



# Great Floridians 2000



## *The Great Floridians 2000 Program*

The Great Floridians 2000 program was designed to recognize individuals who distinguished themselves through their philanthropy, public service or personal or professional service, and who have enhanced the lives of Florida's citizens. In 1998, the Florida Department of State and the Florida League of Cities, to help celebrate the approaching turn of the century, initiated the program to dedicate a special series of commemorative plaques in cities throughout the state. These plaques recognized "Great Floridians 2000" by honoring men and women who made significant contributions to the

history and culture of our state. The blue plaques bore the name and birth and death dates of each designee.

Anyone could nominate an individual to be designated a Great Floridian 2000 by submitting a Great Floridians 2000 application. These applications were periodically reviewed by the appointed Great Floridians 2000 Committee, a group of seven distinguished historians from throughout Florida. The applications included the listing of an historical property where the plaque was affixed that

was associated with the Great Floridian. Once the decisions were made, nominators were notified and advised on how and where to purchase the commemorative plaque.

The Great Floridians 2000 program was completed in 2000. The following is a compilation of biographies of the individuals who were designated a Great Floridian 2000. To access this information online, go to [www.flheritage.com](http://www.flheritage.com) or visit <http://dhr.dos.state.fl.us/services/sites/Floridians>.

## *Apalachicola (Northwest)*

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### *Dr. Alvan Wentworth Chapman, LLD*

was born in Southampton, Massachusetts, and graduated with honors from Amherst College in 1830. In 1833, he commenced the study of medicine and in 1835, he came to Florida, going first to Quincy, then Marianna and in 1847, to Apalachicola. Dr. Chapman began to study botany and became distinguished in the field, writing papers and exchanging letters with colleagues. Sometime in 1847, Dr. John Gorrie and Dr. Chapman reportedly conferred on the development of Dr. Gorrie's ice machine. Because of the Civil War, Dr. Chapman did not see a copy of his book, *The Flora of the Southern United States*, until 1865. Internationally recognized botanist Asa Gray named Chapman's Rhododendron in his honor. Chapman Elementary School and Chapman Botanical Gardens in Apalachicola are also named for him. Dr. Chapman died in 1899. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Chapman House, 82 Sixth Street, Apalachicola.

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### *Dr. John Gorrie,*

born in Charleston, S.C. in 1803 and educated at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of the Western District of New York in Fairfield, New York, arrived in Apalachicola in 1833. After a severe yellow fever epidemic in the summer of 1841, he sought to effect a cure by introducing refrigeration. In 1844 he constructed the refrigeration machine that received the first U.S. patent for mechanical refrigeration. The successful operation of this machine was described in the *Scientific American* in 1849 and patented in 1851. Dr. Gorrie also served as a physician of the Marine Hospital Service, Postmaster, president of the Apalachicola Branch of the Pensacola Bank, mayor of Apalachicola, secretary of the Masonic Lodge and founding vestryman of Trinity Episcopal Church. A statue of Gorrie was placed in Statuary Hall at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. In 1899, the Southern Ice Exchange in Apalachicola erected a monument to him. Dr. Gorrie died in 1855. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the John Gorrie State Museum, 46 Sixth Street, Apalachicola.

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## *Archer (North Central)*

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### *Mahulda Gussie Brown Carrier*

was born in Archer, May 5, 1894. She taught school in Levy County, moving to Rosewood in 1915 where she taught until 1923, the year of the Rosewood Massacre.

Carrier is remembered for helping women and children escape the massacre by train. The evacuation train ran from Gainesville to Cedar Key, stopping in Archer where she was sheltered by her sister, Theresa Brown Robinson. After the massacre, Carrier returned to college to complete her degree. State and family records indicate that she was the first African-American female principal in Florida. Mahulda Carrier died in 1948. Her Great Floridian plaque is located at the former Seaboard Airline Railroad Depot (now the Archer Historical Society), Magnolia Avenue and Main Street, Archer.

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### *William Emory (Hitup) Maddox*

was born March 13, 1872 in Ft. Valley, Georgia. In 1892, in Marion County, Florida he was employed for \$1.00 a day in the phosphate fields. In 1905, while making \$200 a month, he borrowed \$300 from phosphate company president C.W. Chase and founded his own company – Maddox Foundry & Machine Works. His goal was to supply the phosphate mines with equipment and repairs. Maddox was an avid historian who photographed sites throughout Florida. He died in 1953, but the company he founded still thrives. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Maddox Foundry & Machine Works, 100 Mechanic Street, Archer.

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## *Auburndale (Central)*

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### *Ephriam Mikell Baynard,*

born in 1860, settled in Auburndale in the 1880s during the Post Reconstruction Era. Baynard, who became a landowner, cattle rancher, farmer, financier and real estate developer, owned several downtown buildings. He also built two residences in Auburndale. The first, constructed in 1894, is now the Baynard House Museum. The second, built in 1913, is today the Kersey Funeral Home. Ephriam Mikell Baynard died in 1933. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Baynard House Museum, 208 West Lake Avenue, Auburndale.

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## *Bartow (Central)*

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### *Albert H. Blanding*

was born in Iowa in 1876 and moved to Florida at the age of two. In 1899 he was commissioned Captain in the Florida National Guard. From 1910 to 1914 he was in the turpentine, sawmill and lumber business, all the while remaining on the National Guard roster,

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attaining the rank of colonel in 1910. He became the ranking National Guard officer, commanding the Second Florida Infantry in the Mexican Border disturbance of 1916-17. Colonel Blanding commanded several brigades as a brigadier general in World War I. He was later appointed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt as Chief of the National Guard. Camp Blanding, located near Starke, was named in his honor. He retired in 1940 after 41 years of military service with the rank of Honorary Lieutenant General and served on the State Selective Service Board during World War II. Albert H. Blanding died in 1970. His Great Floridian plaque is located at Bartow City Hall, 450 North Wilson Avenue, Bartow.

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### *Lawrence Bernard (L.B.) Brown,*

born into slavery in 1860, became one of Bartow's most prominent citizens. A devout Christian, Brown was a Bible salesman. He also operated a furniture store where he made original pieces of furniture, silvered mirrors and parasols, all of which were highly prized. Brown was a founder of the Mt. Gilboa Missionary Baptist Church in Bartow. He used his personal vehicle to transport African-American children to and from school. L.B. Brown died in 1941. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the L.B. Brown Home, 470 Second Avenue, Bartow.

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### *Lillian Carpenter*

was born in 1890. She attended Florida State College for Women (now Florida State University) and was for several years Polk County deputy circuit clerk. During the 1920s she was a typist and abstractor at the Polk County Abstract Company. Carpenter spent many hours conducting genealogical and historical research and compiling a history of her church, First Methodist in Bartow. Her research was the beginning of the Polk County Historical and Genealogical Library. She was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, United Daughters of the Confederacy and the Augusta Bevis Music Club. She was also active in the Polk County Historical Commission and was named assistant librarian and county historian. Her Great Floridian plaque is located at the First Methodist Church, 310 South Broadway, Bartow.

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### *E.W. Codington*

was a banker and land owner who served as mayor of Bartow. Codington built Bartow's first ice plant, Crystal Ice Works, in 1886. He organized the Home Building and Loan association in 1894 and the Board of Trade in 1897. In 1906, he sold the plant and moved to California where he died in 1910. E.W. Codington's Great Floridian plaque is located at Crystal Place (formerly Crystal Ice Works), 695 South Floral Avenue, Bartow.

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### *Bruce Barkley Downs, Sr.,*

born in 1930, joined the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) in 1950, shortly after graduating from Hernando High School in Brooksville. At FDOT, Downs became head of traffic operations, and designed traffic layout, signals, signage and traffic flow for 14 counties. During his time with FDOT he was named "Jaycee Boss of the Year." After retiring from FDOT as director of transportation and safety, he became Hillsborough County's director of Public Works and Safety and the deputy county administrator. He was instrumental in passing a penny gas tax, designing the "g" canal and passing a moratorium for a \$30 million revenue bond amendment. He was in charge of 2,100 miles of roads, bridges, and animal control. In 1986, the six-lane Bruce B. Downs Boulevard was dedicated in his memory. Bruce Barkley Downs, Sr. died in 1983. His Great Floridian plaque is located at his home at 2160 De Las Flores, Bartow.

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### *Louise Kelley Frisbie,*

a native of Jacksonville, was born in 1913 and moved to Bartow in 1935 after graduating from Florida Southern College. She was on the staff of Summerlin Institute (now Bartow High School) for three years before joining her husband on the staff of the Polk County Democrat. After writing a series of articles on Fort Meade, she began to write her historical column, "Pioneers," which led to her three books, Peace River Pioneers, Yesterday's Polk County and Florida's Fabled Inns. In 1972, Governor Reubin Askew appointed her to the Polk County Historical Commission, where she served for 16 years. She was a founding member of the Polk County Historical Association and the first editor of its quarterly. In 1976, she was honored by the Florida Senate for her work in preserving local history. In 1986, she and her husband were jointly awarded the Bartow Rotary Club's Medal of Merit for their work in journalism and history. Louise Frisbie died in 1989. Her Great Floridian plaque is located at the Polk County Democrat Building, 190 South Florida Avenue, Bartow.

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### *Roy Trent Gallemore*

was born in 1895, and graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis. He served in the Navy from 1914 until the mid-1920's, when he left to help publish the Polk County Record. He remained in the Naval Reserve, was called to active duty in 1940, and after World War II, was stationed in the Micronesian Islands. After retiring from the Navy in 1954, he joined the U.S. Department of Interior in 1955 and returned to the Micronesian Islands where he spent 10 years. The culmination of his work was the formation of the first Micronesian Congress, in 1965. Captain Gallemore and his wife then retired to Bartow, where he died in 1977. Roy Trent Gallemore's Great Floridian Plaque is located

at the Polk County Record Building, 205, S. Central Ave., Bartow.

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### *George Gause,*

born in 1920, and owner of the Gause Funeral Home, distinguished himself in politics. He was the first African-American member of the Bartow City Commission in 1968. Three years later, he became the first African-American mayor since Reconstruction. He served seven years on the commission including twice as mayor before stepping down in 1976. In 1977, Governor Reubin Askew appointed Gause to the Polk County School Board, and in 1978, he was elected to a four-year term. He did not seek re-election due to failing health. George Gause died in 1986. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Gause Funeral Home, 625 South Holland Parkway, Bartow.

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### *Samuel Sharpless Green,*

was born in Pennsylvania and later moved to Nebraska, where he was in the real estate business. Friends in Bartow sent him a copy of the Courier-Informant which featured stories about the Bartow Library, then the only library in Central Florida. Upon moving to Bartow, he discovered that the library was a small frame building behind a bank. Its staff consisted of a part-time employee who came in twice a week. Green volunteered his time to the library and spent the remainder of his life improving it. In 1914, the city built a new library with funds from a Carnegie Foundation grant obtained by Green. The Bartow Public Library opened February 8, 1915, the first public library in the county. Samuel Sharpless Green died in 1941. His Great Floridian plaque located at the Bartow Public Library, 2150 South Broadway, Bartow.

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### *Jeremiah M. Hayman,*

was born in 1822 near Savannah, Georgia and came to Madison County, Florida in 1834. His chosen vocation was that of minister and he served as a missionary for the Alachua Baptist Association in 1851 and for the Southern Baptist Convention in 1854. During this time he helped organize the Peace River Valley's first church, Peace Creek Baptist Church, which opened September 3, 1854. In 1855 he moved his family to Tampa where he organized the First Baptist Church of Tampa. In 1862 he moved back to Bartow and until 1875 preached at Peace Creek, Socrum (Bethel) and in Hillsborough and Manatee Counties. In 1863 he was elected Polk County's Clerk of the Court. Hayman was instrumental in organizing the First Baptist Church in Lakeland and "Concord Church" which later became the First Baptist Church of Bartow. He served as pastor of that church from 1875 to 1883. Jeremiah Hayman died in 1902. His

Great Floridian plaque is located at the First Baptist Church, 410 East Church Street, Bartow.

### *Spessard Lindsey Holland,*

Florida's 28th Governor, was born July 10, 1892 in Bartow. He graduated in 1916 from the University of Florida Law School. He began his law practice in Bartow but World War I interrupted. He served as prosecuting attorney, county judge, Florida State Senator, Governor of Florida (elected 1940), and for 24 years as a United States Senator. He led efforts to pass the Federal constitutional amendment which abolished the poll tax. The Holland Amendment, the 24th, was ratified in 1964. Governor Holland died November 6, 1971 in Bartow. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Holland Home, 1005 South Broadway, Bartow.

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### *Evander McIvor Law*

was born in South Carolina in 1836. He graduated from the Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina in 1856 and taught in military schools in that state and Alabama until 1861. He joined the Confederate Army and was commissioned a brigadier general at the age of 26. His brigade led the assault on Little Round Top at the Battle of Gettysburg. Following the war he worked for the railroad, and became a planter and newspaper editor before resuming teaching at Kings Mountain Military Academy in South Carolina. In 1894 General Law established the South Florida Military Institute in Bartow, which, in 1905, merged with other schools to become the University of Florida. General Law resigned from the school in 1903 to become editor of the Bartow Courier Informant. Evander McIvor Law died in 1920, the last surviving Confederate General. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the South Florida Military Institute's President's Home, 1130 South Broadway, Bartow.

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### *E. Louise Marquis,*

born in 1928, served as secretary and assistant to five city managers. Her career at Bartow City Hall began in the audit and clerk's office in 1950. She became secretary to the city manager, administrative assistant, then assistant city manager. She served in the city manager's office under the administrations of C.R. Odom, Richard Barton, C.T. Clark, Ralph Bowers and James O'Conner. While employed by the city, she earned a bachelor's and master's degree from the University of South Florida and enrolled in Stetson University's School of Law, where she graduated cum laude in 1988. Though admitted to the Florida and American Bar, she never practiced privately. She died in 1993. Her Great Floridian plaque is located at Bartow City Hall, 450 North Wilson Avenue, Bartow.

### *Mary Stewart McLeod,*

born in 1901, was the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A.A. McLeod who moved to Bartow from South Carolina in the early 1900s. In 1937, she established a privately financed Bible study program in the Bartow school system. In 1986, the Bible was dropped from the curriculum and was replaced by studies in life skills and character education. This program is operated entirely with private funds, including a \$9,000-per-year provision of Miss McLeod's will. Mary Stewart McLeod died in 1979. Her Great Floridian plaque is located at the law office of John Frost, 395 South Central Avenue, Bartow.

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### *Dr. William Franklin Peacock,*

born in 1904, was a native of Vidalia, Georgia. He received his medical degree in 1930 from the University of Chicago's Rush School of Medicine. He moved to Bartow in 1934 where he was a general practitioner and surgeon. In 1939, he joined the staff of Polk County Hospital (later Polk General Hospital) and during World War II, served as hospital superintendent. He was the only surgeon in Bartow, and he continued to make house calls. Dr. Peacock was the first chief of staff of the Polk County Hospital. He was president of the Bartow Lions Club, a member of the First Baptist Church and other organizations. Dr. Peacock died in 1987. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Child Development Center, 695 East Summerlin Street, Bartow, Dr. Peacock's former office.

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### *George E. Pittas*

was born in 1902 and moved to Bartow in 1935 from New York. He and his brother, John, were in the restaurant business from 1935 to 1975. Known for his love of Dixie Youth League baseball, Pittas was the League president for 20 years and served as a national director. In 1967, the field at which the League played was named George Pittas Field. In 1968, the Bartow Lions Club named him Bartow's outstanding citizen and in 1983 he won the Bartow Rotary Club Medal of Honor. He received the Exchange Club's Book of Golden Deeds Award in 1964, the Milt Spencer Award in 1985, and the Chamber of Commerce Spirit of Bartow Award for Meritorious Service from the Future Farmers of America in 1986. George E. Pittas died in 1993. His Great Floridian plaque is located at George Pittas Field, 2250 South Floral Avenue, Bartow.

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### *Edward Crosland Stuart,*

born in 1852, came to Bartow from South Carolina in 1887. For two years he managed the Polk County Abstract Company, which had been established by his brother. In 1889 he began buying and selling phosphate lands. At one time, he owned more phosphate land in Polk, Hillsborough and DeSoto Counties than any

other individual. He was a director of banks in Bartow, Lake Wales, Sebring, Avon Park and Lake Placid. He was a member of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church and was instrumental in establishing churches in Bartow, Tampa, Lake Wales and Lake Placid. He died in 1941. Edward Crosland Stuart's Great Floridian plaque is located at the E.C. Stuart Building, 210 East Main Street, Bartow.

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### *Jacob Summerlin,*

born in 1820, became wealthy raising cattle. In 1862, Summerlin purchased land in Bartow, then known as Fort Blount. He donated 40 acres for a county seat, another 40 acres for a school, and an additional 40 acres for the Baptist and the Methodist Churches. His financial backing helped Bartow become county seat of Polk County, and helped Orlando become county seat of Orange County. He built a wooden school and community building and in 1888 endowed the Summerlin Institute in Bartow. Jacob Summerlin died in 1893. His Great Floridian plaque is located at Bartow High School, (formerly the Summerlin Institute), 1270 South Broadway, Bartow.

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### *James Alward Van Fleet*

was born in Coyotesville, New Jersey in 1892. He was reared in Bartow and graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1915. Serving in the Mexican Border Dispute, World War I and II and the Korean War, he advanced from the rank of Second Lieutenant to Four-Star General. His military decorations included the Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star and others. From 1947 to 1949 he served on Governors Island, New York, in Frankfurt, Germany and in Greece. During his school days, he was an outstanding athlete and he was head football coach at the University of Florida in 1923 and 1924. After retiring from the army in 1953, he became an industrial engineer in Greece, but maintained a ranch in Polk County. James Alward Van Fleet died 1992. His great Floridian Plaque is located at the Greater Bartow Chamber of Commerce, 510 N. Broadway Ave., Bartow.

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### *Charles Cooper Wilson*

was born in Bethel (now Homeland) in 1858, before Polk County was established. Wilson graduated from Washington & Lee's Law Department and was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1882. In 1885, Wilson was elected as a member of the Constitutional Convention and helped frame the new state Constitution. He practiced law in Fort Meade and in 1887 moved to Bartow to establish the firm of Wilson and Wilson with his brother. He served as prosecuting attorney of Polk County in 1893 and 1894. In 1901 he was elected state senator, but due to ill health did not seek reelection. Wilson died



## *Brandon (Central West)*

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### *Eldridge F. McLane,*

educator, was born in 1894 in Gadsden County. He received his Bachelor's degree in education in 1922 from the University of Florida and went to work as high school principal in Fernandina Beach. He then went to Palatka, Lake City, Tampa and, in 1930, to Brandon, where he became principal of the community's high school, junior high and elementary school. His school being in need of a gymnasium in the midst of the Depression, he knocked on the door of every property owner trying to persuade them to vote for more real estate taxes to pay for the facility. His efforts prevailed and Brandon High was able to build additional classrooms as well as a gym. In 1939 he started a high school band for the school. During World War II, to make up for the teacher shortage, he persuaded retired teachers to come back to the classrooms and arranged temporary teaching certificates for those with on-the-job experience. In 1944, he authorized the first Brandon High School football team. Eldridge F. McLane died in 1970. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the McLane Middle School, 306 Knight Avenue, Brandon.

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## *Brooksville (Central West)*

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### *John Law Ayers*

was born in Hernando County in 1902. He devoted his life to raising horses, cattle, citrus and timber. Ayers entered politics at age 31 and served as county commissioner for 20 years, 18 as chairman. In 1955 he was elected to the Florida House of Representatives, serving for ten years. He served as chairman of the Livestock Commission, the Citrus Commission and for more than 40 years was district supervisor for the Gulf Soil Conservation District. Ayers also served on the Board of Directors of Hernando State Bank (now SunTrust) for 30 years. He donated local college scholarships and made daily visits to hospitals and nursing homes. John Law Ayers died in July, 1985. In 1988, the county commission chambers were named the "John Law Ayers Room." His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Hernando County Courthouse, 20 North Main Street, Brooksville.

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### *James E. "Nick" Connor*

was born in Gadsden, Alabama in 1904 and majored in political science at the University of Florida. He was City Clerk in Inverness for five years before being appointed

Citrus County Circuit Court Clerk in 1935. He remained in that job until 1952 when he was elected to the Florida Senate, where he served as Senate President in 1965. In 1968 he was elected Citrus County Judge and in 1978 the Citrus County Courthouse was dedicated to Connor. He was instrumental in obtaining land for the Florida Highway Patrol Station, Pasco Hernando Community College, and Hernando County Mental Health Center. He obtained funding for the Citrus Memorial Hospital in Inverness and Lykes Memorial Hospital in Brooksville. He introduced the bill requiring the University of Florida and Florida State University to play one another each football season. He sponsored legislation creating the Southwest Florida Water Management District, adding millions of dollars to Hernando County's economy. James E. Connor died in 1995. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Brooksville City Hall, 201 Howell Avenue, Brooksville.

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### *Lena Culver Hawkins*

moved to Hernando County from Cincinnati, Ohio in 1911 at the age of 45. Hawkins was the first woman mayor of the City of Brooksville, taking office in 1928. Hawkins was also president of the Brooksville Woman's Club and drew the plans for a new clubhouse herself and supervised construction. As mayor, Hawkins faced a financial crisis, traffic problems and a Mediterranean fruit fly emergency. Following her term as mayor, she made an unsuccessful bid for a legislative seat. Lena Culver Hawkins died in 1949. Her Great Floridian plaque is located at the Hawkins House, 510 East Liberty Street.

