was a active parent even when her children were not attending. Paula was our go to gal, the first one to volunteer on any school committee. Paula was always willing to help raise funds and give of her time . It would be hard to remember the many committees she chaired or served on during the years I was there. Paula continually excelled at all task, willing to take on the tough projects and put in the necessary work to ensure they were done properly , Paula's sparkling personality ensured everyone wanted to work beside her.

I have no doubt that Paula Stinson should be in the Lake County Womens Hall Of Fame. If you have questions please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,  
Sandra Pettitt

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandra Pettitt". The signature is written in dark ink and is enclosed within a large, light-colored oval shape that appears to be a stamp or a decorative element.

# **M. Meredith Kirste, P.A.**

ATTORNEY AT LAW

7928 U.S. Highway 441, Suite 3  
LEESBURG, FL 34788-8206

M. MEREDITH KIRSTE

TELEPHONE  
(352) 326-3455

FAX  
(352) 365-0055

July 27, 2020

Lake County Women's Hall of Fame  
Board of County Commissioners  
Post Office Box 7800  
Tavares, FL 32778

Re: Lake County Women Hall of Fame

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

This letter is written to support the nomination of Paula J. Stinson for the Lake County Women's Hall of Fame. Paula was born in Lake County. She is the daughter of Emogene Stegall and deserving of joining her Mother in the Lake County Women's Hall of Fame.

I have known Paula for approximately forty-five years but have served with her on the Board of the Lake Sumter Children's Advocacy Center for the past twenty years. The Lake Sumter Children's Advocacy Center provides a child friendly center where a child victim can be safely interviewed, provided crisis counseling and therapy and receive specialized medical exams free of charge. Paula served as the President for several years and served on the Executive Committee, Child Protection Team Committee and Finance Committee of the Lake Sumter Children's Advocacy Center during these twenty years.

Paula has always had an unwavering passion and commitment to make sure all of these services are provided for the abused children of Lake and Sumter Counties. She has continuously gone the extra mile whether it was overseeing the building of our current Center in Leesburg or serving on the Committee to advocate for our own Child Protection Team so the children could receive all of these services in our own community and not be transported to Gainesville to be examined.

Paula exhibits a never failing support and devotion to the welfare of our kids at the Children Advocacy Center with the clear vision of "What is best for our kids!" Her contribution to the improvement of these children's lives for the past twenty years makes her a well-deserved nominee for the Lake County Women's Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,

M. Meredith Kirste  
President of the Lake Sumter  
Children's Advocacy Center



**John Jackson**  
27603 Fairglade Dairy Road  
Sorrento, FL 32776

September 5, 2020

Selection Committee  
Lake County Woman's Hall of Fame

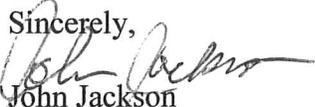
This letter is in support of Paula Stinson's selection into the Lake County Woman's Hall of Fame. Many of the inductees are elected officials or successful in the business world. Paula is deserving because she has used her remarkable passion, concern, hard work, leadership skills, ability to generate dollars, and time to make life better for her fellow members of Lake County. All her community service work has been as a volunteer and she certainly does not seek recognition. She gives herself to her community for she cares deeply for others and has a special love for children and young adults, especially those that have special needs.

I first met Paula at a YMCA meeting. A small group of community leaders met to talk about getting a Y established in the Golden Triangle area. We learned quickly that it was going to be a huge challenge. The national organization does not provide seed money to start a Y! They will have staff in the area meet with groups and provide guidance. We realized early on that the Y is not a nice building, but quality programs to enrich the participant. It is not about winning, but giving it your best. As we moved forward Paula was one of the strong leaders of the effort. She was always positive and supportive. She was involved in every aspect of leadership; helping hire a Director, encouraging part time staff and volunteers as they offered programs, using her contacts and sincere commitment to generate dollars and always encouraging the rest of us. When the time came to talk about a facility, a few were apprehensive, but Paula led the charge to move ahead with construction of a facility. Expert consultants for the Y said Golden Triangle was not ready for a million dollar facility. Paula said we were! She was right!

Once again her leadership and positive approach were key to the successful campaign and construction of the Golden Triangle YMCA facility that has been able to offer so many quality opportunities to the community. The exercise area, swimming pool, gym (Paula paid a visit to C.V. Griffin to 'sell' the Y and he provided \$300,000 through his Foundation for the gym!), multi-purpose room, etc. all are used extensively and the Y is a major asset to the Golden Triangle area.

Paula is someone that has volunteered a tremendous amount of her time to make life better for others, especially children and young adults. She has taken her remarkable skill set of leadership by example, organization, encouragement, ability to generate financial support and a contagious passion to make our community a better place. I urge you to have Paula Stinson join her mother in the Lake County Woman's Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,

  
John Jackson

Virginia C. Babb  
19029 Lake Swatara Drive  
Eustis, Florida 32736  
June 21, 2020

Ladies and Gentlemen:

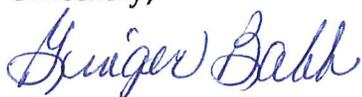
As a native of Lake County and a Pioneer Descendant, I am always interested in our community, its history, and in those who provide leadership and service to our citizens. We are fortunate to have such outstanding members of the community who are willing to serve, and I am honored to know Paula Stegall Stinson who is one such person. I have known Paula and am blessed to call her my friend for over 60 years.

It is no surprise that fellow classmates recognized her leadership abilities and voted her Senior Class Projects Chairman at Tavares High School in 1966. This was just the beginning of her service to others. Paula has always had the ability to get things done. She has never shied away from leadership roles or spearheading community projects. She joined and led The Tavares Junior Women's Club for many years, organizing the revitalization of Wooten Park. She was instrumental in establishing and bringing the YMCA to the Golden Triangle area. She has worked tirelessly for the Lake County Children's Advocacy Center, raising thousands of dollars for the care and counseling of children. She supports the arts as a member of the Lake Eustis Museum of Art. As a lifelong member, she has had countless positions of service in The First United Methodist Church of Tavares.

While being involved in these many community activities, Paula always has been the first to help a friend or neighbor. She sends group emails to people asking for help when someone is sick, injured, or in need. She encourages all who know her to give to others in their time of need. She is still the best cheerleader (High School Captain, of course) anyone could know.