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### *May Mann Jennings,*

born in 1872, was the wife of Florida's 18th Governor, William Sherman Jennings. The Jennings were married in 1891 and lived in Brooksville before moving to the Governor's mansion in 1901. By 1912, Mrs. Jennings had become active in civic work and politics. After she was widowed in 1920, she headed the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs and was co-founder of the Florida League of Women Voters. She campaigned for women's suffrage, prohibition, better treatment of children and prisoners, education funding, historic preservation, Seminole Indian reservations, fence laws and highway beautification. The 1,800-acre Royal Palm Hammock State Park, which she helped create, was the eastern entrance to the current 1.5 million-acre Everglades National Park. Mrs. Jennings died in Jacksonville in 1963 at the age of 90. She was named by the Lakeland Ledger as one of the most important Floridians of the 20th century. The Great Floridian plaque bearing her name is located at the Jennings House, 48 Olive Street, Brooksville.

## *William Sherman Jennings,*

born in 1863, was the 18th Governor of Florida. Originally from Marion County, Illinois, Jennings obtained his law degree from the Union Law School in Chicago before relocating to Brooksville in 1886. In Florida, he entered politics and was appointed a circuit court commissioner of the Sixth Judicial Circuit. In 1892 he was elected state representative from Brooksville, serving two terms, after which he was elected to the Brooksville City Commission, where he served from 1895 to 1900. While in the state legislature, he adopted an anti-corporate, pro-railroad regulation posture. In 1901 he was elected governor and served until 1905. As governor he introduced a system of primary elections, enlarged the state capitol and lowered taxes while boosting revenues. Governor Jennings died in St. Augustine in 1920. His Great Floridian plaque is at the Jennings House, 48 Olive Street, Brooksville.

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## *Frank Elmore Saxon*

was born in 1841 in Alabama, Georgia. His family moved to Florida prior to the Civil War, initially settling in Tallahassee. During the war, Saxon was a member of the Hernando Wild Cats, (part of the Florida Third Regiment) and was wounded near Jacksonville in 1862. After the war, Saxon served as county tax assessor from 1874 through 1876, as Brooksville's postmaster and chief of police from 1880 to 1883, clerk of the court from 1887 to 1888 and again from 1893 to 1909. He also served as a state Representative from 1887 to 1889. He donated land for a three-room school house large enough to hold all the students in Hernando County, grades one through 12. Frank E. Saxon died in 1922 and is buried in the Brooksville Cemetery. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Heritage House Museum, which was originally the May-Stringer House, the Saxon's home, at 601 Museum Court, Brooksville. [See NR for Hernando Co.]

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## *Cedar Key (North Central)*

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### *St. Clair Whitman*

was born in Missouri, September 18, 1868 while his parents were on their way to Cedar Key from their native state of Massachusetts. He had little formal education yet became a self-taught musician, inventor and historian. He and his father spent much time collecting seashells and Indian artifacts along the Gulf. This hobby became the foundation of the St. Clair Whitman Museum which was the recipient of his marine, butterfly, insect and prehistoric artifact collection, as well as historical and rare documents of Cedar Key. A portion of the Whitman collection

is housed in the Cedar Key State Museum. St. Clair Whitman died on August 23, 1959. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Cedar Key State Museum, 12231 SW 166th Court, Cedar Key.

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## *Clearwater (Central West)*

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### *Solomon Smith (S.S.) Coachman*

was born in 1862 in South Carolina and moved to Pinellas County in 1881 to raise citrus and run a sawmill. He produced lumber for the Belleview Biltmore Hotel in Belleair and for many early homes. Coachman established a mercantile business in Clearwater, and owned a packing house in an area known as Coachman Station due to his "Kumquat Sweet Shop," a popular tourist stop. In 1884 he built the first brick building in Pinellas County and in 1916 he constructed the five-story Coachman Building in downtown Clearwater. Coachman was the first chairman of the Pinellas County Commission in 1912 and campaigned for the separation of the Pinellas Peninsula from Hillsborough County. In 1912, he and other citizens managed to have the courthouse constructed in 48 hours to establish Clearwater as the seat of Pinellas County government. Solomon Coachman died in 1931. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Coachman Building, 503 Cleveland Street, corner of Fort Harrison and Cleveland, Clearwater.

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## *Cocoa (Central East)*

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### *Marie Ringo Holderman,*

born in 1884, relocated to Cocoa in 1917 in response to an advertisement seeking someone to start an independent newspaper. Holderman subsequently founded the Cocoa Tribune, which she continued to publish until 1967 when it was purchased by the Gannett Group of newspapers. Holderman's newspaper championed community improvements including bridges and roads. She lived in Cocoa until her death in 1968. Her Great Floridian plaque is located at the Central Brevard Library and Reference Center, the former location of the Cocoa Tribune, at 308 Forrest Avenue, Cocoa.

## Cocoa Beach (Central East)



### *Gus Callaway Edwards*

was born in 1886 in Cornelia, Georgia. He attended the University of Georgia for two years, then studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1912, practicing with his father and brother in Clarkesville, Georgia. He moved to Cocoa in 1914. Edwards was soon appointed City Attorney, a position he held for eight years. During that time, he was the attorney on Cocoa's first paving program, the building of the Indian River and Banana River bridges, and Cocoa's first modern schoolhouse. In 1927, Edwards built the area's first community church. He served as the first mayor of Cocoa Beach from 1925 to 1931. Gus Edwards died in 1969. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Cocoa Beach City Hall, 2 South Orlando Avenue, Cocoa Beach.



## Crescent City (Northeast)



### *Phillip Randolph*

was born in Crescent City, April 15, 1889. He moved to New York City where he worked as an elevator operator, porter and railroad worker while attending City College. Randolph participated in the African-American cultural and political movements that flourished in New York in the World War I era. In 1925 he organized and served as first President of the International Brotherhood of Sleeping Car porters. He organized two marches on Washington, D.C., in 1941 and 1963. The 1963 march made Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. a national figure and led to passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. In 1957, Randolph was the first African-American to serve as International Vice President of the AFL-CIO. He received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Johnson in 1964. He died in 1979. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Union Bethel A.M.E. Church, 200 North Cedar Street, Crescent City.



## Cross Creek (North Central)



### *Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings*

was born in 1896 in Washington, D.C. and graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1918. The next year she married Charles A. Rawlings, Jr., and moved to Rochester, New York, where she worked as a newspaper

writer. In 1928, Rawlings purchased an orange grove in Cross Creek, Florida, where she and her husband subsequently moved. They divorced in 1933, and Rawlings stayed at Cross Creek and married again. Her Florida surroundings inspired Rawlings to write fiction, including the novels *Jacob's Ladder* (1931), and *South Moon Under* (1933). She also wrote a semi-autobiographical work entitled *Cross Creek* (1943). She is best known for her Pulitzer Prize-winning *The Yearling* (1938), the tale of a boy's journey to adulthood. Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings died in 1953. Her Great Floridian plaque is located at the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings State Historic Site, County Road 325, Cross Creek.



## Crystal River (Central West)



### *Ripley Bullen*

was born September 21, 1902. Trained as an archaeologist, he was instrumental in the acquisition and development of the Crystal River State Archaeological Site. The area is one of the longest continuously occupied prehistoric sites in Florida and has several ceremonial and burial mounds. State acquisition was the result of archaeological research Bullen conducted from 1951 to 1966. Ripley Bullen died in Gainesville, December 25, 1976. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Crystal River State Archaeological Site, 3440 North Museum Point, Crystal River.



## Dade City (Central West)



### *Bvt. Major Francis Langhorne Dade*

was born in Virginia in 1792 but spent most of his life in Florida. During the 20 years that Major Dade served throughout the Territory of Florida, from Pensacola to Key West, his assignments included both leading Seminole Warriors and fighting in campaigns against them. In 1835, he led a command north from Ft. Brooke (Tampa) to relieve Ft. King (Ocala). The command was ambushed by Indians. Of the 108 men, all but three were killed, with Major Dade among the dead. This defeat led to the seven-year Second Seminole War. A fort built on the north bank of the Withlacoochee River was named in honor of Francis Dade. Eventually the civilian community that grew up around Fort Dade began calling itself Dade City. Major Dade's Great Floridian plaque

is located at the George C. Dayton Municipal Building (City Hall), 38020 Meridian Avenue, Dade City.

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### *William M. Larkin*

was born in Dade City, October 6, 1899. He received his law degree in 1922 from Stetson University and was admitted to the Florida Bar. He was elected Pasco County Prosecuting Attorney in 1924. As a cattleman, he brought the first Santa Gertrudis bull east of the Mississippi in 1941 and established the first Santa Gertrudis herd in Florida. He introduced and sponsored the Fence Law of Florida and invented a cattle underpass that is used when a new road separates a piece of land. William M. Larkin died May 26, 1973. His Great Floridian Plaque is located at the Larkin Building, 14130 7th Street, Dade City.

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### *Dania Beach (Southeast)*

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### *Frank "Tootie" Adler,*

born in 1919, became a resident of the City of Dania in 1931. During his career, Adler served as Dania city commissioner, mayor, Broward County Commissioner and as the Dania city attorney. During his term as mayor, and largely due to his efforts, the City of Dania acquired Dania Beach from the State of Florida. Frank Adler died in 1997. In December, 1997, the City of Dania changed the name of the Dania Beach Park to Frank C. "Tootie" Adler Park. Adler's Great Floridian plaque is located at the Nyberg-Swanson House, 102 West Dania Boulevard, Dania Beach.

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### *Daytona Beach (Central East)*

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### *Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune*

was born in 1875 in Mayesville, South Carolina, the fifteenth of seventeen children. At the age of 19 she traveled to Chicago to do missionary work and study at the Moody Bible Institute. In 1904 she opened the Daytona Normal and Industrial School for Girls in Daytona Beach with five girls aged eight to 12 as pupils. She raised money to move her school to its present location. In 1923 the school merged with the Cookman Institute of Jacksonville and became Bethune-Cookman College. In 1914 she was invited by Vice President Thomas Marshall to Washington, D.C. to discuss segregation in the American Red Cross. During the Franklin Roosevelt administration, she was appointed

to a position in the National Youth Administration and was later Roosevelt's director, Office of Minority Affairs. In 1940 she became vice president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. In 1951 President Harry Truman appointed her to the Committee of Twelve for National Defense. Mary McLeod Bethune died in 1955. Her Great Floridian plaque is located on the Bethune-Cookman College campus at the front entrance of the Bethune Foundation Building.

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### *Charles Grover Burgoyne,*

born in 1847, came to Daytona in 1894 having made a fortune in the printing business in New York. In 1896 he bought the entire block south of Bay Street between Palmetto Avenue and Beach Street where he built a three-story mansion. He was elected commodore of the Halifax River Yacht Club in 1899 and in 1912 built a large gazebo at the corner of Orange Avenue and Beach Street and began to bring bands to perform public concerts of classical music. He and his wife held lawn parties for area children and paid for them to have milk at lunch each day. In 1914 he built a promenade and seawall along the river from Orange Avenue to Bay Street, lined with street lights, and called the "Esplanade Burgoyne." In 1915 he built a casino and gave it to the city. Burgoyne died in 1916. His widow, Mary, continued to live in the mansion until 1941, after which it was demolished. Charles Grover Burgoyne's Great Floridian plaque is located on the front of the Halifax Historical Museum, 252 South Beach Street, Daytona Beach.

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### *Matthias Day, Jr.,*

born in 1821, founded Daytona Beach. Sometime in the mid-1800s he arrived in what is now the City of Daytona Beach and in 1870 returned and began to purchase land. Under his direction, the land was surveyed and platted. The name Daytona means "Day's Little Town." Matthias Day, Jr. died in 1904. His Great Floridian plaque is located on the front of the Daytona Beach City Hall, 301 South Ridgewood Avenue, Daytona Beach.

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### *George W. Engram, Sr.*

was born in 1913 in Montezuma, Georgia. After earning a degree in electrical engineering at Tuskegee Institute (University), he moved to Daytona Beach in 1935 where he founded Engram Electric Company. In 1948 he ran for the Daytona Beach City Commission. In the 1940s and 1950s he helped find investors to purchase 2 ½ miles of ocean front property south of New Smyrna Beach. Engram was general manager and executive vice-president of a project to turn the area into a full community and resort area for African-Americans. It

became Bethune Beach in 1945. Bethune Beach became an integrated area, and in later years was remembered as a unique experiment in black capitalism. Two streets in Daytona Beach were named in his honor and Engram helped carry the torch for the 1996 Olympic Games. George W. Engram died in 1998. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the New Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, 515 Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Boulevard, Daytona Beach.

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### *William H.G. France and Annie B. France,*

born in 1909 and 1904 respectively, moved to Florida in 1935. An auto mechanic by trade, France promoted a stock car race in Daytona in 1938. In December 1947, Bill France and his associates held the first meeting of the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR). In those early days, France's wife, Annie, sold tickets from the back of a car and kept track of the money. In 1948, NASCAR became an incorporated entity and by 1953 Bill France had proposed the construction of a permanent speedway. Today, stock car racing draws more visitors than any other sport in the nation. The Daytona 500 attracts more than twice as many fans as the Super Bowl, and the sport annually generates hundreds of millions of dollars for the area's economy. Daytona Beach serves as the corporate headquarters for International Speedway Corporation and NASCAR. William and Annie France's Great Floridian plaque is located near the existing memorial site at Daytona, USA, 1801 West International Speedway Boulevard, Daytona Beach.

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### *Jeanne M. Goddard*

was born in New York City in 1913. She graduated from Duke University and taught school in Montgomery County, Maryland. She married Dr. David Goddard and moved to Daytona Beach in 1948. She helped establish Daytona Beach Community College in 1957, and served on its Board of Trustees for many years. A \$1.2 million arts center at the college was named for her in 1979. After being elected in 1956, she served 12 years on the Volusia County School Board, eight as chairman. In 1985 she won a Distinguished Service Award from the Civic League of the Halifax Area. She volunteered to serve on more than 30 community, state and national organizations in Daytona Beach. Jeanne M. Goddard died in 1999. Her Great Floridian Plaque is located at the Jeanne M. Goddard Center, Daytona Beach Community College, Daytona Beach.

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### *J. Griffen Greene,*

born in 1910, was the first and only president of Volusia County Community College (VCCC). VCCC was one of 12 public junior colleges established for African-

Americans in Florida, 11 of which were founded between 1957 and 1962 at the initiative of Governor LeRoy Collins. Green was appointed president of VCCC in 1958 and remained president until the college merged with Daytona Beach Junior College (DBJC) in 1965. Under Greene's stewardship, the college served 5,600 students by 1964. After the merger with DBJC, he was appointed supervisor of instructors teaching remedial courses, then was named dean of continuing education. Following his retirement in 1973, Greene taught English and education at Bethune-Cookman College. J. Griffen Greene died in 1987. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the J. Griffen Greene Student Resource Center, Daytona Beach Community College, Daytona Beach.

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### *Lorenzo Dow Huston*

was born in 1820 in Cincinnati, Ohio. He was admitted to the Kentucky Conference as a Methodist minister and was a journalist and editor of the *Christian Advocate* in Nashville, Tennessee before the Civil War. In 1874 he retired from the ministry and with his family settled in Daytona at the Palmetto House. Mary Huston Hoag, Huston's sister, had bought the Palmetto House in 1874. Dr. Huston was appointed Daytona's first mayor in 1876, served as a justice of the peace, and was Volusia County Superintendent of the Public Schools. He served as a county commissioner and in 1887 was appointed by Governor Perry to the State Railroad Commission. That same year he and his wife Maria died of yellow fever within a few days of each other. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Volusia County Library Center, 105 East Magnolia Avenue, Daytona Beach.

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### *Dr. Richard Vernon Moore, Sr.*

was born in 1906 in Quincy, Florida, and attended Georgia Normal College, now Albany State University. He earned a B.A. degree from Knoxville College, Knoxville, Tennessee in 1932 and his M.A. degree from Atlanta University in 1944. Moore was awarded honorary doctoral degrees from 14 universities, including: Jacksonville University; Florida Institute of Technology, Miami; Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton; Florida Southern College, Lakeland; and the University of Florida, Gainesville. He was affiliated with many civic organizations, including the Daytona Beach Planning Board, Rotary Club, the Halifax Area Board of Governors of the Chambers of Commerce and the Florida Council on Human Relations. Dr. Richard Vernon Moore died in 1994. His Great Floridian plaque is located on the front of the Richard V. Moore Community Center, 554 Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Boulevard, Daytona Beach.

## *Jack Roosevelt “Jackie” Robinson,*

was born January 31, 1919 in Cairo, Georgia. On March 17, 1946, he stepped onto a Daytona Beach baseball field and integrated the Montreal Royals, a minor league team. Robinson thus became the first African-American to integrate modern organized baseball. In 1947, Branch Rickey brought him up to the Brooklyn Dodgers, and in 1949, he was voted the National League’s Most Valuable Player when he hit .342 and drove in 124 runs. His ten-year average was .311 and he set fielding records for second basemen. Jackie Robinson died October 24, 1972 in Stamford, Connecticut. His Great Floridian plaque is located on the outside wall of the original grandstand of Jackie Robinson Ballpark, 103 East Orange Avenue, City Island.

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## *David Dunham Rogers,*

born in 1850, was one of Daytona’s earliest settlers in 1874 and one of its founding fathers in 1876. A graduate of Cooper Union Institute in New York City, he was Daytona’s first surveyor. For four decades he made surveys and produced hundreds of maps from Jacksonville to Key West, but concentrated on Volusia County, especially Daytona Beach and other towns along the Halifax River. In 1884 he had the first wagon road graded across the peninsula from river to ocean. He built the first ice plant in 1886. In 1888 he built the first bridge to cross the river in Daytona (today’s Main Street bridge). His daughter, Dr. Josie Rogers, was Daytona’s first female physician and only female mayor. David Dunham Rogers built their second home in 1879 at 436 North Beach Street. Just before he died in 1919, he gave that property to the City of Daytona Beach for a riverside park. David Dunham Rogers’ Great Floridian plaque is located on the front of the Rogers House, Riverfront Park, Beach Street, Daytona Beach.

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## *Dr. Josie Rogers*

was born in 1876 in Daytona Beach and was a lifelong resident of Florida. She was the first female doctor to practice in Daytona Beach and possibly the state. As of 1999, she was the only female mayor of Daytona Beach. Dr. Rogers began her career in Daytona Beach in 1907. By 1912 she was Chairman of the Florida State Health Department. In 1918 she worked for women’s suffrage. She was elected to the Daytona Beach City Commission in 1921 and was elected mayor in 1922. In 1946 she was elected Chief of Staff of Halifax District Hospital and in 1949 became director of the Halifax Historical Society. Dr. Rogers died in 1975. Her Great Floridian plaque is located on the front of the Rogers House, Riverfront Park, Beach Street, Daytona Beach.

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## *Chapman Shaw Root*

was born in 1925. His great grandfather founded the Root Glass Works in Terre Haute, Indiana. In 1915, the Root Glass Works designed and received a patent for the original Coca-Cola bottle. Chapman S. Root moved the company to Daytona Beach in 1951, where it became the nation’s largest independent Coca-Cola bottler. In 1982, Root Company’s soft drink business was sold to the Coca-Cola Company for \$417 million. For 50 years, Chapman and his wife collected more than 100,000 artifacts dating from the Revolutionary Period to the late 20th century. In 1998, the collection was donated to the Museum of Arts & Sciences in Daytona Beach, along with a grant to fund a permanent facility. Chapman S. Root died July 2, 1990. His company continues in Daytona Beach as does The Root Foundation which continues Chapman Root’s philanthropy. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the SunTrust Bank at the corner of Orange and Segrave Avenues, Daytona Beach.

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## *Dr. Joseph Taylor*

was born July 3, 1929 in Columbia, South Carolina. He received a Bachelor’s degree from Howard University, served in the Korean War and was awarded a Master of Arts degree in history from Howard in 1959. He received a Doctor of Arts in history from Catholic University in 1985. Taylor served for 30 years at Bethune-Cookman College as Area Coordinator and Professor of History, Chairman of the Social Sciences Division and Director of the Faculty Development Center. In 1983 he received Bethune-Cookman’s Teacher of the Year Award and was honored in 1993 as the Faculty Member of the Year for Community Service. Taylor was chairman of the Daytona Beach Historic Preservation Board, and a member of the Association for the Study of African-American Life and History. Dr. Joseph Taylor died November 1, 1998. His Great Floridian plaque is located on the front entrance of the Faculty Research Development Building on the Bethune-Cookman College campus.

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## *Dr. Howard W. Thurman*

was born in Daytona Beach in 1899. He served as Dean of the Chapel at Morehouse College, Atlanta; Howard University, Washington, D.C. and Boston University, Boston Massachusetts. During his career, he influenced Mahatma Ghandi, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the Reverend Jesse Jackson, Andrew Young and Vernon Jordan. Thurman was the founder of the Fellowship Church of All Peoples in San Francisco. Among his 22 books are Jesus and the Disinherited and The Luminous Darkness, a essay blending science and social criticism. Dr. Thurman died in 1981. His Great Floridian plaque is located on the front of his birthplace, the Howard Thurman House, 614 Whitehall Street, Daytona Beach.

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## DeBarry (Central East)

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### *Frederick deBary*

was born in 1815. A successful businessman from New York City, in 1871 he purchased three parcels of land overlooking the St. Johns River and built deBary Hall. His family continued to purchase acreage and owned in excess of 4,000 acres at the time of his death in 1898. DeBary planted more than 10,000 citrus trees and developed the interior commerce along the St. Johns River. He used his steamships to transport citrus and travellers to Jacksonville and points north. On return trips to Florida, hunters, fishermen, and vacationers booked passage. His Great Floridian plaque is located at DeBary Hall, 210 Sunrise Blvd., DeBary.