There is no question that Paula Stegall Stinson deserves to be recognized and admitted to the Lake County Women's Hall of Fame. I support this nomination 100 percent!

Sincerely,



Ginger Cassady Babb

Paula

How do I put into words Paula!  
There aren't enough adjectives to describe my good friend  
Paula

Paula is the most devoted and dedicated person I  
have ever known. Where there is a need she gives  
100% of her time and energy.

We spent months working side by side tirelessly on  
the creation of Wooten Park in Javars.  
Paula inspires you to do more, work harder, stay  
focused, complete the task at hand. The end  
result was the completion of beautiful Wooten Park  
in time for their bi-centennial celebration.  
Something the residents of Javars could be proud of  
and can still be proud of today!

There is no one I know that is more community minded  
than Paula. Her dedication to her community, her  
church, her family and friends are unequalled.

Many times Paula works behind the scenes not expecting  
or wanting in recognition.  
For example: when my father passed away Paula & Jim  
were in Atlanta visiting family but they drove home  
to attend his funeral and then drove hours back to Atlanta  
That is Paula!

Paula makes you want to be a better person!  
She makes me want to be a better person!  
I'm lucky to have had her in my life and to call her  
friend!

Written in Love & Friendship  
Mary Jane Oulls

August 31, 2020

Neil Kelly  
Lake County Clerk of Courts, Retired

Lake County Women's Hall of Fame  
Selection Committee  
Board of County Commissioners  
PO Box 7800  
Tavares, FL 32778-7800

Dear Committee Members:

It is my privilege to write this letter in support of the nomination of Paula Stinson for the Lake County Women's Hall of Fame. I have known Paula and her family for many years. As I look back over these years, Paula's love for Lake County and the well-being of our citizens, especially children and families, is very evident.

Paula has played a major role in accomplishing many significant achievements that have improved the quality of life for the citizens of Lake County. Paula was deeply involved and instrumental in the establishment of the Lake Sumter Children's Advocacy Center, The Golden Triangle YMCA and Tavares Wooten Park. These are only a few of her impactful contributions. These and a number of others are described in more detail in the submittal package. Paula's accomplishments and involvement with these major efforts demonstrate she has a huge heart and passion for the well-being of children and families in Lake County.

It is without reservation that I wholeheartedly support Paula's nomination for induction to the Lake County Women's Hall of Fame. The Committee's consideration of Paula's nomination will be greatly appreciated as you begin the review and deliberation process.

Sincerely,



Neil Kelly  
Lake County Clerk of Courts, Retired

**JAMES C. WATKINS**  
**1605 Sugar Loaf Lane**  
**St. Augustine, Florida 322092**

Lake County Women's Hall of Fame  
Lake County Florida

Re: PAULA STINSON

To Whom It May Concern:

It is without reservation I recommend Paula Stinson to be included in the Lake County Women's Hall of Fame. Paula has been involved in many civic, church, and community projects. She is an organizer that does not seek recognition, just enjoys being involved and serving.

Paula has help raise funds for numerous programs and projects. She has been instrumental in raising money for the Y.M.C.A.; Children' Advocacy Center; Wooten Park; Hunter Foundation; Lake Sumter State College Foundation, and many others.

She has also been incredibly involved in Tavares First Methodist Church, as well as having served on the City of Tavares and Lake County committees. Known as a hard worker she has a great interest in children. She has volunteered at Tavares Elementary School, Tavares High School, and Lake Sumter State College. Paula has a special interest in the Children's Advocacy Center tirelessly donating time, talents, and leadership.

Knowing Paula Stinson as a modest woman of action, and with a unique respect and appreciation for the Women's Hall of Fame as the retired Lake County Clerk, I whole heartily recommend Paula to you to be included.

Sincerely,  
  
James C. Watkins  
Retired Lake County Clerk



**Rev. Michael S. Briggs**  
Senior Pastor

**Debbi Love**  
Church Administrator

**Paul Carraway**  
Music Director

**Pam Post**  
Children & Family Dir.

**Josh Blake**  
Performance Arts Dir.

**Cheryl Kilgore**  
Bookkeeper

**Jerry Bressin**  
Children's Enrichment Ctr. Dir.

**First United Methodist Church Tavares**  
600 W Ianthe Street  
Tavares, Florida 32778  
352-343-2761

**August 5, 2020**

Hello. My name is Pamela Post and I am ecstatic to recommend Paula Stinson as a member of "Lake County Woman's Hall of Fame" on behalf of the Children and Family Ministries of the First United Methodist Church of Tavares. Paula was instrumental in the development of my newly created position five years ago. Because of Paula Stinson and her team, we now have a growing and active children's ministry – that not only serves our church – but our community.

I can attest to the fact that Paula continues to fulfil her promise to our church with her prayers, her presence, and her gifts. Because of such a commitment, she helped me begin an afterschool ministry and partnership with Tavares Elementary School five years ago. With Paula's help we were able to secure a bus from Lake County Schools to transport children to and from the school each week to our church. This ministry has touched the lives of 60-70 kids each week and their families. As we expanded upon this ministry to include family night dinners and activities, Paula played a vital role in helping me secure enough volunteers to make this ministry a continued success. Words cannot express the impact that she has had on this ministry and our children and families in Lake county.

In addition to creating my newly developed position, Paula has continued to serve in various capacities of our Children and Family Ministries. She has helped me build a team of support volunteers to sustain our ministry. She played key roles in serving in various special events for our children and community such as: Vacation Bible School, Sunday school, special summer camps, family night dinners, and our Fall Festival. Most recently, she helped our team develop and re-design our children's Sunday school rooms! This was a huge project and a great success in the eyes of our children. Paula also created a volunteer wall to showcase our awesome volunteers who make our ministry possible!

I know Paula to be a kind, giving, humble, upstanding, conscientious and trustworthy individual who cares deeply about her community in Lake county. She always goes above and beyond expectations without ever being noticed or given credit for her servitude. This is why I believe she deserves to finally be recognized for all she has so generously done for the Lake county community.

Sincerely,

Pamela D. Post/Children and Family Ministries Director

600 W. Ianthe St./ P.O. Box 1086 - Tavares, Florida 32778 - (352) 343-2761  
[www.fumctavares.com](http://www.fumctavares.com)



**Rev. Michael S. Briggs**  
Senior Pastor

Debbi Love  
Church Administrator

Paul Carraway  
Music Director

Pam Post  
Children & Family Dir.

Cheryl Kilgore  
Bookkeeper

Nancy McMichael  
Church Secretary

Jerry Bressin  
Children's Enrichment Ctr. Dir.

August 10, 2020

Mrs. Carol Sue Tamsett  
P. O. Box 503  
Tavares, FL 32778

Dear Carol Sue,

My experience with Paula Stinson has been through the focus she has for serving our neighbors, and how that helped give our leadership team a new direction for outreach.

She has never shied away from doing the legwork necessary for our Children's and Youth ministries, and has helped us build partnerships with our neighboring schools. Paula also served on the search committee to help find our Youth pastor.

Her efforts to help prepare our facilities and volunteers always ensured that we were ready for afterschool programs and our Fall Festival, all of which were open for the benefit of local children and their families.

Our Church has been blessed to support the Lake/Sumter Children's Advocacy Center for the past several years, through programs that Paula brought to us, to highlight their needs.

Thank you for allowing me to express my appreciation for the impact Paula Stinson has had on our community.

Your friend on the journey,

Rev. Michael S. Briggs  
407-754-4633

H. John Feldman, Esq.

600 Jennings Avenue  
Eustis, FL 32726

August 28, 2020

Lake County Women's Hall of Fame  
315 W Main Street  
Tavares, FL 32778

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter serves as my nomination for Paula Stinson to be recognized in the Lake County Women's Hall of Fame. Her contributions to Lake County are unmatched. I have had the pleasure of working with Ms. Stinson on various matters, including serving alongside her on a charitable foundation. She has supported the Lake Sumter Children's Advocacy Center since its inception, in addition to a litany of other organizations in and around Lake County. She is a cornerstone in our community and it is my honor to render this nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "H. John Feldman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

H. John Feldman

To: Lake County Hall of Fame

About 48 years ago I moved to Lake County with my wife and family. One of the nicest families we first met were the Stinsons. They were true native Lake Countians, born and raised. My wife joined the Tavares Women's Club and became great friends with Mary Jane Aulls, Paula Stinson and others.

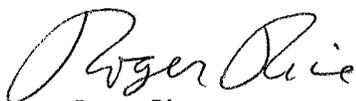
At the time there was a large parcel of land in downtown Tavares that had been donated to the City several decades before by the Wooten family. The city had done nothing over the years with this property. The property was nothing but a large urban forest of trees and scrubs, so thick that you could barely walk through it. Someone had the great idea to make a park of it, which of course was the original intent of the Wootens decades ago.

So, who took control and got the ball rolling? Paula Stinson!!! Of course, Paula had many friends who could help, including Mary Jane Aulls, Sammye Rice and many others in the Tavares Women's Club. They started work around the Fall of 1975 and continued through the Summer of 1976. They completed the project by July 4, 1976. It was ready for the great celebration of the 200<sup>th</sup> birthday of our nation.

I can vividly remember working on Saturdays with the other husbands and wives as we developed Wooten Park. We cut excessive trees, dug up offensive weeds and scrubs, leveled the ground, dug paths, put down mulch, built structures on which the kids could play, planted new lovely bushes, trimmed trees and did everything we could imagine to create a great city park. Paula Stinson was in charge and did a wonderful job of directing it all to a successful conclusion. How much did this cost the City of Tavares? Zero!!! Thank you, Paula.

Today, we can walk through a lovely city park in Tavares and assume that it has always been there. Not so, without the leadership of Paula Stinson.

Sincerely,

  
Roger Rice



11312 Dead River Road  
Tavares, FL 32778  
Telephone (352) 343-0122  
Fax: (352) 343-0146

September 11, 2020

RE: Lake County Women's Hall of Fame

To Whom It May Concern:

Paula Stinson and I go way back to our early elementary school days. We have worked together on a number of issues, continuing through our adult lives, including the rebuilding of Wooten Park in downtown Tavares.

Paula's head leadership roles, in addition to the Child Advocacy Center and the First Methodist Church in Tavares, shows Paula has been one of the most effective leaders in our community for many years.

I think she is very deserving of this award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edd Holder", written over a horizontal line.

Edd Holder

33746 Radio Rd.

Leesburg, FL 34788

September 2, 2020

Lake County Women's Hall of Fame  
Board of County Commissioners  
PO Box 7800  
Tavares, FL 32778-7800

Re: Hall of Game- Paula Stinson

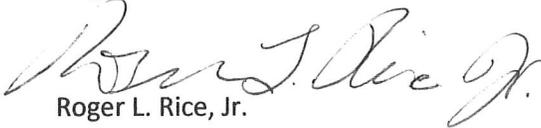
A few months ago my son was browsing through a book store in Sumter County and came across a cook book entitled "A Taste of Tavares." Much to his surprise, the authors of the book were his mother, Sammye Rice, Mary Jane Aulls and Paula Stinson. It was published in the 1970's when he was very young, and he had not heard of the book. He called me, and I remembered it well. The book was a project of the Tavares Women's Club, and the idea was Paula Stinson's. The three ladies were all great cooks and had many family recipes, plus they gathered other recipes from various people. They had a printer print several hundred copies, and they sold the books at various church functions, flea markets and other venues. The money raised was given to a local charity (The Harry Anna Crippled Children's Home in Umatilla if my memory serves correctly).

My son and I are recommending Paula Stinson for the Women's Hall of Fame because this particular project, and many others like it, would likely never have got off the ground without her determination and drive.

Truly Yours,



Roger L. Rice



Roger L. Rice, Jr.

## The Power of One

Paula Jean Stinson is a people person. My close association with her began more than 20 years ago at our church, when she, as Worship Committee Chairman, asked me to join the group. Our adventures at church have varied over the years to include mentoring youth through confirmation classes to spending a week at Hinton Rural Life Center on a mission trip. I also joined her on the Extreme Team, a committee she spearheaded to bring more children into our church family. Paula was head Trustee for a number of years which made her responsible for all the church property and parsonage. Ten years ago, Paula was instrumental in the church renovation to create a chapel for small weddings, baptisms, or prayer and meditation. Over the years Paula has logged many hours working on the Wednesday after school children's program, and decorating the sanctuary for Advent and Holy Week. In 1998, when our church burned she, and others, worked into the night preparing an alternate site for Sunday services the next morning. Four years later, Paula was a key player in implementing the celebration (no small feat) for the Consecration Service of our new sanctuary. These examples are the tip of the iceberg for her church accomplishments. Many of them required fundraising, a skill she is a master at performing, for worthy causes.