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## Deerfield Beach (Southeast)

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### *George Emory Butler*

was born January 6, 1887. He moved to Deerfield Beach in 1915 to join his brother in a farming operation called Butler Brothers Farms. When the city was incorporated in 1925, George became the first mayor, serving two terms. He was City Judge, a charter member of the Deerfield Beach Lions Club and participated in establishing the "Deerfield Locks" to provide water transportation of agricultural products from Lake Okeechobee to the East Coast. He also founded the Deerfield Irrigation Association to create a co-op for irrigation and drainage of farmlands. He owned and operated Butler Packing House, where fresh produce was graded, packed and shipped to points north via the Seaboard Railroad. George Emory Butler died April 1, 1968. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Deerfield Beach City Hall, 150 Northeast 2nd Avenue, Deerfield Beach.

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### *James Dallas Butler*

was born in 1877. After visiting Deerfield Beach on his honeymoon, he and his wife decided to move there in 1910. They first owned a mercantile store, then turned to farming. In 1915, James and his brother Emory formed Butler Brothers Farms, which became one of the largest in the area. In the 1920s, he served as a town councilman. The Butlers supported children's activities such as Little League and contributed to local schools. In 1957 the bridge over the Intercoastal Waterway was named for James Butler, who died in 1965. His Great Floridian plaque is located on the J.D. Butler Bridge

at East Hillsborough Boulevard and the Inter Coastal Waterway, Deerfield Beach.

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### *Emily Mildred Olson Dietrich*

was born December 8, 1916 in West Palm Beach. After high school she attended Palm Beach Junior College, where she met her future husband, Edward Dietrich. In 1935 she transferred to the Florida State College for Women (now Florida State University), graduating in 1937. She taught school in California and South Florida, relocating to Deerfield Beach in 1954. There she organized a movement which led to the Deerfield Elementary School being listed in the National Register of Historic Places. She also served on the Deerfield Beach Library Advisory Board for 25 years and founded that city's Friends of the Library. In the 1970s she helped organize the Deerfield Beach Historical Society, serving as its first president. In the 1980s she helped save Deerfield Island, served as a consultant on the restoration of the Deerfield Beach Atlantic Coastline Railway Station and was appointed the city's official historian. Emily Mildred Olson Dietrich died in 1996. Her Great Floridian plaque is found at Butler House, 380 Hillsboro Boulevard., Deerfield Beach.

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### *Branhilda Knowles*

was born in 1898 in Nassau, Bahamas and arrived in Deerfield Beach in 1922 as a trained midwife who delivered more than 1,000 babies. She was married for more than 50 years to Jeremiah Knowles, with whom she raised a family, farmed and operated Knowles Grocery Store, a Dixie County landmark. Mrs. Knowles travelled to labor camps to distribute food and arrange for health care for migrant workers. She was honored by the Broward County Commission, the Broward Historical Society, and the City of Deerfield Beach for her service. Mrs. Knowles died in 1980. Her commemorative plaque may be found at the N.E. Focal Point Senior Center (formerly the Braithway School), 227 N.W. 2nd Street, Deerfield Beach.

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### *Odas Lee Tanner*

was born in 1911, arrived in Deerfield Beach in 1921. During World War II, he was a Seabee. After the war, he started Tanner Construction Company, working on the Deerfield Beach City Hall, the Women's Club, the multi-million dollar home of Parker Pen executive Kenneth Parker, and condominiums in Boca Raton, Delray Beach and Palm-Aire. He served on the city commission from 1954 to 1955, with one term as Vice Mayor. During that time he helped revise the City Charter from a council form of government to a commission. He also led in the purchase and preservation of beachfront property and parks. A key project was the installation of a rubble/rock beach nourishment system to prevent yearly

beach erosion. In 1998, the year Tanner died, the city commission changed the name of S.E. 5th Avenue to Odas Tanner Way. His Great Floridian plaque is located on the Deerfield Beach International Fishing Pier, 200 N.E. 21st Avenue, Deerfield Beach.

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### *John Bartow Wiles, Jr.*

was born in 1886 and as a young man relocated to Deerfield Beach from Griffin, Georgia. He teamed with other farmers to divert water, flood and drain fields during periods of water fluctuations. He served on the city commission for eight years, was charter president of the Lions Club and helped secure and develop what is now Pioneer Park. He was also a charter member of the Gold Coast Shrine Club. On the city commission, he promoted the building and improvement of roads. He supported additional medical services through involvement with the North Broward Hospital District, volunteered for the Salvation Army and was a founding member of the Deerfield Beach Historical Society. John Bartow Wiles, Jr. died in 1999. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Pioneer Park Community Center, 425 N.E. 3rd Street, Deerfield Beach

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## *DeLand (Central East)*

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### *Earl W. Brown,*

born in 1890, served the City of DeLand as City Manager and as Mayor. His career included hotel operation, citrus production and cattle ranching. He was Chairman of the Stephen Foster Memorial Commission, Vice President of the Florida State Chamber of Commerce, and was active in the Florida Publicity and Public Relations Association. The City of DeLand named a downtown park for him. Earl W. Brown died in 1963. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the DeLand City Hall, 120 South Florida Avenue, DeLand.

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### *Charles H. Campbell, Jr.*

was born in Sanford in 1886, and moved to DeLand in 1900. He served as Mayor of DeLand in 1922 and was Chief of the Fire Department from 1924 through 1927. During the 1920s he was a charter officer of the Rotary Club and was admitted to membership in Rotary International in 1926. He entered business with his father at the Campbell and VanHorn Garage, later becoming a car salesman. He was a strong supporter of auto racing. Charles H. Campbell died in 1933. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Old City of DeLand Fire Station, Florida Avenue, DeLand.

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### *Hawtense Conrad,*

born in 1923, bought the Henry DeLand House in 1988 and donated it to the city of DeLand to house the collection of the West Volusia Historical Society. She also donated furniture and her time to both the DeLand House and the Stone Street Museum. She helped to establish the DeLand Naval Air Station Museum and rebuild the old African-American hospital located in Bill Dreggors Park. In 1997, she donated funds to build the Robert M. Conrad Research and Educational Center in her husband's honor. She was generous to organizations involving children and the handicapped. She belonged to the Polish American Pulaski Club, Fraternal Order of Eagles Auxiliary, Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary, Settlement for the Creative Arts, and the Lake Beresford Garden Club. She was also a charter member of Women of the Moose. In 1999, she was named "Philanthropist of the Decade" by the West Volusia Historical Society and West Volusia Citizen of the Year by the DeLand Breakfast Rotary Club. She was also awarded the George Schildecker Philanthropy Award by the Volusia County Trusts and Estates Council. Hawtense Conrad died in 2000. Her Great Floridian plaque is located at the Burgess Building II, 230 North Stone Street, DeLand.

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### *Robert Conrad*

was born in DeLand in 1921, a member of a pioneer family of West Volusia County. He served in World War II, following which he worked with his father in the lumber and insurance business in DeLand for 30 years. He and his wife, Hawtense Conrad, donated funds to restore rare historical slides to honor horticulturist Lue Gim Gong and gave a headstone for his grave at Oakdale Cemetery. Following his sister's death in 1990, he donated period furniture from her home in Monticello to furnish the DeLand House Museum. He also donated to the Humane Society and other charitable organizations in DeLand and West Volusia County. Robert Conrad died in 1992. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Conrad Building, 118-120 West New York Avenue, DeLand.

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### *Dr. George Augustus Davis,*

born in 1858 in Fayetteville, Georgia, attended Middle Georgia College and the Atlanta Medical College, graduating from the latter in 1890. He practiced in Atlanta until 1894 when he developed tuberculosis and relocated to DeLand. Dr. Davis served as city and county health officer, physician for the Florida East Coast and Atlantic Coast Line Railways, and was a charter member of the DeLand Rotary Club. He was president of the DeLand Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Masonic Lodge, the Elks Club, Odd Fellows, Woodmen of the World and the Volusia County Medical Association. Dr. Davis died in 1948. His Great Floridian plaque is

located at the Old DeLand Hospital, 240 North Stone Street, DeLand.

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### *Henry Addison DeLand*

was born in 1834 and visited the area that is now DeLand in 1876. He became interested in establishing a community that could become the “Athens of Florida”— an educational, spiritual and cultural center and began to acquire real estate. He encouraged friends and family to the area to enter the citrus business. He gave land for streets running north and south and for a school and a church. In 1883 he established the DeLand Academy which in 1889 became Stetson University. He also founded the City of Lake Helen, naming it for his daughter. Henry DeLand died in 1908. His Great Floridian plaque is located at DeLand Hall on the Stetson University campus, 503 North Woodland Boulevard, DeLand.

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### *Bert Fish,*

born in 1875, was a DeLand lawyer who was elected Volusia County school superintendent, county solicitor and Judge of Volusia County Criminal Court of Record. He was appointed Minister to Egypt for eight years by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, opened diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia, and died in Portugal in 1943 while serving as U.S. Minister to that country. His will established a trust for medical care, focusing on the indigent. Construction of Fish Memorial Hospitals in DeLand, New Smyrna Beach, and Sanford, with clinics in Pierson, Oak Hill and Daytona Beach was financed by the Bert Fish Trust. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Fish Building, 100 North Woodland Boulevard, DeLand.

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### *Arthur George Hamlin*

was born in 1855 and arrived in DeLand in 1883 as the town’s first attorney. He was the attorney for Henry DeLand, founder of the city, for John B. Stetson and his business enterprises and for the DeLand Town Council. He was also legal advisor to Henry Flagler and Joseph Parrot of the Florida East Coast Railway. In addition to his legal practice, he grew oranges and became an authority on citrus culture. He developed the Hamlin Orange, which remains one of Florida’s most popular. He died in 1932. His Great Floridian plaque may be found at the Henry DeLand House Museum, 137 Michigan Avenue, DeLand.

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### *Lue Gim Gong,*

born in China in 1860, became an American citizen in 1877. Due to poor health he settled in DeLand. Using pollination techniques learned in China, he developed

an apple that ripened a month ahead of other varieties and a tomato plant that grew in clusters. By watching bees, he learned to cross pollinate citrus, and crossed the Harts Late Orange with Mediterranean Sweet varieties to produce an orange that bears his name. He also produced a grapefruit able to withstand colder temperatures and stay on the tree longer. In 1911 the U.S. Department of Agriculture awarded him the Silver Wilder Medal for his work in developing citrus. Lue Gim Gong died in 1925. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Stetson Gift and Flower Shop, 129 North Woodland Boulevard, DeLand.

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### *John B. Stetson,*

the Philadelphia hat manufacturer, was born in 1830 in Orange, New Jersey and came to Florida in 1886 by invitation of Henry DeLand. He purchased a 300-acre tract of land, planted citrus groves and built a winter home where he and his wife spent winters for the next 20 years. He made so many endowments to the DeLand Academy, established by Henry DeLand, that the institution was renamed Stetson University. He also built the first power plant in Florida, making DeLand the first town in the state to have electric streetlights. John B. Stetson died in 1906. His Great Floridian plaque is located at Elizabeth Hall, on the Stetson University campus, 431 North Woodland Avenue, DeLand.

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### *William Amory Underhill,*

born in 1910, received his law degree from Stetson University and served from 1940 to 1942 as a Volusia County prosecuting attorney. During World War II, he was a special attorney for the U.S. Justice Department in Washington. He was an Assistant U.S. Attorney General during the administration of President Harry Truman and a special Washington counsel to the Florida Comptroller. He was a Stetson University Trustee from 1977 to 1986 and a member of the College of Law Board of Overseers for more than 20 years. He was a member of the Bert Fish Foundation and treasurer of Florida House, the first state house in the nation’s capital. He was the founding president and a life member of the DeLand Jaycees and a life member of the DeLand Area Chamber of Commerce. William Amory Underhill died in 1999. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Volusia County Courthouse, 120 West Indiana Avenue, DeLand.

## *Delray Beach (Southeast)*



### *Calhoun Yancey "C.Y." Byrd*

was born in Live Oak, Florida, in 1900. Before attending college, he served in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War I. After graduating from the University of Florida in 1923, he was admitted to the Florida Bar and in 1924 began practicing law in Delray Beach. He served on the Delray Beach City Council from 1925 until 1981 when the County Commission dedicated the plaza of the Palm Beach County Governmental Center as "Byrd Park." From 1926 to 1931 he served as the Delray Beach City Attorney. From 1931 to 1949 he served on the Palm Beach County Board of Commissioners and in 1943 was elected President of the Palm Beach County Bar Association. In 1952 he was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention. Calhoun Yancey Byrd died in 1985. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Delray Beach City Attorney's Office, 200 NW 1st Avenue, Delray Beach.

### *Dr. John Robert Cason, Jr.,*

born in 1852, was an ordained minister who came to Delray Beach with his wife in 1915. While serving as a minister in Lakeland, he was instrumental in founding the Methodist Children's Home, an orphanage. He was elected to the Palm Beach County Board of Public Instruction in 1925 and served until 1930, including one year as chairman. During that time, he was appointed Municipal Judge for one year. After the 1928 hurricane severely damaged the First Methodist Church, Dr. Cason came out of retirement to serve as pastor for two years, donating all of his salary to the rebuilding of the church. Dr. Cason died in 1935. His Great Floridian plaque is located at Cason Cottage, 5 N.E. 1st Street, Delray Beach.

### *Marshall DeWitt,*

born in Duluth, Minnesota in 1908, came to Delray Beach in 1928, the year he graduated from the University of Florida. He became a farmer and agricultural leader who was elected to the Delray Beach City Council in 1945 and mayor in 1946. He was a member of the Board of Directors and later Chairman of the Board of the First National Bank of Delray Beach. DeWitt founded the Delray Beach Historical Society, was a member of the Kiwanis Club and was a significant financial donor to the Old School Square Cultural Center. Marshall DeWitt died in 1993. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Delray Beach City Hall, 100 NW 1st Avenue, Delray Beach.

### *Barbara Dodge Smith,*

born in 1927, was the first woman elected president of the Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce and the first female member of the Noontime Kiwanis, where she was awarded the Kiwanis International Foundation's Hixon Award for outstanding community service. In 1993 she was elected to the City Commission where she helped acquire property to enlarge Atlantic High School. She also lobbied for the city's After School Program and supported the development of the Sandoway Nature Center. As president of the Delray Beach Community Child Care Center for abused and under privileged children, she persuaded the city to donate land for a new center, which was completed in 1990. She then convinced her board to buy a lot next door for a toddler center, which was posthumously named the Barbara D. Smith Toddler Center in 1996. In 1998, the center was accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children and was awarded the Gold Seal of Excellence by the Florida Department of Children and Families. Barbara Dodge Smith died in 1996. Her Great Floridian plaque is located at the Delray Beach City Hall, 100 NW 1st Avenue, Delray Beach.

### *Solomon David Spady,*

born in 1890, graduated from Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute in 1914, taught there for a year, then taught physics at Virginia Union University. Through his association with the New Farmers of America, a worldwide African-American youth farmers association, he met agricultural chemist, George Washington Carver. In 1923, he accepted a teaching position at "Delray Colored No. 4," where he also served as principal. When he arrived, the school had an enrollment of 100 grade school children. By 1934, enrollment had increased to 336 students in grades one through ten. His students went on to study at Hampton Institute, Atlanta University, South Carolina State, Bethune-Cookman and Florida A&M, often on scholarships. Solomon David Spady retired in 1957 and died in 1966. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Spady House, 170 NW 5th Avenue, Delray Beach



## *Dunedin (Central West)*



### *Myrtle Scharrer Betz*

was born in 1895 and is believed to be the only child born on Caladesi Island, located in the Gulf of Mexico two miles west of Dunedin. She grew up as an only child after having lost her mother before the age of six. Her father taught her to protect and harvest the resources of the sea and land. After 40 years of fishing in Pinellas

waters, her property deed restrictions in 1948 stated that any changes to the property had to be approved by the Audubon Society and Marine Science Center. Today the island is preserved as the Caladesi Island State Park. At the age of 87, she wrote her autobiography, *Yesteryear I Lived in Paradise*. Myrtle Scharrer Betz died in 1992. Her Great Floridian plaque is located at the Dunedin Fish Company, 51 Main Street, Dunedin.

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### *Bronson Cushing Skinner,*

developer of the first palatable orange juice concentrate, was born June 26, 1889. After graduating in 1911 from Stevens Institute of Technology, Bronson Skinner managed the Skinner Machinery Company, founded by his father. In 1929 he sold the company to Food Machinery Corporation (FMC), although he continued to manage it. In 1935 he left FMC and founded Citrus Concentrates, Inc. to manufacture concentrated orange juice. To develop his concentrate, Skinner boiled water out of juice under a partial vacuum at a temperature so low the flavor and vitamin content were not damaged. He adapted evaporators for this purpose. He began selling his concentrate to Great Britain between 1936 and 1941. When the United States entered World War II, the War Food Administration sent him \$1.5 million to build a plant to supply concentrate for the Allies. The plant operated until August 27, 1945, 13 days after Japan surrendered. Bronson Cushing Skinner died August 4, 1981. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Minute Maid plant, 427 San Christopher Drive, Dunedin.

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### *Eagle Lake (Central)*

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### *Martin A “Marty” Kellner*

was born in 1943. He served the citizens of Eagle Lake as councilman, mayor and vice mayor from 1991 until his death in 1999. He was a member of the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce and the Lake Rotarian Club, a civic organization that funds community projects and needs. He also directed the Eagle Lake Summer Recreation Program on a volunteer basis for five years. He was a volunteer and chaperone for the Lake Region High School chorus. He served on the Board of the Ridge League of Cities and was active in the local league. He served on the State Criminal Justice and Ethics Committee, advocating the criminal prosecution of child abusers. His Great Floridian plaque is located at Eagle Lake City Hall, 75 North 7th Street, Eagle Lake.

### *Ora Belle Starling*

was born May 23, 1909 in Lithia, Florida, and came to Eagle Lake in 1918 where she lived until her death. From 1980 she was a member of the Eagle Lake Senior Center, representing it in the Advisory Council meetings for the Polk County Elderly Services. She was President of the Senior Center for nine years, and volunteered her services for 11 years. During her years of service, she volunteered 3,500 hours for the Eagle Lake Fellowship Dining Senior Program. She volunteered her time until a month before her death in 1999. Her Great Floridian plaque is located at the Eagle Lake Senior Center, 665 Eagle Avenue, Eagle Lake.

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### *Eatonville (Central)*

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### *Zora Neale Hurston,*

born in Notasulga, Alabama in 1891, was a major American writer and chronicler of Florida’s culture. A recipient of Rosenwald and Guggenheim fellowships, she was one of the first African-Americans to receive a Bachelor’s degree from Barnard College. Her novel, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* was hailed by literary critics and her autobiographical work, *Dust Tracks on the Road*, won the Anisfield-Wolf award from the Saturday Review in 1943. She conducted anthropological research in the Caribbean, Honduras and American South, and her book, *Tell My Horse*, was a collection of folklore. Her works are on school reading lists across the nation. A festival is held each year in Eatonville to commemorate her life and work. Zora Neale Hurston died in 1960. The U.S. Postal Service issued a stamp in her honor in 2002. Her Great Floridian plaque is located at the Matilda Moseley House, 11 Taylor Street, Eatonville. (See also page 22.)

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### *Edgewater (Central East)*

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### *Dr. John Milton Hawks*

was born in 1826 and founded the Central Florida town of Hawks Park—renamed Edgewater—in 1865. He was a physician, author, historian, teacher, newspaper publisher, army officer and orange grower. He wrote two books, *The Florida Gazette*, a 200-page business directory with information for all 36 counties in Florida and *The East Coast of Florida* in 1887. He served as the first superintendent of schools for Volusia County and donated land for a school, town hall, county library and cemetery. Dr. Hawks died in 1910. His Great Floridian

plaque is located at the Edgewater City Hall, 104 North Riverside Drive, Edgewater.

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## *Estero (Southwest)*

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### *Dr. Cyrus R. Teed,*

born in 1839, was the leader of the Koreshan Unity, a communal religious group living in Chicago, Illinois. In 1895, he purchased 320 acres of land south of Fort Myers on the Estero River. The Koreshans moved to Florida and built a community which numbered 200 by 1904. Estero was incorporated September 1, 1904. The Koreshan land holdings in Lee County reached 5,736 acres, and Dr. Teed's community grew to 10,000 people. The Koreshan Unity constructed electric utilities, a concrete works, sculpting department, print shop, laundry, bakery, saw mills and boat works. The Koreshans operated a general store that served riverboat traffic, and later the local community and road traffic on the Tamiami Trail. The first Estero Post Office was housed in the Koreshan settlement, and the Koreshans held concerts, gave lectures and performed plays for the general public. Dr. Teed died December 22, 1908. The communal society continued after his death until the last of his followers died in 1982. Today, the Koreshan Unity settlement site is a Florida State Park. Teed's Great Floridian plaque is located at the Founder's House, Koreshan Unity Settlement National Historic District, Koreshan State Historic Site (15 miles south of Fort Myers on U.S. 41).