Paula can organize people to move a mountain, and convince them they are having a great time doing it. You can not say no to her. Why? Because you know in your heart she is asking you to help make our community a better place.

I believe God places people in our lives who can encourage, uplift, and teach us along the journey. My friend, Paula, is one of those people, and I thank God for having her in my life.

Susan Carter  
33637 Lakeshore Drive  
Tavares, Florida

352-408-8361



Nominee's name: KELLY WRIGHT STONE  
Address: 506 N. FLORIDA AVE., HOWEY-IN-THE HILLS, FL. 34737  
Phone: (352) 267-2099  
Resident of Lake County since: 1995 (minimum of 10 years required)  
Date of **Birth**/Death: 10/26/1974

Submitted by (Name/Address/Phone):  
Merry C. Theobald  
34050 Pershing Ave., Leesburg FL., 34788  
(352) 602-1338

Relationship to nominee: Friend

Reason you are nominating this person: Sergeant Stone and I have been friends for almost twenty years, but our friendship went to a new level when I became a recruit at Lake Tech's IPS, in Tavares, where Sgt. Stone is an instructor. I always dreamed of being in Law Enforcement, but after marrying my high school sweetheart, in 1984, and giving birth to five beautiful babies, I realized I had to put those dreams on hold (or just leave them as a dream). However, after my unfortunate divorce, I had to go to plan B, to support myself respectfully (other than, being a waitress) and to me that was becoming a Corrections Officer. Therefore, at fifty years of age, I registered at the IPS. I doubted myself MANY times, while going through the academy, and contemplated on giving up, but Kelly refused to let me! Today (three plus years later), I am a Detention Deputy at Marion County Jail and I am loving every minute it! I have since heard of several people that she has encouraged to go after their dreams! Kelly Stone is a TRUE LEADER!

Criteria:

- ✓ Nominee must have made significant contributions to the improvement of life for all citizens of Lake County.
- ✓ Nominee must have made a significant contribution in the field of art, agriculture, athletics, business, community service, environment, government, health care, humanities, philanthropy or science/education
- ✓ Nominee must have been born in or adopted Lake County as her home. Nominee may be living or dead.

Please attach a brief summary defining the nominee's accomplishments in one of the fields above. Do not include accomplishments that were achieved outside Lake County. Cite any awards, honors or commendation they may have received. Newspaper articles, letters, resumes, etc. are all acceptable forms of recognition. If no information is included other than the application form, it will not be considered. Petitions are not accepted.

Completed forms will be submitted to the Women's Hall of Fame Committee. Deadline for submissions is September 21, 2020.

Lake County Women's Hall of Fame  
Board of County Commissioners  
PO Box 7800 Tavares, FL 32778-7800  
352.343.9849  
Email: [nbooth@lakecountyfl.gov](mailto:nbooth@lakecountyfl.gov)

**CONGRATULATIONS ON 20 YEARS**



**SGT. STONE**

## RESUME

# Kelly P. Stone

### **Profile:**

---

A dedicated law enforcement professional with over 21 years of dedicated service. Over 12 years of supervisory and managerial experience overseeing personnel, facilities and equipment. A skillful communicator with excellent interpersonal, oral and written presentation skills. Strong analytical and critical thinking skills. An experienced leader in organizing, directing and motivating a diverse workforce while continuing to lead by example.

### **Experience:**

---

#### **LAKE TECHNICAL CENTER- INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

**TAVARES, FL**

##### **General and High-Liability Instructor**

**02/2007 – PRESENT**

- Instruct Law Enforcement and Corrections recruits on current CJSTC curriculum.
- Instruct Law Enforcement and Corrections recruits in approved High-Liability areas.
- Complete Law Enforcement and Corrections Equivalency of training curriculum courses.
- Review, test and remediate recruits in all curriculum areas.

#### **LAKE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

**Tavares, FL**

##### **Patrol/ School Resource Sergeant**

**11/2007 - Present**

- Supervised and conducted investigations of crimes committed within Lake County, including robberies, larcenies, shootings and assaults.
- As Patrol Supervisor, all patrol activities for sector deputies were monitored and in field observations were conducted; oversaw preliminary investigations of all major crimes occurring during shifts.
- Responsible for all managerial / administrative duties, including scheduling, training and selection of personnel; performed duties as acting Lieutenant in their absence and maintained detailed records of shift activities.
- Performed crime analysis and conferred with commanders to formulate strategies to address crime and maintain order within the county; trained deputies in patrolling techniques. . .
- Conducted training for deputies regarding investigatory procedures, police operations and tactics and provided positive guidance in both personal and work related areas.
- Trained new Sergeants and Corporals in all aspects of proper supervision and administrative duties.
- Recorded progress of investigations and compiled case reports; reviewed all paperwork for completeness.
- Oversee interviews of witnesses, suspects, informants and crime scenes examinations for physical evidence.
- Dealt directly with community and attended board meetings to address issues concerning the community

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**Lake County Sheriff's Office**

**Tavares, FL**

**2005 – 2007**

**Corporal/Field Training Officer**

- Acting shift supervisor, providing supervision, guidance and leadership to Deputy Sheriffs.
- Reviewing / approving offense reports and attachments.
- Provide leadership & training to new Deputy Sheriffs.
- All other duties of Deputy Sheriff.

**2004 - 2005**

**Lake County Sheriff's Office**

**Tavares, FL**

**Deputy Sheriff (Minneola Assignment)**

- Protection of life and property to the citizens of Minneola.
- Attendance at public town meetings.
- Enforcement of city ordinance's, state traffic laws and criminal statutes.
- All other duties of Deputy Sheriff.

**2004 - 2004**

**Lake County Sheriff's Office**

**Tavares, FL**

**Deputy Sheriff (Criminal Investigations Bureau)**

- Review and follow-up of open criminal complaint reports.
- Development of evidence to assist in the prosecution of law violators.
- Prepare & file for arrest warrants.
- All other duties of Deputy Sheriff.