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## *Eustis (Central)*

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### *S.T.E. Pinkney*

was born October 18, 1914 in Tallahassee and was educated at Florida A&M University, Tennessee Agricultural and Industrial Teachers College in Nashville, Tennessee, the University of Kentucky and the University of Florida. He became assistant principal of Douglas High School in Live Oak, and later principal of high schools in Kissimmee and Eustis. After serving as coordinator of Leesburg Area Schools, he was employed by the Lake County School Board as Coordinator of the Migrant Education Program. His political career began when Governor Reubin Askew appointed him as a Eustis City Commissioner. He served as Mayor for four years, Vice-Mayor for four years and City Commissioner for 16 years. Upon his retirement from the City Commission in 1989, he was named

"Mayor Emeritus" and January 3, 1989 was proclaimed "S.T.E. Pinkney Day." S.T.E. Pinkney died May 8, 1992. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Eustis High School, 1801 East Bates Avenue, Eustis.

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## *Everglades City (Southwest)*

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### *Deaconess Harriet Bedell,*

born in 1875, was an Episcopalian Missionary to the Miccosukee and Seminole Indians in the Everglades. Her first assignments were at missions in Oklahoma and Alaska. In 1933 she was on a lecture circuit seeking donations for her Alaska mission when she was invited to speak in Miami. She visited a Seminole reservation, the condition of which convinced her not to return to Alaska. She was assigned to the Everglades and opened the Glade Cross Mission. She sought to revive the authentic patchwork, doll making and basket weaving skills of the Indians. She traded her food for items they made, then took the native objects of art, sold them to retailers and bought food and supplies which she gave back to the Indians. Deaconess Bedell presided over her mission until it was destroyed by Hurricane Donna in 1960. She then moved to Bishop Grey Retirement Inn in Davenport, Florida where she died in 1969. Her Great Floridian plaque is located at the Museum of the Everglades, 105 West Broadway, Everglades City.

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### *David Graham Copeland*

was born in 1885. He came to work for Barron Gift Collier in 1924 as chief engineer and architect for the Tamiami Trail (U.S. 41). Barron Collier had amassed 2,000 square miles of land and had established Collier County in 1923. He promised the state of Florida that he would complete the Tamiami Trail, but the project had stopped in Lee County in 1918. Copeland oversaw the entire project and the Trail was completed in April 1928. Copeland also managed the planning and construction of Everglades (now Everglades City), which was the county seat of Collier County from 1923 to 1962. Copeland managed 40 Collier companies operating from Everglades, including hotels, a steamship line, the United Telephone System of Florida, Bank of Everglades, retail stores, an ice plant and schools. He was also instrumental in bringing the Atlantic Coast Line Railway to southwest Florida. He served on the Collier County Board of Commissioners from 1929 until 1947 and in 1949 as a state Representative who supported conservation and opposed excessive taxation. He wrote an unpublished history of the area which became the basis for Dr. Charlton Tebeau's Collier County history, *Florida's Last Frontier*. David Graham

Copeland died in 1949. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Museum of the Everglades, 105 West Broadway, Everglades City.

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## *Fellsmere (Central East)*

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### *Gilbert Edward Barkoski*

was born October 22, 1893 in Loretto, Duval County. In 1916 he married, bought a home and 50 head of cattle. His herd grew to more than 2,000 head on his 75,000-acre range. He became the first cattleman in Florida to import purebred English cattle to breed with and upgrade the bloodlines of the old Spanish range cow. He served on the Indian River School Board, the County Commission, the World War II Ration Board and the Sebastian River Drainage Board. He supported the Future Farmers of America and the 4-H Club. He served several terms as President of the Indian River Cattleman's Association and just prior to his death was named "Cattleman of This Century" by that group. Gilbert Edward Barkoski died in 1983. His Great Floridian plaque is located at Old Fellsmere School Building, 22 South Orange Street, Fellsmere.

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## *Fernandina Beach (Northeast)*

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### *Liberty Billings*

was born in Maine in 1823. At the age of 25, he was ordained as a Unitarian minister and 14 years later was commissioned as Lt. Colonel and second in command of the first authorized African-American military unit in the U.S. Army-the 1st South Carolina Infantry Regiment. After being wounded in the Civil War, Billings was honorably discharged in 1863 and in 1865 arrived in Fernandina and purchased property. Billings championed black rights in Florida and was a leader in Florida's Reconstruction politics. In 1870, he conducted the U.S. Census in Nassau County. From 1871 to 1877, he was a State Senator, representing Nassau, Duval and St. Johns Counties. Serving as President Pro-Tempore of the Senate, he died in Fernandina in 1877. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the family's home, Amelia House, 222 North 5th Street, Fernandina Beach.

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### *Emma B. Delaney,*

born in 1871, was the first African-American female missionary sent to Africa. Born in Fernandina, she completed missionary and nursing training at Spelman

College. In 1902 she sailed to British Central Africa and helped establish the Providence Industrial Mission in Malawi. Returning to the United States in 1906 she lectured on her experiences and began raising money to return to Africa. In 1912 she went to Liberia and founded the Suehn Industrial mission near Monrovia, a mission that provided education, industrial arts, home economics and health care. In 1922 she returned to United States and died the same year of tropical fever. Emma Delaney Day is celebrated in Florida Baptist Churches the third Sunday in May. Her Great Floridian plaque is located at the First Missionary Baptist Church, 22 South 9th Street, Fernandina Beach.

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### *George Rainsford Fairbanks*

was born in 1820 in New York State. After becoming a lawyer, he moved to St. Augustine in 1842 to become Clerk of the Circuit Court. He was a member of the State Senate from 1846 to 1848, served as a Major in the Confederate Commissary Department and was president of both the Florida Fruit Growers Association and the Florida Fruit Exchange. Fairbanks served as editor of the Florida Mirror and wrote a history of Florida in 1871 that was used in public schools for 25 years. He was also instrumental in organizing the Florida Historical Society and became its first president in 1902. George Fairbanks died in 1906. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Fairbanks House, 227 South 7th Street, Fernandina Beach.

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### *Louis G. Hirth*

was born in Germany in 1866 and immigrated to America at the age of 16. In 1895 he began a retail liquor business in Fernandina. In 1901, Hirth purchased a building on the corner of Centre and 2nd Streets and opened the Palace Saloon, which became Florida's longest continuously operating saloon. The Palace became a fashionable meeting place for sea captains, the Carnegies and other wealthy families from Cumberland Island, Georgia. Louis Hirth died in 1936. His Great Floridian plaque may be found inside the Palace Saloon, 113 Centre Street, Fernandina Beach.

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### *Amos Latham,*

a Revolutionary War veteran, was the first lighthouse keeper of the Amelia Light, Florida's longest existing operating lighthouse. Born in 1761, he was keeper of the lighthouse on Cumberland Island, Georgia from 1829 to 1838. After the Amelia Island lighthouse was completed in 1820 it was moved to the north end of Amelia Island in 1838. Mr. Latham became the keeper of the lighthouse in 1839 when he was 78 and continued in this capacity until his death in 1842. His Great Floridian plaque may be found at the Amelia Island Lighthouse, 215 ½ Lighthouse Circle, Fernandina Beach.

## *Chloe Merrick*

was born in Syracuse, New York in 1832. She taught in Syracuse public schools from 1854 to 1856, and in 1863 responded to a plea to help with slaves who had fled to the Union Army lines. Arriving in Fernandina, she found more than 700 African-Americans living on Amelia Island. She opened a Freedmen's School where she taught and helped the needy. Merrick also organized the Orphan Asylum at Fernandina and is the only educator cited by name in the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands monthly education reports from Florida. In 1869 she married Harrison M. Reed, Governor of Florida, influencing legislation to address social problems, including education and relief for the poor. Chloe Merrick Reed died in 1897. Her Great Floridian plaque is located at the Simmons-Merrick House, 102 South 10th Street, Fernandina Beach.

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## *William Henderson Peck*

was born in 1859. In 1880 African Americans in Nassau County petitioned for a high school which was constructed in 1884. The following year Moses H. Payne of Howard University became principal. Professor Peck became his assistant, and when Professor Payne died in a yellow fever epidemic in 1887 Peck took over as principal, a position he held for 50 years. By 1894 he had established a program serving students through the 10th grade and, in 1908, had a full high school curriculum. In 1911 the school, Nassau Colored School Number 1, was named Peck High School. In 1928 a new school was constructed with the same name, which served black children until desegregation in 1968. He died in 1950. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Peck Center (formerly Peck High School), 516 South 10th Street, Fernandina Beach.

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## *Solicito "Mike" Salvador,*

born in Italy in 1869, arrived in New Orleans in 1895 on a banana boat. He worked his way to Cedar Key and in 1898 took the train to Fernandina, where he became a leader in the shrimp industry. Rigging his boats with modified Otter Trawl nets, he and his brother-in-law, Salvatore Versaggi, expanded their operations to St. Augustine. In 1906, Salvatore founded the Salvador Fish Company, using a modified Otter Trawl to increase by ten times the daily shrimp catch. By 1921, the company was shipping shrimp as far away as Los Angeles, Canada and Denmark. Salvador died in 1924. His Great Floridian plaque may be found at the family home at 20 South Street, Fernandina Beach.

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## *The Sisters of St. Joseph*

were humanitarians who jeopardized their health while helping others. Sister Noelie was one of the original

French nuns who established the St. Joseph Convent in 1871. In the yellow fever epidemic that struck Fernandina in 1877, the Sisters of St. Joseph became the "heroines of the stricken community by bringing sustenance and aid at that terrible time to all in need—Catholic, non-Catholic, black and white." In 1882, the Sisters of St. Joseph opened St. Joseph's Academy, which operated until 1961 when the sisters sold it to St. Michael's parish. The plaque bearing the Sisters of St. Joseph's name is located at St. Michael's School, North 4th and Calhoun Streets, Fernandina Beach.

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## *Samuel A. Swann*

was born in North Carolina in 1832 and came to Fernandina in 1855 to work as an accountant for Joseph Finegan and Company. At that time he was also assistant secretary and treasurer of the Florida Railroad Company, David Yulee's corporation that was chartered in 1853 to construct a railroad from Fernandina to Cedar Key. He was an agent for the Florida Land and Immigration Company, the Florida Town Improvement Company and the Trustees for the Internal Improvement Fund in the sale of a huge tract of land. Samuel Swann died in 1909. His Great Floridian plaque may be found at the Swann Building, Centre and North 4th Streets, Fernandina Beach.

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## *Marcellus Alphonso Williams*

was born in North Carolina in 1818 and came to Florida in 1847. Beginning as an apprentice surveyor that year, he became one of the most influential land agents in Florida. He spent much of his life surveying land grants along the St. Johns River, the Okefenokee Swamp, the Everglades and St. George Island near Apalachicola. In the 1850s he worked on behalf of the Florida Railroad, surveying its line from Fernandina to Cedar Key and then to Tampa. After the Civil War, he was a partner in the land firm of Williams, Swann and Corley. Marcellus Alphonso Williams died in 1888. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Williams House, South 9th and Ash Streets, Fernandina Beach.

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## *David Levy Yulee*

was Florida's first United States Senator and the builder of Florida's first cross-state railroad. He was born David Levy in 1810 on St. Thomas, British West Indies. He was admitted to the bar in 1836 and served, first as a delegate to the state constitutional convention in 1838 and then as Territorial Delegate to Congress from 1841 to 1845. David Levy was elected to the United States Senate in 1845, becoming the nation's first Jewish senator. The next year he added the name of his father's Sephardic ancestry, Yulee. Yulee operated sugar plantations on the Homosassa River and in

Alachua County and organized Florida's first railroad in the 1850s, linking the Atlantic and Gulf coasts. When the Civil War broke out in 1861, Yulee served in the Confederate Congress, was briefly imprisoned following the war, and rebuilt his railroad, which had been destroyed. Yulee moved to Washington, D.C., in 1880. He died six years later and is buried there. Levy County and the town of Yulee (Nassau County) are among the Florida places named for him. His Great Floridian plaque is found at the Fernandina Chamber of Commerce, 102 Centre Street, Fernandina Beach. (See also Homosassa.)

## *George W. English, Jr.*

was born in Vienna, Illinois in 1898. Upon receiving his law degree from Harvard Law School in 1925, he moved to South Florida and began his legal career with the Hall, Johnson and English law firm. The 1926 hurricane demolished the area and the population declined by one half. George English worked with the City of Fort Lauderdale to exchange delinquent taxes for land, including 30 acres at the intersection of Sunrise Boulevard and Bayview Drive which is now a park named for him. In 1933 he established the First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Broward, which funded real estate development. In 1937 he founded the First National Bank of Fort Lauderdale, which grew to be the fourth largest bank holding company in Florida. While serving as a lawyer and banker, English also served as City Attorney, helped draft the city's first comprehensive plan and played a major role in establishing Broward General Hospital. George W. English, Jr. died in 1993. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the George English Recreation Center, George English Park, Sunrise Boulevard and Bayview Drive, Fort Lauderdale.

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## *Fort Lauderdale (Southeast)*

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### *Evelyn Fortune Bartlett*

was born in Massachusetts in 1887. After marrying Frederic Clay Bartlett in 1931, the couple renovated Bonnet House on Fort Lauderdale beach. She transformed the house and the surrounding property, turning a marsh into a lagoon surrounded by royal palm trees. As Fort Lauderdale grew and beachfront properties were developed, Mrs. Bartlett kept Bonnet House as it was in the 1930s. Her resistance to developers helped preserve one of the last mangrove swamps and coastal hammocks on the South Florida coast. In 1983, she deeded the Bonnet House to the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation and in 1984 the 35-acre estate was listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Evelyn Fortune Bartlett died in 1997 at the age of 109. Her Great Floridian plaque is located at Bonnet House, 900 North Birch Road, Fort Lauderdale.

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### *Frederic Clay Bartlett*

was born in Chicago, Illinois in 1873. In 1919, he married Helen Birch and became an art collector as well as a painter. He was an artist of national importance, whose works were exhibited in Chicago, St. Louis, San Francisco, Washington, D.C., Rochester, Charlotte and New York. As a wedding present, Helen's father gave them 35 acres of beach front property in Fort Lauderdale. On the the land, Bartlett designed and built the Bonnet House. Helen died in 1925. Frederick married Evelyn Fortune in 1931. Together they renovated and added to the original structure, producing the estate that is open to the public today. Frederic Clay Bartlett died in 1953. His Great Floridian plaque is located at Bonnet House, 900 North Birch Road, Fort Lauderdale.

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### *Dr. Von Delany Mizell*

was born in 1910 in Broward County. He attended Morehouse College in Atlanta, returning to establish a medical practice as Broward County's second African-American physician. He challenged the medical establishment, staged sit-ins and protests and started the first NAACP chapter in South Florida. With his predecessor Dr. James F. Sistrunk, Dr. Mizell founded Provident Hospital in 1938. In 1942, he participated in a boycott of Fort Lauderdale's "Colored School" to end the practice of a split school year that allowed children to work in the fields during the winter. A federal court ordered the local school board to stop the practice, which also allowed the school to become accredited. He successfully sued the Broward County Medical Association for admittance. Dr. Von Delany Mizell died in 1973. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Mizell Library, 1408 Sistrunk Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale.

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### *Estelle Rouse Pinkett,*

born in 1892, was an educator at Fort Lauderdale's Old Dillard School from the 1930s to the 1950s. Mrs. Pinkett began teaching fifth and sixth grades there in 1932, and until 1959, encouraged students to attend college. While many African Americans struggled to finish grade school, Mrs. Pinkett sent the majority of her students to Bethune-Cookman College and Florida A&M University. In her community, during World War II, she founded the first African-American USO. She established the "Teachers for Tomorrow" program, an initiative to train students to become teachers. She taught Sunday school and served as a church officer at Mt. Olive Baptist

Church. Estelle Rouse Pinkett died in 1961. Her Great Floridian plaque is located at the Old Dillard Museum (formerly Old Dillard School), 1009 NW 4th Street, Fort Lauderdale.

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### *Margaret Blake Roach*

was born October 30, 1910 in Summerville, Georgia and was reared in Chattanooga, Tennessee and Atlanta, Georgia. She earned a Bachelor's degree in English and Social Science from Clark Atlanta University's Laboratory High School and served as an administrator in Broward County Schools for more than 20 years. She was instrumental in helping the Women in Distress Shelter and the United Way, and was founding president of the Broward Urban League. She was the first woman and African American on the Broward Community College Board of Trustees, a charter member of the Florida Council on Human Relationships, a founding member of the local National Conference of Christians and Jews, and the first president of Fort Lauderdale LINKS, a national intercultural, civic and social organization. She also served on the Council of Elders for the Old Dillard Museum. *The Sun-Sentinel* awarded her its Publisher's Award for community service in Broward County in 1991 and she was inducted into the Broward County Women's Hall of Fame in 1993. Margaret Blake Roach died in 1999. Her Great Floridian plaque is located at the Old Dillard Museum, 1009 NW 4th Street, Fort Lauderdale.

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### *Dr. James F. Sistrunk*

was born in Midway, Florida in 1891. He graduated with honors from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee in 1919. After serving in World War I, Dr. Sistrunk practiced medicine in Dunellon before moving to Fort Lauderdale in 1922. As Broward County's first black physician, he found a community of black railroad workers, farmers and laborers in need of medical care. Dr. Sistrunk and his partner, Dr. Von Mizell, solicited financing for Provident Hospital, which opened in 1938 to serve the city's black population. Dr. Sistrunk served as Chief of Staff and Assistant Director of Obstetrics and Gynecology. He delivered 5,000 babies in Broward County during his 40-year career. Dr. James Sistrunk died in 1966. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Von D. Mizell Library, 1408 Sistrunk Blvd., Fort Lauderdale.

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### *Frank and Ivy Stranahan*

were pioneers who helped establish the City of Fort Lauderdale. Frank Stranahan was born in 1865 and arrived in Fort Lauderdale in 1893 to manage the New River Camp, a settlement of a dozen families located on the New River. He built a trading post where he

served as postmaster and operated the ferry to Lemon City (now a part of Greater Miami) from 1893 to 1904. He prospered as a real estate developer and donated land for the Women's Club, the Memorial Hospital, Stranahan Park and the original high school. In 1900 he married Ivy Julia Cromartie and turned the trading post into their home. Ivy was born in 1881, moved to Fort Lauderdale in 1899 and became one of Florida's first schoolteachers. In 1924, she persuaded the Seminole Indians to move to a reservation west of Hollywood. She and her husband helped establish Broward Memorial Hospital. Frank Stranahan died in 1929; Ivy Stranahan died in 1971. Their Great Floridian plaque is located at Stranahan House, 335 S.E. 6th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale.

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### *Leon Watts,*

born in Richmond, Kentucky, August 7, 1920, was the first black instructor at Broward Community College's Davie Campus, and a counselor, civil rights activist, community advocate and member of the Broward Community College District Board of Trustees. His education at Florida A&M University was interrupted by World War II, after which he earned his Bachelor's degree in 1947. He later received a Master's degree from the University of Michigan and completed post-graduate work at California State University and San Diego State. Leon Watts died in 1999. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Leon Watts Career Counseling Center in the John Payne Building on the Central Campus of Broward Community College, 3501 SW Davie Road, Fort Lauderdale.

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## *Fort Meade (Central)*

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### *Nathaniel "Nat" J. Patterson*

was born in 1883, a native Floridian. He graduated from Cumberland University with an LLB and Bachelor of Forensic Legal Debate in 1914. He was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1914 and began law practice in Fort Meade in 1915. He served as an attorney in Fort Meade for 37 years, most of it without pay. He served as Fort Meade City Attorney on three different occasions for 18 years and was elected Mayor in 1926. In 1927 he served as a member of the Florida House of Representatives. He was awarded the Doctor of Jurisprudence by Cumberland Law School (now Samford University), Birmingham, Alabama in 1969. He was a charter member of the Lions Club, a member of Fort Meade Masonic Lodge and active in the Fort Meade Methodist Church, where he established a scholarship for needy boys and girls. Nathaniel Patterson died in 1965. His



*on the Road*, won the Anisfield-Wolf award from the Saturday Review in 1943. She spent the last years of her life in obscurity in Fort Pierce. Here, she worked on her last book, *The Life of Herod the Great*, and also taught at Lincoln Park Academy, now the Lincoln Park Academy Magnet School. She died in 1960 in Fort Pierce. Today her novels, stories and autobiography are on reading lists of schools across the nation. Zora Neal Hurston's Great Floridian plaque is located at the Zora Neale Hurston Home, 1734 Avenue L, Fort Pierce. (See also Eatonville)

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### *Daniel T. McCarty, Jr.,*

Florida's 31st Governor, was born January 18, 1912 in Fort Pierce. After graduating from the University of Florida, he was elected to the Florida Legislature at the age of 25. In 1941 he became the youngest person to be chosen Speaker of the House. During World War II he received the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Purple Heart and French Croix de Guerre. McCarty became a candidate for governor in 1948, losing in the second primary to Fuller Warren. He was elected governor in 1952 and inaugurated January 3, 1953. Governor McCarty died after nine months in office. During his administration he supported construction of the Florida Turnpike and was influential in establishing medical schools at the University of Florida and the University of Miami. His Great Floridians plaque is located at Dan McCarty Middle School, 1201 Mississippi Avenue, Fort Pierce.

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### *Fort Walton Beach (Northwest)*

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### *Dr. James Hartley Beal*

was born in 1861 in Ohio. A scientist and pharmacist, he came to Camp Walton (now Fort Walton Beach) in 1915. Dr. Beal collected plants and shells, and used his yacht to follow the east and west coasts of Florida in search of them. His collections were kept in his Camp Walton office. In 1940 his collection of shells was donated to the Beal-Maltbie Shell Museum at Rollins College in Winter Park and in 1988 to the Florida State Museum at the University of Florida in Gainesville. Dr. Beal is also remembered for his contributions to Camp Walton. The first public water and sewer system in Fort Walton Beach was created from his artesian well in 1944, and he donated land to the city. Dr. Beal died in 1945. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the entrance to the Summerhouse Restaurant (Beal House), 2 Miracle Strip Parkway, Fort Walton Beach.

### *Willie H. Blankston*

was born in 1923 and came to Fort Walton Beach in 1949 where for 45 years he was a civil rights advocate. He encouraged African Americans to register and vote. His 1976 lawsuit resulted in 130 jobs earmarked for minorities at Eglin Air Force Base. He was the founder of the Progressive Community Improvement Organization, which sought solutions to problems facing the African-American community. In 1994, he received the Okaloosa-Walton Bar Association's Liberty Bell Award for his civil rights efforts. The local chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference gives an annual award named in his honor. Willie Blankston died in 1998. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Fort Walton Beach City Hall Council Chambers, 107 Miracle Strip Parkway, Fort Walton Beach.

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### *John Thomas Brooks*

was born in 1838 and is considered the founder of Fort Walton Beach. After being stationed in Fort Walton during the Civil War, he settled in the area in 1867 with his wife and daughter. He built a log cabin along the community's first street—Brooks Street. Brooks became the community's de facto doctor through his Civil War service in an army hospital, frequently making his "house calls" by rowboat. He established the area's first hotel, the Brooks House in 1902, later renamed the Brooks Hotel. Brooks also gave land for Fort Walton's first cemetery, named in his honor in 1939, and to the Catholic Church for its first house of worship. He died in 1917. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Brooks Memorial Cemetery, 129 Shell Street, Fort Walton Beach.

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### *Adam J. Gerlach*

was born in 1846 in Indiana and came to Camp Walton in 1912. The following year, along with his daughter and son-in-law, he purchased the Gulfview Hotel. The Gulfview was built in 1906 as a hunting and fishing lodge and is one of the earliest structures remaining in Fort Walton Beach. Gerlach was instrumental in bringing the Roman Catholic Church to Camp Walton. After the lobby of the Gulfview Hotel became too small to accommodate Sunday Mass, he petitioned Bishop Allen in Mobile to establish a Catholic church in the community. In 1914, St. Mary's Catholic Church, the first church building in Camp Walton, was completed. Adam Gerlach died in 1920. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the entrance to the Gulfview Hotel, 12A Miracle Strip Parkway, Fort Walton Beach.

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### *Liza Jackson*

was born in 1888 and came to Fort Walton Beach in 1915. In 1922, Jackson purchased the Brooks Hotel, the area's earliest accommodation for hunters, fishermen

and vacationers, and renamed it the Miramar Hotel. In the early 1920s she helped organize the Fort Walton Beach Women's Club, which established anti-livestock laws, began a library and provided a clinic. Throughout her life, Jackson donated property to the city for recreational facilities and other purposes. The site of the present City Hall/Municipal Auditorium/Library is located on land donated by Jackson. She also gave land for St. Simon's by the Sound Episcopal Church and helped organize the Gulf Area Garden Club. She was the first woman to serve on the City Council. Mrs. Jackson died in 1971. Her Great Floridian plaque is located at the Fort Walton Municipal Auditorium, 107 Miracle Strip Parkway, Fort Walton Beach.

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### *William C. Lazarus*

was born in 1911 and became a Florida resident in 1933. He was a pilot, aeronautics instructor and research engineer, and served as Aviation Supervisor of the Florida State Improvement Commission. Lazarus retired in 1965 as Chief Scientific Advisor to the Air Proving Ground Center at Eglin Air Force Base. In retirement he was responsible for the planning, design and construction of the Indian Temple Mound Museum in Fort Walton Beach, which depicts human occupation of the Gulf Coast for the past 10,000 years. The museum is known for having the finest collection of prehistoric Indian ceramics in the southeast. Mr. Lazarus died in 1965. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Indian Temple Mound Museum, 139 Miracle Strip Parkway SE, Fort Walton Beach.

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### *Chester Pruitt*

was born in 1917 and was the first African-American police officer in Fort Walton Beach. He joined the force in 1948 and served through the 1950s and 1960s. He was a mediator on many difficult issues, especially those concerned with the city's youths. A neighborhood center and park are named in his honor. Chester Pruitt died in 1968. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Chester Pruitt Neighborhood Center, 15 Carson Drive, Fort Walton Beach.

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## *Frostproof (Central)*

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### *Ben Hill Griffin, Jr.*

was born October 20, 1910 at Tiger Bay, near Fort Meade. At the University of Florida, he was a special student in agriculture, majoring in horticulture and economics. His business interests included citrus, cattle ranching, forestry, mining and real estate. He was Chief Executive Officer, Ben Hill Griffin, Inc.;

Chairman of the Board, Alico, Inc.; and Director of Winn-Dixie Stores, Inc. He was President of the Florida Citrus Processors Association; a member of the Florida Citrus Commission; and a member of the First Board of Directors, Florida Citrus Mutual. He was elected to the Citrus Hall of Fame in 1979 and to the Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame in 1987. He was Director of the University of Florida Foundation, Distinguished Alumnus of the University of Florida and Chancellor of Florida Southern College. He served in the Florida House of Representatives every other year from 1956 to 1963 and the Florida Senate in 1965-1966 and 1967-1968. Ben Hill Griffin, Jr. died March 1, 1990. His Great Floridian plaque is located at Ben Hill Griffin, Inc., 700 South Alternate 17 at 7th Street, Frostproof.

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### *Latimer Maxcy*

was born in 1887 in Columbia, South Carolina. He came to Frostproof in 1904 when he acquired land east of town and began raising citrus. In the late 1920s, Maxcy operated one of the first citrus canning and juice plants. He was instrumental in organizing the Florida Citrus Mutual and was its first president in 1938 and 1949. He served on the Florida Citrus Commission during the administration of Governor Caldwell. In the early 1930s he began to raise cattle and became a member of the Florida, Polk, Osceola, Okeechobee and Martin County Cattlemen's Associations. He was a Mason, a Shriner and a member of the Florida Club at Winter Haven. Latimer Maxcy died in 1971. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Latimer Maxcy Memorial Library, 15 North Magnolia Avenue, Frostproof.

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## *Gainesville (North Central)*

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### *Albert Blanding*

was born in 1876 and became a resident of Florida in 1878. He graduated from East Florida Seminary in Gainesville, first in his class. Blanding enlisted in the Gainesville Guards and commanded the second Florida Infantry during the Mexican Border Conflict from 1916 to 1917. In August 1917 Blanding was promoted to Brigadier General by President Woodrow Wilson. He served in World War I and was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal. He was recognized by the State of Florida with the Active State Service Medal and Florida Cross. Blanding became a military advisor during World War II. He served on the Everglades National Park Commission and was instrumental in establishing Everglades National Park. Albert Blanding died in 1970. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Blanding House, 306 NE 3rd Street, Gainesville.

## *Sarah Matheson*

was born in 1901, attended the North Carolina College for Women, and received her graduate degree from the Presbyterian School of Christian Education. She then became a missionary. She came to Gainesville in 1945, the birthplace of her husband. In Gainesville she became active in the First Presbyterian Church and served on local, state and national boards for interfaith organizations. She was also active in Presbyterian missionary and training programs. Matheson was president of Women of the Church, Synod of Florida and Moderator of the Suwannee Presbyterian, attending the General Assembly of Presbyterian Church in Memphis, Tennessee, in 1970 as the only woman commissioner from Florida. Her travels took her twice around the globe, to Columbia, Jamaica and Korea. Sarah Matheson died in 1996. Her Great Floridian plaque is located at the Matheson House, 528 SE 1st Avenue, Gainesville.

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## *Sarah Robb*

was born in 1852 and was Alachua County's first female physician. She received a nursing degree and, with encouragement from her husband, decided to pursue a medical degree. When medical schools in the United States would not accept her, Robb went to Germany and received a medical degree there. She moved to Gainesville in 1883 with her children to join her husband who was recuperating from tuberculosis. She was a "horse and buggy" doctor, traveling around Alachua County making house calls and delivering babies. She also set up a clinic with overnight beds in her office. With her husband and another physician she published a book of "common sense" medicine for public use. She died in 1937. Her Great Floridian plaque is located at the Alachua County Medical Society, 235 SW 2nd Avenue, Gainesville.

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## *Glen St. Mary (Northeast)*

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## *Jesse Earl Franklin*

was born in 1887. For 50 years he owned a general store and post office, where he served as Glen St. Mary's postmaster for 40 years. The Franklin store served as the social and commercial center of the town. The store, as well as the Glen St. Mary Nursery, boasted the first two telephones in the community. Franklin was active in his church, where he served as teacher, deacon and treasurer. He held memberships in several state and national preservation organizations. The street that runs in front of the Franklin Store and Post Office is named in his honor. Jesse Earl Franklin died in 1969. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Franklin Mercantile, C.R. 125 and Franklin Street, Glen St. Mary.

## *Alverdo Adair Geitgey*

was born in 1864 in Wooster, Ohio, and made a fortune in the natural gas industry. Vacationing in North Florida during the winters, he invested in 12,700 acres of Baker County real estate and became the area's first developer. Moving to Glen St. Mary in 1916, he laid out the town, naming its streets after U.S. presidents and some of the town's agricultural products, such as oranges and pecans. His first real estate pamphlets lured buyers and promoted growth in the community. His contributions included a citrus grove and pecan farm. The Great Depression wiped out his land investments, and Alverdo Adair Geitgey died in 1932. The town recovered after the Depression. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Geitgey House, C.R. 125 and Geitgey Street, Glen St. Mary.

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## *Isaiah Sherman Mikell*

was born in 1873 in Olustee, Florida. He built a home near the railroad in Glen St. Mary in 1909, and for 33 years served as the depot agent, working just a few hundred yards from his front porch. During the Great Depression, his family farm helped support a struggling community. It is reported that he fed anyone who was hungry. Isaiah Sherman Mikell died in 1952. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Mikell House, West Geitgey Street, off C.R. 125, Glen St. Mary.

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## *George Lindley Taber, Sr.*

was born in 1854. In 1881 he came to Florida from Chicago, purchased a tract of land outside of Glen St. Mary and began to plant an orchard. He formed a short-lived partnership with Thomas Beath in 1882 and began the Glen Saint Mary Nursery Company, starting with 1,600 acres of abandoned cotton fields. Taber became a charter member of the Florida State Horticulture Society and served as its president. After the freeze of the late 1890s, he determined to develop cold-tolerant plants and learn new ways to protect plants from the cold. The nursery expanded to a second South Florida location and supplied plants throughout the southeastern United States, and to Central and South America, China, India, Spain and Russia. The Rio Grande Valley of Texas began growing citrus with Glen St. Mary stock. The satsuma orange, the temple orange, the kumquat, the weaver dogwood and the magnolia St. Mary all had their origin at the Glen Saint Mary Nursery, as did the George L. Taber azalea. The Glen St. Mary Nursery continues as one of the largest employers in the community. George Lindley Taber died in 1912. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Glen Saint Mary Nursery Office, Glen Nursery Road, ½ mile west of C.R. 125, Glen St. Mary.

## *Karlie Tyler*

was born in 1906 and came to Glen St. Mary as a child. She spent her working years first as a science and English teacher, and then as a traveling librarian. After her retirement, she volunteered at the new public library in MacClenny, cataloging every volume by hand. In appreciation, the library's reference room was named in her honor. Many of her students made significant contributions; Allen Boyd became Florida's first presidential cabinet member, appointed Secretary of Transportation by John F. Kennedy. Karlie Tyler died in 1985. Her Great Floridian plaque is located at the Tyler House, corner of C.R.125 and Geitgey Street, Glen St. Mary.

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## *Green Cove Springs (Northeast)*

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### *John Preston Hall, Sr.*

was born August 26, 1894 in Clay County. He was a stockholder in the Bank of Green Cove Springs, was elected to the board of directors in 1926 and then Chairman of the Board and president in 1938. Much of his life was spent in law enforcement. He was elected sheriff of Clay County in 1929 and held that office for 36 years. He left office with no unsolved murders in his files. Hall was President of the Florida Sheriffs Association and a past member of the Board of Directors. He was elected treasurer of the association in 1946 and served in that capacity until his retirement. He was a founder and first treasurer of the Florida Sheriffs Boy Ranch at Live Oak, established in 1957 to provide a home for needy boys. Hall was named to the administrative board of the Florida Sheriffs Bureau, created by the Florida Legislature at the request of the Florida Sheriffs Association. John Preston Hall, Sr. died March 24, 1970. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Clay County Historical Museum, 915 Walnut Street, Green Cove Springs.

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### *John Preston Hall, Jr.*

was born February 17, 1930. A native of Green Cove Springs, he graduated from the FBI National Academy. He served as a deputy sheriff of Clay County, and later as president of the Bank of Green Cove Springs and J. P. Hall and Sons, a family-owned land and timber company. He is best known for the John P. Hall, Sr. Children's Charity that assists disadvantaged children of Clay County. Established in his father's memory, the charity provides "Christmas" clothing and scholarships for more than 2,000 underprivileged children in Clay County. Hall, Jr. was a supporter of the Florida Sheriffs' Youth Ranches, and the Hall family, beginning with his

father, contributed more than a \$500,000 to the ranches. John Preston Hall, Jr. died July 15, 2000. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Clay County Historical Museum, 915 Walnut Street, Green Cove Springs.

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## *Ed Stansel,*

born in 1927, spent 14 years as administrator of the Clay County Health Department. Under his leadership, Health Department offices were expanded and several new facilities financed with health department revenues rather than with state or county funds. This included four expansions to the Health Department, a separate Environmental Health facility and a Children's Clinic at the Idlewild site. Clinics were also constructed in Orange Park, Keystone Heights and Clay Hill. Stansell helped establish a program to provide uncompensated care for the county's indigent and poor. He enlisted physicians in the "60 Hours for the Poor" program, the forerunner of the WE CARE Program. He implemented the first sophisticated computer system in a Florida Health Department that included patient registration, billing, immunization registration, septic system and repair permitting, and well permitting. He wrote more than 2,000 computer software applications. Ed Stansel died in 1996. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Ed Stansel Public Health Clinic, 1305 Idlewild Avenue, Green Cove Springs.

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## *Richard Reid Wager*

was born August 29, 1911 in Vidalia, Georgia and moved to Green Cove Springs with his parents in 1922. He was instrumental in organizing the Green Cove Springs Fire Department in 1930 and served as the unpaid Fire Chief until his retirement in 1992. He served on the Clay County Rescue Service for 16 years. During that time, Wager often personally gave money to fire victims after fighting fires that had threatened their home or business. The Green Cove Springs City Council renamed Fire Station No. 2 as "The Reid Wagner Fire Station" when he retired. Richard Reid Wagner died July 15, 2000. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Reid Wagner Fire Station, 303 South Oakridge Avenue, Green Cove Springs.

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## *Gulfport (Central West)*

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### *Catherine Powell Hickman*

was born in 1929 and first came to Florida in 1943 from New York. She was a graduate of Florida State University and did graduate work at Duke University and the University of Mexico in Mexico City. She

founded the Gulfport Historical Society in 1981 and helped establish a museum of Gulfport history. Hickman worked with civic organizations to save two historic buildings, Scout Hall, a 1920s civic meeting place, and the 1910 Methodist Church. The church became the Gulfport Historical Society Museum in 1984 and was later completely restored through her efforts. Hickman also published a history of Gulfport, much of it gleaned from tape recordings of oral histories. She founded the Gulfport Community Players, the Girls Softball League of Gulfport and other youth activities. Catherine Hickman died in 1994. Her Great Floridian plaque is located at the Gulfport Historical Society Museum, 5301 28th Avenue South, Gulfport.

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### *Arnold S. White, Sr.*

was born in 1920 and came to St. Petersburg in 1951 from Thorsby, Alabama. He was deputy director for Medical Administration at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Bay Pines. He was also a volunteer and employee of Little League Baseball for more than 40 years, serving as Director of the Southern Regional Little League in Gulfport the last 24 years of his life. In 1966 White became District Administrator for Little League Baseball and helped organize more than 150 leagues in Florida and neighboring states. He received local awards for service to youth and the community, including the Youth Service Award and Outstanding Citizen of Pinellas County Award. Arnold S. White, Sr. died in 1993. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Arnold S. White, Sr. Stadium, 658 58th Street South, Gulfport.

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### *Hawthorne (North Central)*

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#### *Donald Ray "Billy" Matthews*

was born October 3, 1907 in Micanopy. He graduated from the University of Florida in 1929, taught school in Leesburg and Orlando and served in the Florida House of Representatives in 1935. After serving in the United States Army during World War II, he was elected to the 83rd Congress in 1953 and served until 1967. After his Congressional career, he was a consultant and administrator for the Rural Community Development Service, United States Department of Agriculture, and an instructor of political science at Santa Fe Community College. He died October 26, 1997. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Hawthorne Historical Museum and Cultural Center, 305 South Johnson Street, Hawthorne.

### *Chester Shell*

was born February 16, 1892 in Orange Springs, Florida. He worked as a porter for the Seaboard Railroad and a hunting and fishing guide. In 1926, he approached the Alachua County School Board seeking support of a school for the county's African-American children. To raise the \$10,000 required by the School Board, he visited men he had guided on hunting and fishing trips in Florida and raised much of the money through those contacts. The African-American community in Hawthorne solicited funds, sold dinners and made personal donations to raise extra money. The school was built, although it covered only kindergarten through the eighth grade. A high school for Hawthorne's African-American students was built in 1955 and named Shell High School in his honor. Today it is known as Shell Elementary School. Chester Shell died May 9, 1967. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Shell Elementary School, 21633 SE 65th Avenue, Hawthorne.

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### *Holly Hill (Central East)*

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#### *William Flemming*

was born in Ireland and immigrated to America with his parents. By the mid-1800s he had purchased 4,000 acres of land along the Halifax River, which encompassed 3.79 square miles of the present site of Holly Hill. In 1876 he encouraged 15 families to settle on the land. The families built sawmills, homes, churches and schools. Flemming named his settlement Holly Hill in honor of the Irish coastal town where he was born. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Holly Hill City Hall, 1065 Ridgewood Avenue, Holly Hill.

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### *Hollywood (Southeast)*

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#### *Robert Anderson,*

born in 1912, first came to Hollywood in 1923, two years before the city was incorporated. During the Depression, he served as the deputy clerk for the city. During World War II, he served as Comptroller of the Hollywood Beach Hotel that housed the Naval Training School and received a commendation from the U.S. Navy for his contribution to the war effort. In the 1950s he co-founded the Bank of Hollywood, of which he later became president and director. From 1966 to 1971 he served as a City of Hollywood commissioner and vice mayor. In 1986 the Broward County Board of Commissioners and the Historical Commission recognized him as a Modern

Pioneer. In 1991, the City of Hollywood established the Cathy and Bob Anderson Park. Robert Anderson died in 1998. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Hollywood Railroad Station Civic Center, 2940 Hollywood Boulevard, Hollywood.

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### *Dorothy Walker Bush*

was born in 1901. She was the wife of a United States Senator, the mother of a United States President and the grandmother of two state governors, one of whom became a United States President. A Florida resident from 1965 until her death, she was involved in civic organizations and was a railroad enthusiast. Dorothy Walker Bush died in 1992. Her Great Floridian plaque is located at the Hollywood Passenger Train Station, 3001 Hollywood Boulevard, Hollywood.

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### *Clarence P. Hammerstein,*

born in 1895, assisted Hollywood's founder, Joseph W. Young, in planning the city and promoting tourism. In 1925 he was co-founder of the Kiwanis Club of Hollywood, the city's oldest civic organization, which assisted in the beautification of Hollywood City Hall. Hammerstein was a pioneer in the interaction of the citrus industry between Florida and California, and was sent by the Florida Commissioner of Agriculture to work with the California State Agricultural Administrators. As a result, agricultural experts developed the Citrus Manual that is the standard reference guide for horticultural and citrus students. From 1928 to 1933, he conducted a series of front porch seminars that advised new residents from the North in how to plant and produce fruit. In 1933, he took six citrus trees to the World's Fair in Chicago, winning the Century of Progress medal. During World War II, with the assistance of the Department of Agriculture Extension Service, he helped his wife educate women in the canning of beans, tomatoes, peppers, pineapple, grapefruit and other citrus. Clarence P. Hammerstein died in 1987. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Hammerstein House, 1520 Polk Street, Hollywood.

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### *Anne Kolb*

was born August 12, 1932. In 1974 she was the first woman elected to the Broward County Commission. A strong environmentalist, she led the fight for the 1977 Land Use Plan and helped tighten government control over future development. She directed a successful campaign to place a building moratorium on 61,000 acres in southwest Broward County. She also persuaded the Broward County Commission to pass the Urban Wilderness Park System to preserve endangered lands. In 1977 she was named Conservationist of the Year by the Florida Wildlife Association. In 1980 she was

unanimously elected Chairman of the Broward County Commission. Through her efforts, West Lake Park was realized. The park encompasses more than 1,500 acres of coastal mangrove wetlands and the 15-acre nature center is named for her. Anne Kolb died July 22, 1981. Her Great Floridian plaque is located at the Anne Kolb Nature Center, West Lake Park, 751 Sheridan Street, Hollywood.

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### *Joseph Wesley Young,*

who founded and designed the City of Hollywood, Florida, was born August 4, 1882 in Gig Harbor, Washington State. All through his early life, Young envisioned building a "dream city." He arrived in Florida from Indianapolis, Indiana, in January 1920 to look over prospective subdivision sites near Miami and began negotiations to purchase a large plat of land between Hallandale and Dania. In 1921 Young began building his dream city and marketing it as Hollywood-By-The-Sea. The city was meticulously planned following his ideas and made extensive use of Mediterranean Revival architecture. In 1925, Hollywood was incorporated with Young serving as its first mayor. The basic form of the city established by Joseph Young endures today. Joseph Wesley Young died April 28, 1934. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Joseph W. Young House, 1055 Hollywood Boulevard, Hollywood.