**2003 – 2004**

**Lake County Sheriff's Office**

**Tavares, FL**

**Deputy Sheriff (Minneola Assignment)**

- Protection of life and property to the citizens of Minneola and Lake County.
- Attendance at public Commission meetings.
- Enforcement of city ordinance's, state traffic laws and criminal law statues.
- All other duties of Deputy Sheriff.

**2003 – 2003**

**Lake County Sheriff's Office**

**Tavares, FL**

**Deputy Sheriff**

- Protection of life and property to the citizens of Lake County.
- Investigate criminal law violations and prepare arrest affidavits.
- Attend to community concerns and provide resources to citizens.
- All other duties of Deputy Sheriff.

2000 - 2003

Lake County Sheriff's Office

Tavares, FL

**School Resource Deputy (South Lake High School)**

- Partnering with school staff to ensure that students had a safe campus.
- Investigation and deterrence of criminal activity on school campus.
- Provide counseling to students & school staff.

1999 – 2000

Lake County Sheriff's Office

Tavares, FL

**Deputy Sheriff (Minneola Assignment)**

- Protection of life and property of the citizens of Minneola and Lake County.
- Attendance at public Commission meetings.
- Enforcement of city ordinance's, state traffic laws and criminal law statues.
- All other duties of Deputy Sheriff.

1998 – 1999

Lake County Sheriff's Office

Tavares, FL

**Deputy Sheriff**

- Protection of life and property to the citizens of Lake County.
- Investigate criminal law violations and prepare arrest affidavits.
- Attend to community concerns and provide resources to citizens.
- All other duties of Deputy Sheriff.

**Commendations & Achievements:**

- 09-28-1998 Letter of Appreciation from Morton Roofing.
- 12-03-2001 Exceptional Notice from Sheriff George Knupp.
- 02-26-2002 Exceptional Notice from Sheriff George Knupp.
- 2002-2003 Safe Driver Award.
- 2003-2004 Safe Driver Award.
- 2004-2005 Safe Driver Award.
- Case # 06-156229 Appreciation from Sheriff Chris Daniels.
- 01-24-2007 Letter of Appreciation from Lake County Police Charities, Inc.

**Community Service:**

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<b>1999 – 2005</b>	<b>Mascotte Girls Softball League</b>	<b>Mascotte, FL</b>
	Coached Girls 6 – 10 Youth Softball League.	
<b>2000 - 2003</b>	<b>South Lake High School</b>	<b>Groveland, FL</b>
	Head Coach Girls Varsity Softball Team.	
<b>2004 - 2004</b>	<b>City of Minneola</b>	<b>Minneola, FL</b>
	Police Athletic League.	
<b>2004 – 2019</b>	<b>Assisted Various Youth Fund Raisers</b>	<b>Various Locations</b>
<b>2013 – 2019</b>	<b>Special Olympics Events</b>	<b>Various Locations</b>
<b>2015– 2019</b>	<b>Walk Like M.A.D.D</b>	<b>Clermont, FL</b>

**Education:**

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<b>2019</b>	<b>University of Louisville, Southern Police Institute-Administrative Officer's Course</b>	<b>Louisville, KY</b>
<b>2000 – 2001</b> <b>Associates in Arts</b> Criminal Justice AA Degree.	<b>Columbia College</b>	<b>Orlando, FL</b>
<b>1997 – 1998</b> <b>CJSTC Law Enforcement Officer Certification</b> Law Enforcement Officer Basic Recruit Program (680 Hours). Perfect Attendance Recognition. G.P.A. Final 90.25%	<b>Kenneth A. Bragg, Regional Public Safety Training Complex</b>	<b>Tavares, FL</b>
<b>1990 – 1993</b> <b>High School Diploma</b> State of Illinois Board of Education Diploma.	<b>Saint Charles High School</b>	<b>St. Charles, IL</b>
<b>Various Dates</b>	<b>Various Public Safety Training Centers</b>	<b>Various Locations</b>
<b>See Advanced and Specialized Training Record (Attachment)</b> Advanced and Specialized Law Enforcement Training & Certifications Attached.		<b>Various Locations</b>

September 28, 1998

Sheriff George Knupp  
Lake County Sheriff's Dept.  
360 W. Ruby street  
Tavares, FL 32778

RE: Deputy Sheriff Kelly Joslyn

Dear Sheriff Knupp,

On September 27<sup>th</sup>, 1998 I was stopped by Deputy Sheriff Kelly Joslyn badge #874 and I received a warning citation for speeding.

Whenever I received a ticket in the past I would just pay the fine and continue my poor driving, figuring I had paid the price and we were even. Deputy Sheriff Joslyn was assertive in making her point while being professional enough not to be condescending.

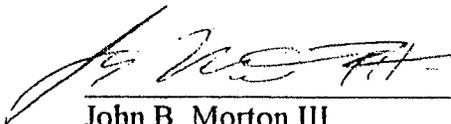
Now with no fine to pay the only way I could settle my account is to practice safe driving. Not only is this a win win situation for the highway and myself it will also bring my employees and my business to Lake County.

This is the first letter I have ever written about a law enforcement officer and the first time I ever had to think about the consequences of my poor driving habits other than just paying fines.

Although my encounter with Deputy Sheriff Joslyn was brief and I doubt if she even remembers it. It will have a lasting affect on my driving. If you see her tell her thanks for caring.

Who ever is training her is surely instilling the attitude of Protect and Serve.

Respectfully Yours,



John B. Morton III  
Morton Roofing Inc.  
President

**Sheriff**

LAKE COUNTY



**GEORGE E. KNUPP, JR.**

360 W. RUBY STREET TAVARES, FLORIDA 32778  
Phone 352-343-2101

December 3, 2001

Deputy Sheriff Kelly Peeler  
Lake County Sheriff's Office  
Community Services

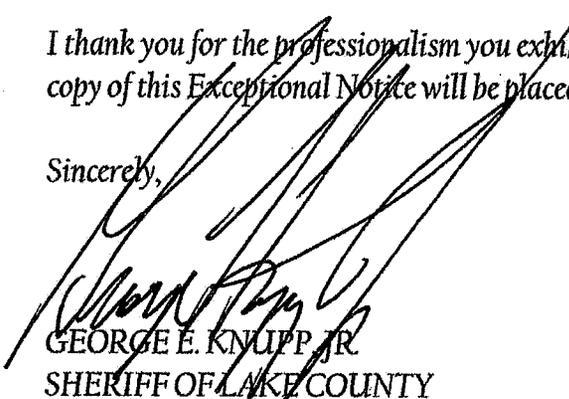
Re: ***Exceptional Notice***

Dear Deputy Sheriff Peeler:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the excellent service you provided to a resident of Minneola named Jeanne. I have attached an e-mail written by Jeanne commending you on a job well done.

I thank you for the professionalism you exhibited on behalf of the Lake County Sheriff's Office. A copy of this Exceptional Notice will be placed in your personnel file.

Sincerely,

  
GEORGE E. KNUPP, JR.  
SHERIFF OF LAKE COUNTY

GEK/jr/kc

Attachment

cc: Personnel File  
Bureau Commander  
Supervisor

Message Display

Inbox

17 messages



← 2 →

Trash Move Copy

Date: Thu, 29 Nov 2001 09:34:08 EST
From: Jcoad99@aol.com
To: sheriff@lcsso.org
Subject: Re: Minneola/Clermont Sector

All headers

All attachments

Dear Sheriff Knupp,

I wanted to take a few minutes to reflect, and send out Thank You's, to some of our Dep's in the Minneola/Clermont area. I've been interacting w/ County here, since 1998. I have an ADHD/Spec Needs child, who is 99% the source, of your Dept'd interaction w/ me.

There has been that sweet Dep. at your Clermont sector, who saved my US Marine, alot of hassle, in Faxing some 911/ paperwork to Base. He works the main desk there. Thank you Sir. Or, the times they took the time out from their Agenda, to direct my Spec. Needs child, into the right direction. Thank you Deps : )

Back to Minneola. I realize there is alot of frustration, interacting w/ a Special Needs child. Especially when there's no money to afford Meds. 157.00 being a Single Parent, raising kids. My SN/ child unfortunately, was in an accident over this summer, due to this. I'd like to thank Dep Wayne <Costa> for his intervention w/ Will, on this. And then there's Dep Blevins, Dep Rodenberry< always polite/ professional. And Supervisor Mike. Who generally is in a great mood, outside of his current bout w/ the flu, who is the deciding factor in a decision I have made, to no longer reside, in Minneola. And many blessings to Dep Mike Myers/ Dep Jocylen, the SLHS resource LEO's.

So, as you see. I am trying to point my children, in the positive/right direction in life Sherrif Knupp. But, unfortunately, I for now, must reside in the Jones Mobile Home Trailer Park. And trust me, I can't wait to get out. I work for Publix. Commit myself to remain Drug-free. And try to be a responsible Citizen. Its this living enviroment, that won't allow me. Its a Landlord who says, your car has to be removed from the premises. because of a neighbors complaint. Even though I kept it insured. Its the tenant who can say: I won't ever get in trouble, my brothers a LEO..while the smell of Marijuana infiltrates the airspace my children must breathe, by folks who visit there.

Well, call me fed up. And the best thing for me to do, is to remove myself, and my children, from this enviroment. And that may mean leaving the Minneola area. And thats why I sent this letter to you. To thank the LEO's who've given me the back-up in the right direction. I will always thank God for them. I know I get a "bad-rap" because I am a single parent. But, I want to assure you Sherrif Knupp, that I'm the one, who's dilligently committed, to beat "that rap".

I'm sorry this was so lengthy. I just wanted you to know what a great group of LEO's you have under you. And I hope you'll recognize them, as well. Thank you for your time.

Best wishes,

Jeanne
Minneola FL



**Sheriff**  
LAKE COUNTY



GEORGE E. KNUPP, JR.

360 W. RUBY STREET TAVARES, FLORIDA 32778  
Phone 352-343-2101

February 26, 2002

Deputy Sheriff Kelly Peeler  
Lake County Sheriff's Office  
Community Services

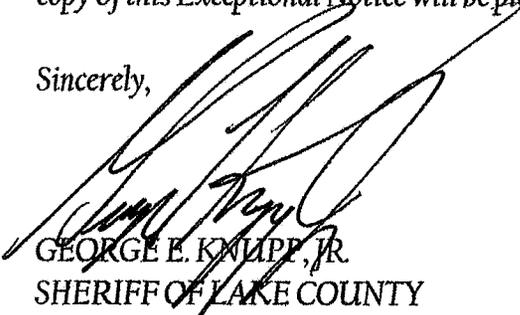
Re: ***Exceptional Notice***

Dear Deputy Peeler:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your hard work while assigned as the School Resource Officer for South Lake High School. It has been brought to my attention that through your excellent rapport with the students, you have been instrumental in locating several burglary suspects and recovering stolen property pawned in the City of Winter Garden. I have attached a letter written by Sergeant Jack Holder commending you on a job well done.

I thank you for the professionalism you exhibited on behalf of the Lake County Sheriff's Office. A copy of this Exceptional Notice will be placed in your personnel file. Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,



GEORGE E. KNUPP, JR.  
SHERIFF OF LAKE COUNTY

GEK/jr/kc

Attachment

cc: Personnel File  
Bureau Commander  
Supervisor

**Memorandum**

**TO: Sheriff George Knupp**

**FROM: Sgt. Jack Holder**

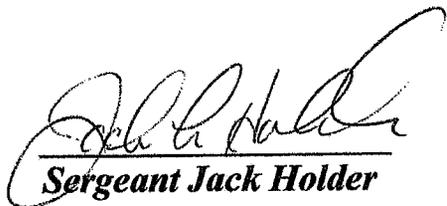
**REF: Accommodation letter**

**DATE: January 22, 2002**

---

*I would like to request a letter of accommodation for Deputy Kelly Peeler. She is a resource officer at South Lake High School and has done an outstanding job there. Through her rapport with these students, she received information in reference to some burglaries and was able to obtain suspect information. Deputy Peeler located the suspects and assisted CIB with the interviews. Through these interviews, 3 arrests were made. Deputy Peeler also located property that was pawned in the City of WinterGarden; it was later recovered by CIB and worth approximately \$2000.00.*

*Polk County may possibly make an arrest on a burglary case as well due to her efforts. Deputy Peeler also assisted in clearing to felony criminal mischief cases where another arrest was made at school.*