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## *Homestead (Southeast)*

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### *Preston B. ("Bunny") Bird*

was born in 1898, served in World War I and then became a public servant. He served as mayor of Homestead in 1934, a Dade County commissioner from 1942 to 1956, and a Homestead City Council member from 1959 to 1963. His list of achievements includes serving as director of the South Dade Farmers Bank, director of the First National Bank of Miami, and as a member of the Dade County Port Authority. During his service as a Dade County Commissioner, he was instrumental in having Dade County obtain control of Jackson Memorial Hospital. He also helped establish the University of Miami's Medical School and form Homestead's Red Cross Branch. The Preston B. Bird and Mary Heinlein Fruit and Spice Park in Homestead is named in his honor. Preston Bird died in 1985. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Old Homestead City Hall, 41 North Krome Avenue, Homestead.

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### *Lily Lawrence Bow*

was born in 1870, came to Florida with her husband

Richard in 1900 and later to Homestead with her two children where she settled in a log cabin on the corner of 2nd Avenue and Avocado Drive. She sold citrus and raised chickens. In 1920 the Women's Club of Homestead appointed her chair of their library committee, which soon became public library. Book donations came from Dade County and Lily Bow gave books to local schools. The library outgrew its home in the Women's Club and moved to a city-owned site. With the help of land donations and the W.P.A., a permanent library was built in 1939. It was named the Lily Lawrence Bow Library. Lily Lawrence Bow died in 1943. Her Great Floridian plaque is located at the Lily Lawrence Bow Library, 212 NW 1st Avenue, Homestead.

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### *May Mann Jennings,*

born in 1873, was a women's rights activist, and worked for educational reforms and improvements in public welfare. She served as Florida's First Lady when her husband, William Sherman Jennings, was Governor from 1901 to 1905. Her work and that of the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs was responsible for the creation of Royal Palm Park, dedicated in 1916 and by the mid-1930s more than 500,000 acres in size. It later became part of Everglades National Park. As President of the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs, she worked for the environment, child welfare and other causes. Mary Mann Jennings died in 1963. Her Great Floridian plaque is located at the Redland Hotel, 4 South Flagler, Homestead. (See also Brooksville)

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### *William J. Krome,*

an engineer, was born in 1876. At the age of 23, he came to Florida and in 1901 was hired by the Florida East Coast Railway Company to survey routes to Key West. In addition to his rail surveys, he was asked to locate a fresh water supply along the railroad line. The water route he founded was used until the hurricane of 1935 severed the line. Krome moved to Homestead in 1902. Krome became interested in agriculture and horticulture and planted several groves. He discovered two different classes of avocados, enabling farmers to cross-pollinate and produce a better product. Krome continued to work with the F.E.C. Railway as an engineer, helping connect Miami and the Keys through innovative bridge design. He died in 1929. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Old Homestead City Hall, 41 North Krome Avenue, Homestead.

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### *Max Losner*

was born in 1893. At the height of the Great Depression in 1932, he convinced friends and business associates to help him capitalize what would become the First National Bank of Homestead. Through practices

established by Losner, the First National Bank of Homestead was the only bank to open successfully in Dade County in 1932 and was the first to reopen after the "bank holiday" in 1933. Losner was president of Homestead's only bank for 25 years, a member of the city's finance committee and was a city councilman from 1927 through 1928. He was also a member of the Federal Reserve Board and many local civic/service organizations. Max Losner died in 1964. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Homestead Police Department, 4 South Krome Avenue, Homestead.

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### *James Daniel Reid,*

an early founder and developer of Homestead, was born in 1883. Reid served on the Homestead City Council from 1913 to 1924 and on the Dade County Commission from 1921 to 1941. As a member of the City Council he supported a municipal light and water plant, which is still in use today. As a County Commissioner he encouraged the construction of roads in South Dade County. Reid was also instrumental in establishing Homestead's downtown business district. He was the owner of a mercantile store and of several Homestead store fronts which he leased. The Homestead Bayfront Park is also part of his legacy. James Daniel Reid died in 1965. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Homestead Hospital, 160 NW 13th Street, Homestead.

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### *Dr. James Archer Smith*

was born in 1891. He was a native Floridian and an Army Captain who served in the Army Medical Corps during World War I. In 1919 he moved his family to Homestead and began a medical practice. He made up to 20 house calls a day. In 1923 he was appointed chief surgeon of Dade County Hospital in Kendall where he worked for 30 years. In 1967 the Florida Academy of General Practitioners named him "Man of the Year." Homestead citizens honored him for 50 years of community service in 1969 and renamed the hospital the James Archer Smith Hospital. Dr. Smith continued to see patients until he died in 1982 at the age of 91. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Homestead Hospital, 160 NW 13th Street, Homestead.

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## *Homosassa (Central West)*

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### *David Levy Yulee*

was born David Levy in 1810 on St. Thomas, British West Indies. He was admitted to the bar in 1836 and later helped lead Florida into statehood, first as a delegate to the state constitutional convention in

1838 and then as territorial delegate to Congress from 1841 to 1845. David Levy was elected to the United States Senate in 1845. The next year he added the name of his father's Sephardic ancestry, Yulee. In 1851, he established a 5,000-acre sugar plantation on the Homosassa River, and was among the first in Florida to grow sweet oranges budded from sour orange stock. A resident of Fernandina, he became the first southerner to utilize federal grants by drawing up an "Internal Improvement Act." He used the land to build an extensive system of railroads. Yulee completed the east-west railroad from Fernandina to Cedar Key, June 12, 1860 and had the first telegraph line extended from Georgia to Fernandina. When civil war broke out, Yulee resigned from the Senate and served in the Confederate Congress. Following the war, he rebuilt his railroad, which had been destroyed. Yulee entertained President Ulysess Grant in 1870 in Fernandina. That year, he moved to Washington, D.C. where he died six years later. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Yulee Sugar Mill Ruins State Historic Site, Highway 490 west of U.S. 19 on Yulee Drive, Homosassa. [See also Fernandina Beach.]

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## *Jacksonville (Northeast)*

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### *Napoleon Bonaparte Broward,*

Florida's 19th Governor, was born on a farm in Duval County, April 19, 1857. He had many occupations: farm hand, steamboat roustabout, cod fisherman on the Grand Banks of Newfoundland, seaman on steam and sail boats, pilot on the St. Johns River, joint owner of a river steamboat, operator of a wood yard, phosphate developer, and owner of a steam tug. Broward commanded his tug, on eight voyages through the Spanish blockade with war material for Cuban revolutionaries. His gunrunning voyages, which were in conflict with U.S laws of neutrality, established Broward as a national celebrity. He was elected Sheriff of Duval County, Jacksonville City councilman, member of the 1901 Florida House of Representatives, and member of the State Board of Health from 1901 to 1904. Broward was elected governor in 1904. He unified the State's institutions of higher learning under a Board of Control, and began an effort to drain the Everglades. He opposed corporate, political influence, and sought to end railroad and business abuses. Broward was an unsuccessful candidate for the U.S. Senate in 1908 while Governor but won the nomination two years later. He died in Jacksonville, October 1, 1910, before becoming Senator. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Napoleon Bonaparte Broward House, 9953 Hecksher Drive, Ft. George Island, Jacksonville.

### *Jaquelin James Daniel*

was born in 1916, a descendant of one of Jacksonville's pioneer families. He served in the U.S. Navy in World War II, received his law degree in 1942 from the University of Florida and joined his father's Jacksonville law firm. In 1960, he became the President of Stockton, Whatley, Davin & Company, a mortgage banking company, and in 1976 was named publisher of the *Florida Times-Union* and *Jacksonville Journal*. Daniel chaired the local Government Study Commission which developed the plan to merge city and county services and, in 1968, he led the effort to establish the only consolidated government in the state and one of the few in the nation. He was active in the founding of Jacksonville's Episcopal High School, and worked on a number of boards such as the American Red Cross, the District Welfare Board and the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce. Jaquelin James Daniel died in 1990. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Florida Times-Union Building, One Riverside Avenue, Jacksonville

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### *Alfred I. duPont,*

was born in 1864 in Wilmington, Delaware. He attended MIT but left to pursue a career in his family's gunpowder making business. He designed and invented new machinery for the business, holding more than 200 patents. In 1926, duPont and his wife, Jessie Ball, retired to Florida. Here, he helped build the infrastructure of the state through the acquisition of land, financial institutions and the building of roads and industries. In 1929 duPont helped quell a run on Jacksonville's Florida National Bank by putting \$15 million of his own resources into the institution. Later he opened banks throughout the state, including branches in Lakeland and Bartow. In 1927 he created the Gulf Coast Highways Association as a lobbying agency to garner federal and state funds for highway construction, particularly in the Panhandle region. After his death in 1935 his wife Jessie devoted herself to fulfilling the couple's philanthropic mission. Alfred duPont's Great Floridian plaque is located at the entry gate of his Florida estate, Epping Forest, 1830 Epping Forest Drive, Jacksonville.

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### *David H. Dwight, Sr.*

led the way for African Americans in Jacksonville to become part of the Boy Scouts of America. Born in 1882, Dwight's leadership led to African American Scouts being granted the right to participate in scouting activities, attend camp and wear the official Boy Scout uniform. The first Boy Scout camp in the state, initiated during his tenure, served African-American Scouts in Jacksonville and throughout the State of Florida. As a Scout, he achieved the position of Assistant regional director of scouting activities for the southeast region. He was the first African-American in America to receive

the Boy Scouts of America's highest council award, the Silver Beaver, in 1936. Dwight was one of the founders of the National Alliance of Postal Employees in 1912. In the 1940s he founded the Duval County Democratic Alliance which aided voter registration in Jacksonville. He died in 1959. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the North Florida Council, Boy Scouts of America, 521 South Edgewood Avenue, Jacksonville.

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### *Lewis Alexander Hester,*

born in 1935, was a native of Washington, D.C. He was raised in Jacksonville Beach and attended Florida State University, where he graduated with a Master's degree in public administration. He was working for the U.S. Labor Department when a citizen's group hoping to consolidate Jacksonville's city and county governments hired him as executive director in 1965. Hester drafted the Blueprint for Improvement, and two years later helped coordinate the merger of city and county operations. As a result, Jacksonville became the largest city in the continental United States in terms of area, and one of the largest cities in the world. Following consolidation, Hester served the City of Jacksonville as Chief Administrative Officer until 1975. He then served as county administrator for Broward County from 1975 to 1978 and from 1987 to 1991, and as the Director of the State Energy Office under Governor Bob Graham from 1979 to 1981. Hester was the chief administrative officer for the City of Orlando from 1981 to 1987. He returned to Jacksonville to serve as Chief Administrative Officer until his death in 2000. His Great Floridian plaque is located at Jacksonville City Hall, 117 West Duval Street, Jacksonville.

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### *James Weldon Johnson*

was born in Jacksonville in 1871 where he served as principal of the Stanton School from 1894 to 1902. Under his leadership, Stanton became the first accredited black high school in Florida. A lawyer and diplomat, Johnson was a consul in Venezuela and Nicaragua from 1906 to 1912. He was Secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People from 1916 to 1930 and a professor of literature at Fisk University in Nashville. He was the author of *Lift Every Voice and Sing*, often referred to as the "Negro National Anthem." Johnson wrote the piece in 1900 for Jacksonville school children to sing in a program to celebrate Abraham Lincoln's birthday. In his 1933 autobiography *Along This Way*, Johnson wrote about growing up in Jacksonville's LaVilla neighborhood, the city's black entertainment and cultural hub. He wrote a number of popular songs with his brother, composer John Rosamond Johnson. The author's most famous work, *God's Trombones: Seven Negro Sermons in Verse*, and his novel, *Autobiography of an Ex-Coloured Man* (published anonymously in 1912) were published in 1927. Johnson's poetry and American

Negro spirituals continue to be the basis of African-American theater productions. James Weldon Johnson died in 1938. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Academy of Excellence, 521 West Ashley Street, Jacksonville.

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### *Henry John Klutho*

was born March 19, 1873 in Breese, Illinois. Klutho received his early architectural training at Schenk's Drawing Academy in St. Louis, followed by several years of apprenticeship in the offices of architects in New York and New Jersey. In lieu of going to a college of architecture, he spent a year in Europe sketching Gothic cathedrals and Renaissance buildings. He was working in New York City in 1901 when he read about the devastating fire in Jacksonville. Within a month he moved to the city to join in its reconstruction. Klutho's first buildings were designed along traditional classical lines. After he became acquainted with the architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright, his work began to reflect the concepts of the Prairie School. As a result of his work and influence, more examples of Prairie School architecture were built in Jacksonville than anywhere outside of the Midwest. Klutho invested his entire personal savings into building housing and studio space for the motion picture industry that briefly flourished in Jacksonville until it moved to Hollywood. Henry John Klutho died in 1964. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Klutho Residence, 30 West 9th Street, Jacksonville.

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### *Abraham Lincoln Lewis*

rose from poverty to become one of Florida's first African-American millionaires. He was born in 1865 in Madison County and moved with his family to the East Side of Jacksonville in 1876. Lewis was one of the founding partners of the Afro-American Industrial and Benefit Association, the state's first chartered black insurance company. Although the company was destroyed in the Great Jacksonville Fire of 1901, Lewis rebuilt it, becoming the first manager of the association, which was renamed the Afro-American Insurance Company. In 1919 he became president of Afro-American Life, and in the 1920s began providing mortgages for individual homes. Lewis donated to public and private schools across the country for the education of African-American youth. In 1929 he built the Lincoln Golf and Country Club, a golf course where African-American celebrities from around the country came to play or dine. In 1935 he was instrumental in the creation of American Beach, a black summer haven on the coast of Amelia Island in Nassau County. Abraham Lincoln Lewis died in 1947. His Great Floridian plaque is located at Community Connections, A.L. Lewis Center, 3655 Ribault Scenic Drive, Jacksonville.

## *Daniel Webster Perkins,*

born in 1879, moved to Florida after practicing law in Elizabeth City, North Carolina and Knoxville, Tennessee. He practiced in Tampa until 1919 when he established a residence in Jacksonville. While in Tampa he appeared before the Florida Supreme Court and successfully prevented the State Legislature from disbarring black lawyers in the state. In 1915, he and H. P. Bailey appeared before the Florida Supreme Court and won the right for blacks to serve on juries. In 1918, while still living in Tampa, he appeared before the U.S. Supreme Court in favor of black Shriners' requests to use the name and insignia of the Shriners. Because of his service with the Jacksonville Welfare League for Negroes, he was selected as a charter member of the Jacksonville Urban League in 1947. The Colored Lawyers Association honored him for his contributions to the community and to the state. He was the secretary of the Trustee Board and the attorney for Bethel Baptist Institutional Church and was also on the Board of Trustees of Bethune Cookman College. Daniel Webster Perkins died in 1972. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Masonic Temple, 410 Broad Street, Jacksonville.

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## *Dr. Eartha M. M. White,*

a life-long resident of Jacksonville, was born in 1876, the adopted daughter of a former slave. In her early twenties, she spearheaded the construction of the first public school for African-Americans in the community of Bayard in Duval County. In 1904 White established the Clara White Mission in her mother's honor. The Mission became the base for regional and national social programming she instituted. After Jacksonville's Great Fire of 1901 the plight of the homeless and indigent elderly became a focal point of her work. She established a "Colored Old Folks Home" which subsequently became the Eartha White Nursing Home. Known today as Eartha White Health Care, Inc., it continues to serve the elderly, disabled and financially disadvantaged. In 1970, President Richard Nixon presented her the Lane Bryant Award for Volunteerism. At age 95 she was named Florida's Outstanding Senior Citizen by Governor Reubin Askew. Dr. Eartha White died in 1974 at the age of 98. Her Great Floridian plaque is located at the Clara White Mission, 613 West Ashley Street, Jacksonville.

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## *Doris Whitmore*

was born January 20, 1914. In Jacksonville she was the driving force behind the evolution of the Museum of Science and History (MOSH). She became the associate director of the museum in 1949 when it was the Jacksonville Children's Museum. She was responsible for new exhibits and for the first curriculum-based museum programs in Florida. During her tenure as museum director from 1960 to 1983, the museum

expanded to a 33,000-square-foot facility on the downtown waterfront. The museum also established its first endowment fund to support continuing exhibits and education programs. In 1983, MOSH earned accreditation from the American Association of Museums, which Whitmore had sought for 20 years. She served on the Mayor's Art Force, the Jacksonville Arts Assembly and the executive committee of the American Bicentennial and American Patriotic Committee. Doris Whitmore died October 26, 1989. Her Great Floridian plaque is located at the Museum of Science and History, 1025 Museum Circle, Jacksonville.

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## *Jensen Beach (Southeast)*

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### *R.R. Ricou*

was born in 1866 in Moss Point, Mississippi. In 1887, he moved from Alabama to Florida and succeeded in building a large fishing business. He had fish houses in Jensen, Fort Pierce, Salerno, West Palm Beach, Titusville, Fort Lauderdale and Canaveral. Henry Flagler and R.R. Ricou were friends. After the Jensen fire in 1908 he told Flagler that he would build a building (today known as the R.R. Ricou Building) if Flagler would build a rail station at Jensen. Ricou spent much time and money building and beautifying the community of Jensen and the Community Church. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the R.R. Ricou Building, 1899 NE Jensen Beach Boulevard, Jensen Beach.

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## *Jupiter (Southeast)*

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### *Bessie Wilson DuBois*

was born in 1903 in Shorthill, New Jersey where her father had a flower nursery. When an ice storm destroyed his greenhouses, her father decided to move to Jupiter. The family arrived in 1914 and in 1924 Bessie married John DuBois. Bessie DuBois was a self-taught historian, researching and writing state and local history while raising her family. Her publications and articles include *Shipwrecks in the Vicinity of the Jupiter Inlet*, *The History of Jupiter Lighthouse*, *The History of the Loxahatchee River* and *A History of Juno Beach & Juno, Florida*. She was instrumental in the creation of the Loxahatchee Historical Society which operates the Florida History Center in Jupiter. She served on the Board of the Florida Historical Society in the 1960s. Her collection of papers, books, maps and photographs were

donated to the Loxahatchee Historical Society, Florida Atlantic University, the Palm Beach County Historical Society and public libraries to be shared with students throughout the state. Bessie Wilson DuBois died in 1998. Her Great Floridian plaque is located at the DuBois Home, DuBois Park, south of Jupiter Inlet, off Jupiter Beach Road, Jupiter.

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## *Jupiter Island (Southeast)*

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### *Joseph Verner Reed (1902-1973) and Permelia Pryor Reed (1906-1994)*

were responsible in part for the Hobe Sound National Wildlife Refuge; the Hobe Sound Nature Center; the Blowing Rocks Preserve; Sand Hill Preserve; Harbor Island; and Ficus Allee, a 60-year-old stand of towering ficus trees. They were instrumental in founding the Hobe Sound Community Chest, which provides support to civic and charitable organizations. They also founded the Hobe Sound Taxpayers Alliance, a local “watchdog” group. The Reeds donated land for community centers, churches and schools. The new Jupiter Island Town Hall was dedicated to them in 1972. Their Great Floridian plaque is located at Jupiter Island Town Hall, 103 Bunker Hill Road, Hobe Sound.

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## *Keystone Heights (Northeast)*

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### *William M. Beam*

was born August 15, 1923 in Kearny, New Jersey. He graduated from Penn State University with a degree in engineering, and moved to Keystone Heights in 1950 with the E.I. DuPont Corporation. In 1960 he was elected to the Keystone Heights City Council. From 1960 to 2000 he served seven terms as mayor and six terms as a councilman for Keystone Heights. He was instrumental in the funding and construction of a new City Hall. Beam spearheaded the formation of the Keystone Heights Senior Center and served as chairman of the city’s Public Works Department, overseeing a major paving and drainage project for all unpaved streets within the city. He was a member and former officer with the Keystone Heights Volunteer Fire Department and was instrumental in establishing the state’s first volunteer emergency medical rescue squad. William M. Beam died August 12, 2000. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Keystone Heights City Hall, 555 South Lawrence Boulevard, Keystone Heights.

### *John Edward Larson*

was born June 27, 1900 in Brookston, Pennsylvania. He entered the University of Florida Law School, graduating in 1927 with an LLB degree. In 1925, he was elected School Trustee and served as Mayor of Keystone Heights from 1925 to 1927 and as a Clay County Commissioner from 1927 to 1928. He was elected Clay County Representative for the 1929-31 Legislative sessions and in 1933 served as Florida State Senator. In 1933, he was appointed Collector of Internal Revenue for Florida by President Franklin D. Roosevelt and served until 1939. He was elected State Treasurer in 1940 and was re-elected six consecutive times. In addition to his duties as treasurer, he served as State Insurance Commissioner, State Fire Marshall and Administrator of the Automobile Financial Responsibility Law. John Edwin Larson died January 24, 1965. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Melrose Lodge No. 89 (Masonic Lodge Building), 290 Palmetto Avenue, Keystone Heights.