  
**Sergeant Jack Holder**

*To Whom It May Concern:*

*I would like to take this opportunity to nominate Sgt. Kelly Wadkins for employee of the quarter. I have personally known Sgt. Wadkins for approximately ten years and she has always been a friend and leader. Sgt. Wadkins since coming to our Bureau in late 2007 she has built a great rapport with all of the School Resource Deputies that work for her directly and indirectly. Sgt. Wadkins also has an outstanding relationship with our students and all of our various administrators. She also has worked extremely hard before work and after to make sure that our division excels to be the best it can.*

*She being a new supervisor has gone over and beyond for us more times than I can count and I think it's time that she is recognized for the outstanding job she has done. Sgt. Wadkins is in a bureau that in my opinion is most important one at the Sheriffs Office due us having or most prized possession, our children. Please accept my nomination for Sgt. Wadkins for employee of the quarter her leadership and efforts are not going unnoticed.*

*"The greatest natural resource is the minds of our children"*

*Walt Disney-*

*Sincerely,*

*Cpl. T. Potter*

**Sheriff**

Lake County



**Gary S. Borders**

360 West Ruby Street

Tavares, Florida 32778

Phone 352-343-9501

May 22, 2007

Corporal Kelly Wadkins  
Lake County Sheriff's Office  
Road Patrol

Re: **Exceptional Notice**

Dear Corporal Wadkins: *Kelly*

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your attention to duty when you assisted Mr. and Mrs. Lad McNeal in recovering their stolen rocking chair. I received a letter from Mr. and Mrs. McNeal commending you on a job well done.

Once again, thank you for the professionalism you exhibited on behalf of the Lake County Sheriff's Office. A copy of this Exceptional Notice will be placed in your personnel file.

Sincerely,

Gary S. Borders  
Sheriff of Lake County

GB/vj

cc: Personnel File  
Bureau Commander  
Supervisor

LAKE COUNTY COURT HOUSE  
550 W. MAIN ST  
TAVARES, FL 32778

4/24/07

To whom it May Concern,

My wife and I just wanted to say Thank You. Officers D/SJ Hernandez 1688 and CPL K. Watkins 874 recovered a stolen rocking chair for us, not a big item or very valuable, But they took the time and were very professional in solving our problem. They also had good advice about keeping things secure.

Thanks Again, Joel M. Neal

**Sheriff**

Lake County



**Gary S. Borders**

360 West Ruby Street

Tavares, Florida 32778

Phone 352-343-9501

October 16, 2007

Corporal Kelly Wadkins  
Lake County Sheriff's Office  
Road Patrol

Re: **Exceptional Notice**

Dear Corporal *Kelly* Wadkins:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your attention to duty on October 7, 2007, when you responded to a request for assistance from the Lady Lake Police Department with reference to a barricaded subject. I received a letter from Chief Ed Nathanson commending you on a job well done.

Once again, thank you for the professionalism you exhibited on behalf of the Lake County Sheriff's Office. A copy of this Exceptional Notice will be placed in your personnel file.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary S. Borders".

Gary S. Borders  
Sheriff of Lake County

GB/vj

cc: Personnel File  
Bureau Commander  
Supervisor



# LADY LAKE POLICE DEPARTMENT

423 Fennell Blvd. • Lady Lake, FL 32159 • Telephone: (352) 751-1560 • Fax: (352) 751-1566

ED NATHANSON  
CHIEF OF POLICE

October 9, 2007

Sheriff Gary Borders  
Lake County Sheriff's Office  
360 W. Ruby Street  
Tavares, FL 32778

*Gary*  
Dear Sheriff Borders:

I would like to take this opportunity to send this simple letter of thanks to you for the assistance that you and your staff; Lt. Jack Holder, Cpl. Kelly Wadkins, Cpl. Cassie Jackson, and Deputy Sheriff Ray Mattiucci provided to our agency on Sunday involving a barricaded subject, (Lady Lake Department Case #07-10-23582).

Your agency's support, teamwork and display of professionalism, while assisting my department during this incident, has not gone unnoticed.

It is a pleasure to know that the Lake County Sheriff's Office is always there, willing to render assistance and unify efforts for the safety of all.

Again, on behalf of the Lady Lake Police Department, Thank You!

Sincerely,

Ed Nathanson  
Chief of Police

June 28, 2008

Dear Sgt. Kelly;

This is a letter of commendation for your help in diffusing a very problematic situation in our family. You showed a great deal of compassion and handled the problem with a great deal of proficiency coupled with knowledge and compassion. Apparently another deputy had misunderstood a situation involving my grandson and a custody situation. You handled the situation quite well and I believe the outcome was the correct one.

My ex-son-in-law showed the deputy divorce papers and not a court order and the deputy assumed that was cause for us to surrender our grandson to him. I suggest you look into this matter and I believe the first deputy to be in error. I do not believe a divorce paper is a court order to have a deputy enforce in order for us to surrender our grandson to him. My daughter is getting an attorney to resolve this issue and you already have a great deal of input.

However, I reiterate, the deputies may be ill informed if they believe it is their duty to enforce the agreements spelled out in divorce papers. If so, would they not also have to make the one party come up with late child support payments?

Again, my wife, daughter, Collin, and myself thank you for your intervention last evening and it gave us a great deal of relief when you did what you did. We can never thank you enough.

Thank you;

Bobby and Sandy Dempsey

## Stone, Kelly

---

**From:** Marden, Kristy  
**Sent:** Monday, April 30, 2018 4:39 PM  
**To:** Allen Johnson  
**Cc:** Stone, Kelly; Sommer, Keith; Jones, William; DeSantis, Jeff; Hon, Randy; Marden, Michael  
**Subject:** RE: Recognition

Good afternoon, Mr. Johnson

Thank you for taking the opportunity to recognize several members of the Lake County Sheriff's Office who worked a recent concert at your venue.

I very much appreciate the kind words. I have taken the liberty of sharing your message with each of the personnel who were assigned to this detail.

Our agency is blessed with dedicated men and women who serve with the utmost professionalism.

Thanks again.....