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## *Key West (Southeast)*

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### *Howard S. England,*

a civilian architect for the Navy, was born in 1914 in Key West. In 1968 he was assigned to investigate and report on Fort Zachary Taylor, at that time an overgrown dumpsite. On his own time, and using his own resources, he began to research the fort. He uncovered the largest collection of Civil War armaments in the United States, including cannon, guns, a de-salinization plant and thousands of cannon balls and projectiles. He voluntarily continued his research for nine years and discovered how the armaments came to be buried. In 1971, Fort Zachary Taylor became a National Historic Site, a National Landmark in 1973 and, in 1985, a state park. England created a museum for the artifacts, wrote his memoirs and donated them to the Friends of Fort Taylor. Howard S. England died in 1999. His Great Floridian plaque is located at Fort Zachary Taylor State Historic Site, end of Southard Street and Truman Annex, Key West.

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### *Mel Fisher*

was born in 1922 in Hobart, Indiana. In 1950 Fisher moved to California and opened the state’s first dive shop. Shortly afterwards, he and his wife, Dolores, began to lead diving expeditions around the world. In 1964 the Fishers came to Sebastian, Florida where they began to dive on the remains of a Spanish treasure fleet from 1715. With an experienced team of divers and engineers,

they formed Universal Salvors, later renamed Treasure Salvors. By 1968 they decided to look for the lost galleons of a 1622 treasure fleet which had reportedly sunk in the Florida Keys. One ship, the *Nuestra Senora de Atocha*, was described as one of the richest shipwrecks ever lost. In 1973 Fisher found a silver bar inscribed with numbers that matched the Spanish manifest of the *Nuestra Senora de Atocha*. Over the next ten years, thousands of gold coins, jewelry and the stern section of another of the 1622 galleons, were discovered. On Memorial Day weekend 1985 Mel Fisher's Treasure Salvors discovered the *Atocha's* "motherlode." Estimates of the wreck's value ranged from \$200 million to \$400 million. Salvaged were 127,000 silver coins; more than 900 silver bars averaging 70 pounds apiece; 700 high-quality emeralds; and 250 pounds of gold. In 1982 Fisher founded the Mel Fisher Maritime Heritage Society to display and protect the artifacts he had discovered. The Society's Key West museum contains the richest single collection of 17th century maritime antiques in the hemisphere. Mel Fisher died in 1998. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Mel Fisher Maritime Museum, 200 Greene Street, Key West.

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### *Ernest M. Hemingway*

was born July 21, 1899 in Oak Park, Illinois. In 1917, he took a job as a cub reporter for the Kansas City Star. The next year he left to serve in World War I with the Red Cross. After being wounded in Italy he returned home, married and moved to Paris as the European correspondent of the Toronto Daily Star. In Paris from 1925 to 1929 he produced the short story collections *In Our Time* (1925), and *Men Without Women* (1927) and the novel, *The Sun Also Rises* (1926). In 1927 he divorced and married Pauline Pfeiffer. The couple left Paris the next year for Key West, where they bought an antebellum home. They furnished their Key West house with rugs, tiles, chandeliers and furniture they had brought from around the world. In Key West, Hemingway completed *A Farewell to Arms* (1929), *Death in the Afternoon* (1932), *The Green Hills of Africa* (1935) and *To Have and Have Not* (1937). While living in Key West, Hemingway met Martha Gellhorn, divorced Pauline and married Martha. As part of the divorce, Pauline got 51% of the Key West property and continued to live there. In 1944 Hemingway went to Europe to cover World War II. Here he met Mary Welsh, who became his fourth wife. The couple moved to Cuba. Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea* was published in 1952 and won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction. In 1954 he won the Nobel Prize for Literature. Ernest Hemingway died July 2, 1961 in Ketchum, Idaho. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Hemingway House, 907 Whitehead Street, Key West.

### *Walter Sayers Lightbourn*

was born in 1861. His father came to Key West from Turks Island, one of the Bahamas. Walter S. Lightbourn was reared in Key West. At 15 he decided to learn the art of cigar making. After several attempts, he established the Cortez Cigar Company, which employed more than 300 cigar makers. The company's slogan was "Cigars—For Men of Brains." In addition to his business affairs Lightbourn was a Mason, an Odd Fellow, an Elk and a member of the board of governors of the Chamber of Commerce. He also owned tobacco plantations in Cuba and it was there that he died, August 10, 1906. His Great Floridian plaque is located at La Pensione, 809 Truman Avenue, Key West.

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### *Harry S. Truman*

was born May 8, 1884 in Lamar, Missouri. In 1890, the Trumans moved to Independence. Following high school graduation in 1901, Truman worked at a variety of jobs including farming, oil drilling and banking. During World War I he served in France, reaching the rank of captain. After failing in the haberdashery business, he ran for judge in Jackson County, Missouri, a post he held until 1934 when he ran for the U.S. Senate. He remained in the Senate until President Franklin Roosevelt, seeking a fourth term in 1944, named him as his running mate. On April 12, 1945, less than three months after becoming vice president, he was sworn in as 33rd president of the United States following the death of President Roosevelt. Truman lived at the Little White House in Key West for 175 days during his presidency from 1946 through 1952. In 1947, he dedicated Everglades National Park. Harry S. Truman died December 26, 1972. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Truman Little White House, 111 Front Street, Key West.

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### *LaBelle (Southwest)*

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### *Captain Melville Emory Forrey*

was born in 1871 and came to Florida from Iowa to farm tomatoes and pineapples in the Lantana-Hypluxo area. After serving in the Spanish-American War, he came to LaBelle as a dredge boat captain, commissioned to dredge and straighten the Caloosahatchee River. He operated a general merchandise store, trading furs with the Seminoles. Forrey served as City Councilman and Mayor of the City of LaBelle, and as first Chairman of the Hendry County Board of County Commissioners. In 1926 he placed the cornerstone for the Hendry County Courthouse. Captain Forrey died in 1927. His

Great Floridian plaque is located at the Hendry County Courthouse, corner of Bridge Street and Hickpochee Avenue, LaBelle.

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### *Captain Francis Asbury Hendry*

was born in 1833 in Thomas County, Georgia. His family moved to Florida in 1851 and he became a cattle farmer, owning 50,000 head by 1890. He served as a private in the 3rd Seminole War and as a captain in the Civil War, for which he raised a cavalry troop. Captain Hendry helped establish Polk County in 1861 and Lee County in 1887. He represented Polk County in the Second Constitutional Convention and was elected to the 28th Senatorial District of Polk and Brevard County. Hendry was instrumental in the incorporation of Fort Myers, and served on the first town council. He was one of the first Lee County commissioners and served as state representative every other year between 1893 and 1903. He was elected state senator in 1875 and 1877. Captain Hendry was the founder of LaBelle, which was incorporated in 1911. He served as mayor, town clerk, marshal, alderman and minister. Hendry County, established in 1923, was named for him. Captain Hendry died in 1917. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Captain Hendry House, 512 Fraser Street, LaBelle.

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### *Lakeland (Central)*

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### *Rosabelle Blake*

dedicated her life to educating students in the Polk County Public Schools. She was born in 1911 and completed undergraduate and graduate degrees at Florida A&M University. Blake also did post-graduate work at the University of Cincinnati. In 1930 she began teaching at a small segregated school in Mulberry, and within a few years was named principal. In 1938, she was transferred to Union Academy, where she taught high school and served as Elementary Coordinator. In 1940, Blake was appointed supervisor of Polk County Negro Public Schools. In the mid-1960s, her title changed to Supervisor of Instruction and Migrant Activities, a post she held until her death in 1973. The Rosabelle Blake Elementary School is named in her honor. Her Great Floridian plaque is located at the Lakeland Public Library, 100 Lake Morton Drive, Lakeland.

### *Thomas W. Bryant*

was born in 1890. He received his bachelors and law degrees from the University of Florida in 1912 and 1915. He served three successive terms in the Florida

Legislature in the 1920s, and three terms on the Board of Control – the predecessor to the Board of Regents – from 1936 to 1949. While in the legislature, Bryant was a champion of the no fence law and a cattle tick eradication program. He supported construction of Alligator Alley. He was influential in bringing streetlights to downtown Lakeland, passing bond issues for light and water service, the purchase of land near Lake Morton for a library, and the opening of the Lake Mirror complex. The Thomas Bryant Stadium in Lakeland was dedicated in 1941 in recognition for his support of football. Much of the growth and development of the University of Florida can be traced to his advocacy. The Thomas W. Bryant Space Science Research Building was dedicated in 1968. In 1987 he received the George Jenkins Award for public service from the Lakeland Chamber of Commerce. Thomas W. Bryant died in 1992 at the age of 102. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Lakeland Public Library, 100 Lake Morton Drive, Lakeland.

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### *Lawton Mainor Chiles,*

Florida's 41st Governor was born April 3, 1930 in Lakeland. He graduated from the University of Florida in 1952. After serving in Korea, he returned to the university's law school and graduated in 1955. He began his political career in 1958 when he was elected to the Florida House of Representatives. In 1966 Chiles was elected to the Florida Senate, where he served until 1970. He became known as "Walkin' Lawton" in his 1970 campaign for the United States Senate, walking over 1,000 miles from northwest Florida to Key West. Chiles served three terms as a Senator and became the first Floridian to chair the Senate Budget Committee. In this position, he helped create the National Commission to Prevent Infant Mortality. After leaving the Senate in 1989, Chiles was elected Governor in 1990. Under his leadership, the state scored a landmark legal victory against the tobacco industry. The Kidcare Act was also passed during his administration, expanding healthcare coverage to 256,000 Florida children. Governor Chiles died December 12, 1998, 24 days before the end of his second term. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Lakeland Public Library, 100 Lake Morton Drive, Lakeland.

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### *John Franklin Cox*

was born July 29, 1874 in Silmone, Mississippi and moved to Lakeland in 1890. He entered the grocery and mercantile businesses, became involved with city affairs, and served in the Florida House of Representatives in 1897 and 1909. In 1904 he served his first of four intermittent terms as Mayor of Lakeland. He served as president of the Lakeland Real Estate Board, was a director of the Chamber of Commerce and served as city treasurer. As a developer of the Dixieland and Bon-Air

subdivisions Cox was one of one Lakeland's first real estate developers. A grammar school in the Bon-Air development was named in his honor. John Franklin Cox died February 7, 1924. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Lakeland Public Library, 100 Lake Morton Drive, Lakeland.

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### *Herbert J. Drane*

was born June 20, 1863 in Simpson County, Kentucky. He attended schools in Louisville and Franklin, Kentucky. He moved to Macon, Georgia in 1881 and to Lakeland – a city he co-founded – in 1883. In Lakeland, he entered the real estate and insurance business, railroad construction and citrus industry. He served as clerk and treasurer for the city and was elected mayor in 1890. He was editor of the newspaper *Florida Cracker*. He served in both branches of the State Legislature and was elected President of the Senate in 1915. He served as a United States Congressman from 1916 to 1933. From 1933 to 1937 he was a member of the Federal Power Commission in Washington. He returned to Lakeland where he resumed his real estate, insurance, property management and citrus interests until his death, August 11, 1947. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Lakeland Public Library, 100 Lake Morton Drive, Lakeland.

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### *Clare Henley*

was born in Apopka in 1888. His father was a doctor and opened a drug store which Clare Henley inherited and operated until his death. Throughout his life, Henley loved baseball. Following his graduation from the Atlanta School of Medicine and Pharmacy, he returned to Lakeland and convinced the Chamber of Commerce to invite the Louisville Colonels to establish spring training in town. The Cleveland Indians also trained in Lakeland for four years. He also bought the Lakeland franchise for the Florida State League and managed the League. Henley urged the city to build parks, stadiums and playgrounds. He convinced Walter Briggs, owner of the World Champion Detroit Tigers, to make Lakeland the team's permanent spring training home. Clare Henley Field, still home of the Detroit Tigers, was named in 1942 for the man brought Major League Baseball to Lakeland. Clare Henley died in 1955. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Lakeland Public Library, 100 Lake Morton Drive, Lakeland.

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### *Dr. John Sidney Jackson*

was born in 1922 in Pratt City, Alabama. He attended Virginia State College, Petersburg, Virginia, and Meharry Medical College, Nashville, Tennessee. He served on the attending surgical staff of Lakeland Regional Medical Center. He was a member of the Florida Medical, Dental and Pharmaceutical Association;

Florida and Polk County Medical Associations; American Medical Association; National Medical Association; and the American Society of Abdominal Surgeons. Dr. Jackson served as the first African-American Mayor of Lakeland in 1972 and 1973. In 1970, while serving as the first African-American City Commissioner, he helped quell racial disturbances. Dr. Jackson died June 24, 1987. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Lakeland Public Library, 100 Lake Morton Drive, Lakeland.

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### *Paul Scott Linder*

was born December 26, 1921 in Basle, Switzerland. He was a graduate in industrial engineering of the University of Florida. In 1953 he founded Linder Industrial Machinery, a multi-million dollar heavy construction machinery company. He was Chairman of the Lakeland Economic Development Council; Director of the Florida Council of 100, Florida Chamber of Commerce and Florida Council of Economic Education. He was named Florida's Free Enterpriser of the Year in 1988, received a Distinguished Alumnus Award from the University of Florida, and was named 1989 Florida Entrepreneur of the Year. The Lakeland Linder Regional Airport is named in his honor. Paul Scott Linder died on November 11, 1990. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Lakeland Public Library, 100 Lake Morton Drive, Lakeland.

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### *James Hardin Peterson, Sr.,*

United States Congressman, was born in Batesburg, South Carolina, February 11, 1894. He moved to Lakeland in 1903 and graduated from the University of Florida in 1914 with a law degree. He served as City Attorney of Lakeland (1916, 1917 and 1919 to 1932), Frostproof (1918 to 1929) and Lake Wales (1920 to 1930). He was prosecuting attorney and county solicitor of Polk County (1921 to 1932) and special council for the State Department of Agriculture (1930 to 1932). In 1933 he was elected to Congress, a seat he held until 1951. In Congress, he was chairman of the Public Lands Committee, which was responsible for creating the Everglades National Park. For his environmental record he received a citation from the National Audubon Society, a Florida Wildlife Conservation Award and was honored by the National Conference of State Parks. As a congressman he also joined in drafting the G.I. Bill of Rights. James Hardin Peterson, Sr. died March 28, 1978. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Lakeland Public Library, 100 Lake Morton Drive, Lakeland.

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### *Park Trammell,*

Florida's 21st Governor, was born April 9, 1876 in Macon County, Alabama. His family moved to Florida during his infancy. He studied law at Vanderbilt University and



plaque is located at Hopkins Hall, 192 Connecticut Avenue, Lake Helen.

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### *John P. Mace*

was born in 1847. An architect and builder from Ohio, he settled in Lake Helen in 1885. Mace was Lake Helen's first mayor and served as mayor, councilman or commissioner for 30 years. He designed and built homes and other buildings in the area, including Edgewood, a large Victorian house in Lake Helen, and the Volusia County Courthouse in DeLand. Mace operated one of Lake Helen's first sawmills and became one of the largest orange growers in Volusia County. In 1911 he helped organize the First National Bank of DeLand. His Great Floridian plaque is located at Edgewood, 214 South Euclid Avenue, Lake Helen.

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### *Lake Wales (Central)*

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### *Edward W. Bok*

was born October 9, 1863, in Den Helder, Netherlands. Bok came to the United States when he was six years old. In 1886 he founded the Bok Syndicate Press, which led to an offer to become editor of *The Ladies Home Journal*. Under his management, the magazine became the most widely read and influential publication of early 20th century America. He and his wife Mary Louise Curtis Bok built a winter home at Lake Wales where they spent three months of every year. Bok became inspired in 1922 to create and endow a "sanctuary for humans and birds." Landscape architect Frederick Law Olmstead, Jr. designed 157 acres of gardens, and a 57-bell carillon was placed in the garden's centerpiece, 205-foot pink and gray marble tower. On February 1, 1929, President Calvin Coolidge dedicated Bok Tower Gardens to the American people. Edward Bok died January 9, 1930. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Education and Visitor Center, Historic Bok Sanctuary, 1151 Tower Boulevard, Lake Wales.

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### *Bertha Louise Hinshaw*

was born in 1882. She is recognized for her establishment of a restaurant and country inn, the Chalet Suzanne. When her husband died in 1931, Hinshaw opened her home as a restaurant and inn to travelers, serving exotic recipes on fine china that she had gathered around the world. In 1943 the Chalet was largely destroyed by fire. Hinshaw quickly rebuilt it using salvaged parts from the horse stables, a game room, servants' quarters and a chicken house. This unusual design, consisting of 14 different levels, is still in use today. The Chalet has been featured in many

publications, among them *The New Yorker*, *Vogue*, *Life*, *Better Homes and Gardens*, *Cosmopolitan*, *National Geographic*, *Forbes* and *Time* magazines. Bertha Louise Hinshaw died in 1973 at the age of 90. Her Great Floridian plaque is located at the Chalet Suzanne Homestead, 3800 Chalet Suzanne Drive, Lake Wales.

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### *Layton (Southeast)*

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### *Delbert "Del" Lorenzo Layton*

was born in 1906. A Miami businessman, he moved to the Florida Keys in the 1940s and led the effort to incorporate the City of Layton. He was the first Mayor of Layton in 1963 and served for 23 years. He donated property for a City Hall and Fire/Rescue complex and land for the Layton Community Baptist Church. He was Layton's first postmaster and led the Layton Fire Department as Chief for several years. Layton urged the city to donate property to Fisherman's Hospital in Marathon and when Mariner's Hospital in Tavernier needed funding to continue operations, he convinced Layton to sponsor a bond issue. He donated property for Long Key State Park adjacent to the City of Layton and worked to build a bicycle path along the Overseas Highway in front of the park. In 1975, the Kiwanis Club named him one of the ten outstanding citizens of Monroe County. Delbert "Dell" Lorenzo Layton died in 1987. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Layton City Hall/Fire/Rescue Complex, Layton.

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### *Leesburg (Central)*

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### *Hubert O. Dabney*

was born in 1915 in Leesburg. In 1939 Dabney received a BA in education from Xavier University in New Orleans where he was also an All-American football player. He moved back to Leesburg and taught grades 7 through 10 for 21 years. He was the Athletic Director, Head Basketball Coach and Head Football Coach. In 1968, Dabney came to Leesburg High School and taught physical education. Hubert O. Dabney Stadium is named in his honor. Hubert O. Dabney died in 1990. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Hubert O. Dabney Stadium, 1401 Meadows Avenue, Leesburg.

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### *Joseph M. Tardugno, Jr.*

was born in 1935. He was the electric superintendent for the City of Leesburg for 25 years. He was a founding

member of the Florida Municipal Power Agency (FMPA) and was Chairman of the All Requirements Project until his death. He was also a chairman of the Florida Municipal Electric Association (FMEA) and was named FMEA Member of the Year in 1992 and 1993. Leesburg's electric system was one of the first in the state to use fiber optics. In 1999 the City won the Innovations in Communications in Technology Award from the Florida City/County Management Association. After his death in 1999, the City renamed the Municipal Operations center for Tardugno, and a Scholarship Trust Fund was created to help a senior at Leesburg High School attend college. The Kissimmee Utility Authority named a power plant at Cane Island Power Park after him. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Joseph Tardugno Municipal Operations Center, 2010 Griffin Road, Leesburg.

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### *Pat Thomas*

was born in 1905. He served as City Manager for the City of Leesburg for 14 years. During his tenure he built a new fire station, a community building, refurbished Venetian Gardens Field (which has since been renamed Pat Thomas Field), built Babe Ruth Field and renovated the water plant. He also supported the library. Pat Thomas died in 1971. His Great Floridian plaque is located at Pat Thomas Field, Ballpark Road, Leesburg.

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## *Live Oak (North Central)*

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### *Porter Claude Crapps, Jr.*

was born in 1907 in Taylor County. He graduated in 1929 from the University of Florida with a degree in chemical engineering. He arrived in Live Oak in 1951, and purchased the First National Bank of Live Oak and the Hamilton County Bank of Jasper. He promoted small business loans and made interest rates more competitive. He introduced the company's first profit sharing plan with the bank contributing 100% for each employee. He made contributions to forestry through commercial timber production on 160,000 acres he owned in Dixie, Taylor, Lafayette and Levy Counties. He recognized the need to control wild fires to protect reforested lands, planted seedlings mechanically and advocated selecting species of pine seedlings to match the sites to be planted. He worked with advocates to construct Suwannee County's vocational technical school. He initiated an annual leadership awards

program in the local chapters of the 4-H and the Future Farmers of America. Porter Claude Crapps, Jr. died in 1993. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Old First National Bank Building, 112 West Howard Street, Live Oak.

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### *Thomas Dowling*

was born September 25, 1851 in Hamilton County. In 1890 he moved to Live Oak and established the Dowling Lumber Company. He constructed the Live Oak, Perry and Gulf Railroad to log the mill at Live Oak. It later became a passenger and freight line. In 1908 Dowling organized the Dowling Lumber and Export Company of Tampa and became its first president. He was also head of the Gulf Pine Company of Odessa and the Tampa-Havana Lumber Company. In 1897 Dowling paid for Live Oak's first waterworks. As a builder he constructed a business block on east Howard Avenue and several residences. In 1900 he contributed to the building of the Advent Christian Church of Live Oak. When the building burned in 1904, he donated to its rebuilding. Thomas Dowling and Reverend Burr A. Bixler established the Advent Christian Village at Dowling Park, for which Dowling donated the land. Thomas Dowling died June 13, 1911 in Live Oak. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Live Oak/Suwannee County Historical Museum, 208 North Ohio Avenue, Live Oak.