*Peyton C. Grinnell*  
Sheriff of Lake County

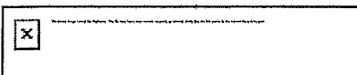
**From:** Allen Johnson [mailto:Allen.Johnson@cityoforlando.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 30, 2018 11:48 AM  
**To:** Sheriff <Sheriff@lcso.org>  
**Cc:** Sommer, Keith <Keith.Sommer@lcso.org>; Stone, Kelly <Kelly.Stone@lcso.org>; Craig H Borkon <craig.borkon@cityoforlando.net>  
**Subject:** Recognition

Sheriff Grinnell,

Our department operates the Camping World Stadium in Orlando and you had some of your team working our recent Eagles/Jimmy Buffett concert. I wanted to write you to tell you what an outstanding job they did and are a great representative of your departments values and guest experience. In particular I witnessed Sergeant Kelly Stone and Corporal Keith Sommer performance.

I know I appreciate receiving feedback on our team and especially enjoy positive reports. Again congrats on great representatives of your organization.

Allen



# Certificate of Appreciation

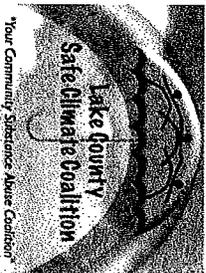
This certificate is awarded to

**Sgt. Kelly Wadkins**

In recognition of valuable contributions to the

2008 Sticker Shock Project.

*Debi MacIntyre* 3/17/2008  
Debi MacIntyre, Executive Director



CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

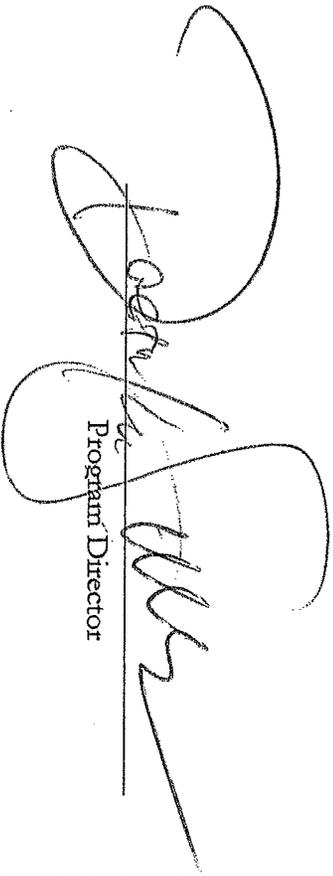
for being an outstanding member of the community and contributing to the posterity of America

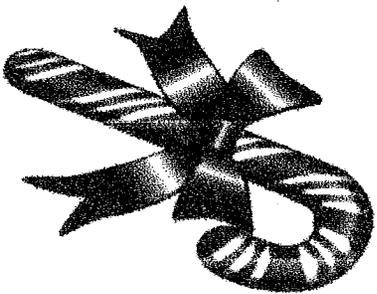
We the Genesis Center Of Leesburg Florida award this Certificate to

**Deputy Wadkins**

Awarded this 14<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2011

  
Barbara C. Smith  
Program Coordinator

  
John W. Wadkins  
Program Director



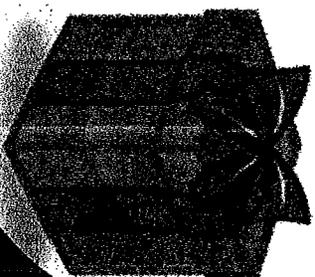
*Award of Participation*

to

*Sgt. Kelly Wadkins*

*Shop with an Officer Program*

*President/Founder* D/E CEM/93/R 15 2007



# Calibre Press

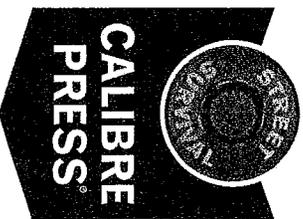
This certificate is presented to:

**KELLY STONE**

For successfully completing the course

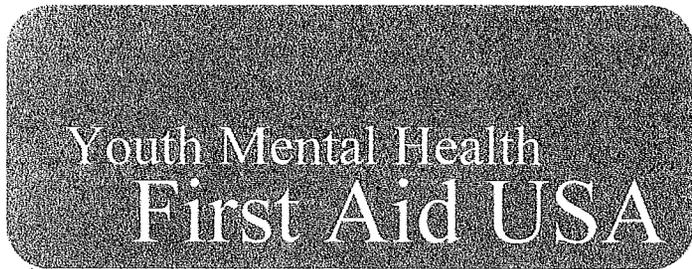
## **WOMEN IN COMMAND**

St. Petersburg, FL – September 25-26, 2017



16 hours of Instruction

  
LT. JAMES GLENNON  
Director of Training



YOUTH  
MENTAL  
HEALTH  
FIRST AID®

### Certificate

**Kelly Stone**



has completed the 8-hour course and is now certified in

## Youth Mental Health First Aid USA

And has been trained to provide initial help to young people experiencing problems such as depression, anxiety disorders, psychosis, and substance use disorders.

This certificate became effective on: **May 25, 2018**

Date

This certificate expires on: **May 24, 2021**

Date

**Delrita Meisner**

**Kevin Pokorney**

Instructor

Instructor

**NATIONAL COUNCIL**  
FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

National Council for Behavioral Health operates Mental Health First Aid in the USA. The National Council for Behavioral Health, the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and the Missouri Department of Mental Health founded Mental Health First Aid USA.



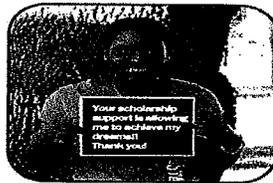
Lake Sumter  
State College  
FOUNDATION, INC.

August 21, 2019

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas B. Stone  
506 N. Florida Ave.  
Howey-In-The-Hills, FL 34737-3103

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Stone:

**Thank You For your investment to the LSSC Foundation**



Thanks to you, opportunities are being created and expanded for scholarships and college programs & initiatives.

Thanks to you, our faculty and staff are given the tools needed to help students succeed.

Thanks to you, the tradition of a place "where futures soar" continues.

Thanks to you, we have been "Changing Lives & Building Futures" for 35 years, as we celebrate with you a proud past and a promise-filled future!

**Please retain this Gift Information for your tax records.**

Designation: Athletic Unrestricted Fund(chg 1230) - Fundraising-Volleyball

Gift Date: Friday, August 16, 2019

Amount: \$75.00

Sincerely,

Laura A. Byrd, Ed.D.

VP Institutional Advancement  
Executive Director, Foundation

The LSSC Foundation, Inc. is a 501 (c)(3) organization and your contribution may be tax deductible. (No goods or services were received in return for your contribution.)