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### *Cary Augustus Hardee,*

Florida's 23rd Governor, was born November 13, 1876, in Taylor County. He was admitted to The Florida Bar in 1900 and began practice at Live Oak, specializing in banking. He was State Attorney from 1905 to 1913 and served in the Legislature for two terms from 1915 to 1919. He served as Speaker of the House twice. In 1920 he was elected Governor, and served until 1925. His administration supported constitutional amendments reapportioning the Legislature and prohibiting state income and inheritance taxes. The state's first gasoline tax for road building was enacted. From 1921 to 1923, 4,000 miles of road were built. Leasing of convicts for private interests was outlawed during his term, and he supported legislation for eliminating the cattle tick. Hardee County, established in 1921, was named in his honor. Cary Augustus Hardee died November 21, 1957 in Live Oak. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Old Commercial Bank Building, 100 South Ohio Avenue, Live Oak.

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### *Brantly Walker Helvenston*

was born February 16, 1866. He completed his undergraduate and graduate degrees at Mercer University in Macon, Georgia. He came to Madison,

Florida where he obtained a teaching position. In 1892, he opened the B.W. Helvenston Insurance office, the oldest insurance agency in the State of Florida still under original ownership. He was a founder of the First National Bank in Live Oak, predecessor of the current Bank of America. Helvenston formed the Suwannee Sulphur Springs Company, and built a hotel to accommodate visitors from around the country. He served as chairman of the Congressional Committee from the 2nd Florida District for many years. Brantly Walker Helvenston died in 1940. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the B.W. Helvenston Insurance Agency, 109 East Howard Street, Live Oak.

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### *John Parshley*

was born June 4, 1813 and arrived in Live Oak about 1867 with his wife and six children. He laid out many of the city's streets, naming them for his sons and for his home state of Ohio. He also built a sawmill and planing mill, increasing commerce in the area. Within a few months of his arrival, a community of 50 people had sprung up, and Parshley erected the first schoolhouse in Suwannee County. John Parshley died August 8, 1868, but his family remained active in local politics after his death. In 1868, his widow, Nancy M. Parshley, proposed Live Oak as the location for the Suwannee County Courthouse. The county seat was moved from Houston to Live Oak, and a large wooden courthouse was built on land donated by Mrs. Parshley. The present-day courthouse dates from 1904. John Parshley's Great Floridian plaque is located at the Suwannee County Courthouse, 200 South Ohio Avenue, Live Oak.

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### *Longwood (Central)*

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### *Josiah B. Clouser*

was born October 15, 1838 in Perry County, Pennsylvania. He came to Longwood in 1881 to build the Longwood Hotel. The hotel was completed in 1888 and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. He was active in the civic affairs of the Town of Longwood (incorporated in 1894). He was elected to the first Alderman's Council in 1884 and served as Mayor in 1889, 1895 and 1912. He was a founder and president of the Longwood Cemetery Association, incorporated in 1894. Josiah B. Clouser died March 26, 1920. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Clouser House, 211 West Warren Avenue, Longwood.

### *Madison (North Central)*

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### *Edwin B. Browning, Sr.*

was born July 20, 1904 at Lovett, Madison County. At age 19 he began teaching at Garbett's Crossing in Madison County. He became the principal of Simmons School three years later. He served as Madison County School Superintendent from 1932 to 1953. He was elected President of the State Association of County School Superintendents in 1943 and President of the Florida Education Association, from 1944 to 1946. He worked for the passage of the Minimum Foundation Act that set up the Teacher Retirement Fund. As Coordinator of School Accreditation for the Florida Department of Education, he laid the foundation for evaluating schools on the basis of objective criteria. Browning was founder of the Madison County Historical Society, correspondent for the *Enterprise-Recorder* and wrote a weekly column. His "North Florida Scene" radio broadcasts won the Florida Media Award from the *Florida Historical Society* in 1971. He also contributed to the *Florida Historical Quarterly*. He was instrumental in erecting 17 historical markers in Madison County. Edwin B. Browning died in 1981. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the District School Board Office, 312 Northeast Duval Street, Madison.

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### *Marco Island (Southwest)*

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### *Tommie Camilla Stephens Barfield*

was born in 1888. She came to Marco Island with her family in 1901. They purchased a house from James Madison Barfield, who became her husband in 1906. In 1910 she turned her home into a small hotel and produced candies, jellies and specialties for her guests. By the late 1920s, she produced 60,000 pounds of honey a year. Barfield lobbied Lee County Commissioners for better roads, schools and amenities lacking on Marco Island. At one commission meeting she met Barron Gift Collier and together they worked for the creation of Collier County, which occurred May 8, 1923. She lobbied for schools and teachers and Governor Cary Hardee appointed her first superintendent of Collier County Schools. She served as superintendent and remained on the school board for 20 years. Tommie Barfield Elementary School is named in her honor. Tommie Camilla Stephens Barfield died in 1949. Her Great Floridian plaque is located at the Tommie Barfield Elementary School, 101 Kirkwood Street, Marco Island.

## *William David “Captain Bill” Collier*

was born September 20, 1852, a son of the first American settler on Marco Island. In 1883 he opened a mercantile store on Marco Island, when it was the only port between Punta Rassa and Key West. In 1895, he discovered one of the richest collections of ceremonial and utilitarian Calusa Indian artifacts in North America. This led to a major archaeological excavation, the 1895-96 Pepper Hearst Expedition. The excavation recovered 2,500 artifacts, all of which Collier donated to museums and institutions of higher learning. In 1910 Collier helped establish a clam factory on Marco Island. He invented a clam-dredging machine that allowed more rapid harvesting of clams at a greater depth. Collier also served two years on the Lee County Board of County Commissioners before Collier County was formed in 1923. William David Collier died April 23, 1934. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Old Marco Island Inn & Suites, 100 Royal Palm Boulevard, Marco Island.

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## *Marianna (Northwest)*

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### *Dr. Theophilus West*

was born September 5, 1836 in Leon County, Florida. A graduate of Oglethorpe Medical College in Savannah, Georgia, he came to Marianna in 1859 to practice medicine. He served as a surgeon with General Robert E. Lee’s army in northern Virginia. For many years after the war, he was a prominent physician and druggist, and was agent for the state Board of Health in Jackson County. He was the first Superintendent of Public Schools for Jackson County and served as Mayor of Marianna. He was also a State Senator representing Jackson County in 1907 and 1909. Dr. Theophilus West died April 10, 1923 in Marianna. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Davis-West House, 4448 Putnam Street, Marianna.

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## *Mary Esther (Northwest)*

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### *Thomas Jefferson Pryor, Jr.*

was born March 25, 1902 in Mary Esther. A lifelong resident of Florida, he became a successful businessman, managing the family’s general store. When the town was incorporated in 1946 he was elected to the first city council. He served on the council for two years, then was elected Mayor in 1958, serving 28 years. He worked to preserve the city’s ambiance and was instrumental in

preserving many oak trees. Pryor was the recipient of the 1979 E. Harris Drew Award from the Florida League of Cities, honoring a local government official who has made a lasting contribution to the citizens of Florida. The Mary Esther library was named in his honor in 1992. Thomas Jefferson Pryor, Jr. died March 3, 1989 in Mary Esther. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Mary Esther City Hall, 195 Christobal Road, Mary Esther.

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## *Melbourne (Central East)*

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### *Joe Wickham*

was born in Ames, Iowa, December 20, 1911. After graduating from Eau Gallie High School in 1929, he surveyed the untouched land of Merritt Island and the beaches. Wickham worked with the U.S. Coastal Geodetic Service and for the Guerin Construction Company where he became a partner. He formed the Wickham and Jessup Construction Company. During World War II he was construction superintendent for the Melbourne Air Station and a construction officer in the South Pacific. After the war, Wickham and Jessup became the largest construction Company in Brevard County. In 1947 he was elected Councilman for Eau Gallie, and in 1952 to the Brevard County Commission where he served 24 years. He established the county’s first mosquito control program and a solid waste program. Wickham Park was named in his honor. Joe Wickham died in 2000. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Eau Gallie Civic Center, 1551 Highland Avenue, Melbourne.

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## *Miami (Southeast)*

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### *Dana A. Dorsey,*

Miami’s first black millionaire, was born in Quitman, Georgia in 1868. He moved to Miami in the 1890s. He was an organizer of the Mount Zion Baptist Church and later owned the Negro Savings Bank, two hotels, and a portfolio of rental properties in Miami and Broward County. He donated land in Liberty City for a high school built in 1937 and named for him. He also donated the land on which the Dorsey Memorial Library was built. Dana A. Dorsey died in 1940. His Great Floridian plaque will be located at the Dorsey Memorial Library, 100 Northwest 17th Street, Miami.

## *Dr. David Grandison Fairchild,*

born April 7, 1869, was a horticulturist. Educated at Kansas State Agricultural College, Oberlin College, Florida State College and Kansas State University, he worked for the United States Department of Agriculture. There he established the Division of Plant Exploration and Introduction in 1898. Fairchild introduced more than 75,000 new plants to the United States for cultivation. From 1924 until his retirement, his scientific research was conducted aboard the *Utowana*, a vessel built as a floating laboratory. Dr. Fairchild retired to Miami in 1935, sharing knowledge with Colonel Robert Montgomery who founded the Fairchild Tropical Garden in 1938. Dr. David Grandison Fairchild died August 6, 1954. His Great Floridian plaque is located at The Kampong, 4013 Douglas Road, Coconut Grove.

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## *Jose Marti*

was born January 28, 1853 in Havana, Cuba. He came to the United States to unite the exile community in the struggle for Cuban independence from Spain. His speeches, prose and energy culminated in the founding of the Cuban Revolutionary Party in 1894. Marti was a frequent guest of Paulina and Ruperto Pedroso. Paulina nursed him back to health after his tiring travels through Florida. He was killed May 19, 1895 in the first battle against the Spanish Royalist army at Dos Rios, Cuba. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Miami Freedom Tower, 600 Biscayne Boulevard, Miami.

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## *Catherine Hauberg Sweeney*

was born in 1914 in Rock Island, Illinois. A botanist, philanthropist and preservationist, she is recognized for efforts to preserve her Coconut Grove estate, The Kampong. Developed by horticulturist Dr. David Fairchild, The Kampong contains rare and exotic tropical plants. Mrs. Sweeney acquired the property in 1963 from the Fairchild family and later gifted it to the National Tropical Botanical Garden. She was a trustee of the National Tropical Botanical Garden, the American Horticultural Society, the World Wildlife Fund and Conservation Foundation and was a Member-at-Large of the Garden Club of America. Her husband Edward Sweeney was President of the Explorers Club, and Mrs. Sweeney helped fund the purchase of the organization's headquarters building in New York. Mrs. Catherine Hauberg Sweeney died in 1995. Her Great Floridian plaque is located at her Coconut Grove residence, The Kampong, 4013 Douglas Road, Coconut Grove.

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## *Miami Beach (Southeast)*



## *Barbara Baer Capitman,*

born in 1920, founded the Miami Design Preservation League (MDPL) which started the Miami Beach Art Deco preservation movement. She led in the formation of the Miami Beach Architectural Historic District, the nation's only Art Deco district to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Her efforts to protect Art Deco architecture led to the founding of Art Deco societies in San Francisco, Chicago, Washington, D.C., Boston and New York. Capitman was also the founder of the World Congress on Art Deco. She was the author of three books: *American Trademarks*, *Deco Delights* and *Rediscovering Art Deco U.S.A.* In 1993 *The Miami Herald* named her one of the 100 most important people in the history of South Florida. Barbara Baer Capitman died in 1990. Her Great Floridian plaque is located at the Cardozo Hotel, 1300 Ocean Drive, Miami Beach.

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## *John Stiles Collins,*

born in 1837, was a horticulturist from New Jersey who came to Florida in 1896 to pursue agricultural interests. He kept winter homes in Hypoluxo Beach and in the Miami area. In 1909 Collins purchased 1,675 acres of swampland on a barrier island east of Miami and established the largest avocado grove in the world. In 1912, he dredged the Collins Canal, linking the oceanfront to Biscayne Bay, then began work on the Collins Bridge across Biscayne Bay, linking the beach to the City of Miami. The bridge provided the first roadway access to Miami Beach. Collins and his family formed the Miami Beach Improvement Company in 1911, the first official use of the name "Miami Beach." They built a casino, oceanfront hotel and began residential development of the island. John Stiles Collins died in 1928. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Miami Beach Cultural Campus (Library and Arts Center), Collins Park, Miami Beach.

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## *Stephen J. Cranman*

was born November 19, 1955 in Miami Beach and graduated from Miami-Dade Community College and Florida International University. He spent his entire career working in Dade County. Though he was president of a marketing firm, his biggest challenge came as founding Executive Director of the Perrine-Cutler Ridge Council, an economic development organization created in 1992 to help rebuild the Perrine-Cutler Ridge area following Hurricane Andrew. Under his leadership, businesses were attracted to the area and more than 3,000 new jobs added, along

with tax revenue. Cranman was instrumental in the U.S. 1 Beautification Project, the Palmetto Golf Course Community Center, and the South Miami-Dade Cultural Center. He received many marketing and advertising awards and was honored at the local, state and national levels for his commitment to community development. Stephen J. Cranman died in June, 1998, while attending the Annual Conference of the American Economic Development Council. His Great Floridian Plaque is located at the Chamber South Office Building, 900 Perrine Avenue, Perrine.

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### *L. Murray Dixon*

was born in 1901 in Live Oak, Florida. He was educated at the Georgia Institute of Technology and lived in Miami Beach as a practicing architect for the last 27 years of his life. Together with Henry Hohauser, he developed the Tropical Art Deco style of architecture that became the signature of the Miami Beach Architectural District. He was the architect of more than 100 surviving buildings in the district. L. Murray Dixon died in 1949. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Tiffany Hotel, 801 Collins Avenue, Miami Beach.

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### *John J. Farrey,*

born in 1880 in North Carolina, moved to Miami Beach in 1922 and worked for the City of Miami Beach for 30 years. Following the hurricane of 1926, he was appointed chief building, plumbing and electrical inspector. He was assigned to inspect all Miami Beach buildings and recommend a building code for the city. He initiated and enforced the first building code in Miami Beach, which more than 5,000 United States cities duplicated. John J. Farrey died December 8, 1953. His Great Floridian plaque is located at Old Miami Beach City Hall, 1130 Washington Avenue, Miami Beach.

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### *Carl Graham Fisher,*

born in 1874, came to Miami in 1910 from Indianapolis where he had built the Indianapolis Speedway. He financed completion of the Collins Bridge in 1913, dredged Biscayne Bay to create its vast residential islands, built several luxury hotels, promoted the image of South Florida in nationwide publicity, and attracted the wealthy and celebrated. In 1915 Fisher's transcontinental Lincoln Highway was opened, followed by his Dixie Highway connecting Upper Michigan to Miami. Privately built by sponsors recruited by Fisher, these were the predecessors to the Interstate highway system. Carl Graham Fisher died in 1939. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Van Dyke Building, 1641 Lincoln Road, Miami Beach.

### *Henry Hohauser*

was born in 1885 in New York City and educated at the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York. He came to Miami in 1932 and was a practicing architect in Miami Beach for more than 20 years. Hohauser's firm designed more than 300 buildings in the Miami area and he is credited with being the originator of modernism in Miami Beach. The Art Deco style in his work contributed to the success of the Miami Beach Architectural District. Henry Hohauser died in 1963. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Park Central Hotel, 640 Ocean Drive, Miami Beach.

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### *Anna Brenner Meyers*

was born December 18, 1896 in Lodz, Poland. She graduated from Columbia University's State Teacher's College, the Brooklyn Law School and the New York School State School for Social Workers. She moved to Miami in 1935 and was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1936. Appointed to the Dade County Board of Public Instruction to fill a vacancy in 1953, she served for 18 years and helped integrate one of the largest school systems in the United States. Meyers led efforts to create Miami-Dade Community College and helped found the first educational television station in Florida. In the 1940s, she fought Florida laws prohibiting married women from making legally binding contracts. Her honors include the Eleanor Roosevelt-Israel Humanitarian Award; the Leonard L. Abess Human Relations Award, Anti-Defamation League; Dade County Woman of the Year, and honorary law degrees from the University of Miami and Bethune-Cookman College. Anna Brenner Meyers died on November 8, 1983 in Miami Beach. Her Great Floridian plaque is located at Crystal House, 5055 Collins Avenue, Miami Beach.

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## *Miami Springs (Southeast)*

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### *Glenn Hammond Curtiss*

was born May 21, 1878 in Hammondsport, New York. At the age of 22 he opened a bicycle shop and started experimenting with motors and bicycle racing. He became interested in aeronautics in 1904 when balloonist Capt. Thomas Baldwin ordered a Curtiss motor for his dirigible, the California Arrow. Additional orders flowed into the G.H. Curtiss Manufacturing Company for similar motors. When Dr. Alexander Graham Bell formed the Aerial Experiment Association in 1907, Curtiss was asked to join as director of experiments. On May 22, 1908, Curtiss made his first airplane flight in the *Whitewing*. He went on to win the Scientific American Trophy three times for his *June Bug* in 1908, the *Gold Bug* in 1909 and the *Albany Flyer* in

1910. In 1916 Curtiss came to South Florida seeking land for an aviation school. Near Miami, he developed three suburban communities around distinct architectural styles: Hialeah (Mission style); Miami Springs (Pueblo Revival style); and Opa-locka (Moorish Revival style). Glenn Hammond Curtiss died in 1930. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Glenn H. Curtiss Mansion, 500 Deer Run, Miami Springs.

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## Micanopy (North Central)

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### Chief Micanopy

was the chief of the Seminole Nation during the Second Seminole War. His capital village was Cuscowilla, built at the crossing of two ancient Indian trails, which later became the American settlement of Micanopy. Chief Micanopy at first was friendly and helpful to the Americans. As time went on, disputes broke out over land, farms and treaties. The Seminoles were forced against their will to live on a reservation and hostilities began. After seven bloody years of the 2nd Seminole War (1835-1842), Chief Micanopy and the remnants of his Alachua band were captured and sent to the Oklahoma Territory where he died January 2, 1849. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Micanopy Town Hall, 706 Northeast Chokolka Boulevard, Micanopy.

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### Dr. Archie and Marjorie Carr

worked to preserve the environment. Born in 1909, Dr. Carr was a graduate research professor at the University of Florida and an internationally known biologist and environmentalist. He published numerous scientific papers and was the author of *Travels of a Naturalist in Africa, High Jungles and Low, The Windward Road* and *A Naturalist in Florida*. He also authored the Time-Life books, *The Reptiles* and *The Everglades*. Among the honors he received were the O'Henry Memorial Award for Short Story Writing and the John Burroughs Medal for Nature Writing. Dr. Carr died in 1987. Born in 1915, Marjorie Carr graduated from the Florida State College for Women and received her Master's degree in Zoology from the University of Florida in 1942. She was the first woman wildlife specialist hired by the U.S. Bureau of Fish and Wildlife. While her children were growing up, she worked to beautify the Town of Micanopy to reflect its heritage. She was the founder of Florida Defenders of the Environment, and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Building in Tallahassee is named in her honor. Marjorie Carr died in 1998. The Great Floridian plaque for Dr. Archie and Marjorie Carr is located at the Thrasher Warehouse, 607 Northeast Chokolka Boulevard, Micanopy.

## Milton (Northwest)

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### Bennett C. Russell

was born in 1944. He was a Santa Rosa County native and grew up in the Fidelis community. He attended Pensacola Junior College and received a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics from the University of Louisville in 1971 and a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership from the University of West Florida in 1975. He first taught and then served as Assistant Principal at Pace High School. In 1979 he became Santa Rosa County School Superintendent, a position he held for 20 years. During his administration all school media centers and records were automated and most classrooms equipped with instructional television. He was named 1995 Florida Superintendent of the Year and twice named Santa Rosa County Man of the Year by the Santa Rosa County Chamber of Commerce. He was one of 11 Florida superintendents who received full certification as Superintendent or Chief Executive Officer of a Public School System. In 1991 Russell served as the Santa Rosa County United Way Chairman, raising \$319,000, the highest amount ever raised in Santa Rosa County. Bennett C. Russell died in 1999. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the School Administration Building, 603 Canal Street, Milton.

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## Montverde (Central)

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### Reuben Wyatt Harper

was born June 30, 1863 in Belmont, Alabama. He received private tutoring and attended Belmont Academy. In 1885 he came to Montverde where he entered the citrus business. About 1910, he and two partners formed the R.W. Harper Company, a fruit brokerage company with its own groves and packinghouse. In 1912, he was also one of the founders of the Montverde School, a private institution. Later he entered the real estate field, and for 22 years, beginning in 1892, was the freight and express agent in Montverde. He served as city councilman of Montverde and was a member of the Florida Citrus Mutual, Citrus Exchange and the Lake Region Packers Association. He was a Woodman of the World and a Mason of Winter Garden Lodge. Reuben Wyatt Harper died in 1960. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the R.W. Harper Home, 17408 Porter Avenue, Montverde.

## Naples (Southwest)

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### *Henry B. Watkins, Sr.*

was born in 1889 and moved to Naples with his family in 1946. He was founder and president of the Naples Company, a real estate concern involved in the early development of Naples. The company purchased the original Naples Hotel, dating to the 1880s, and leased the land today occupied by the Naples Beach Hotel and Country Club. The company developed most of the land in the City of Naples. In 1949 Watkins donated ten acres of downtown land for a public park. This multi-purpose community park today houses a tennis facility, a community recreation building, veteran's memorial, band shell and the Naples Art Association building. Henry B. Watkins died in 1981. His Great Floridian plaque is located at Cambier Park, 755 Eight Avenue South, Naples.

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### *Henry B. Watkins, Jr.*

was born in 1924 and moved to Naples in 1949, shortly after marrying. In the 1950s and again in the 1960s he created a partnership to build the first low income and federally subsidized housing in Naples. He convinced the Collier County Board of Commissioners to relocate the county seat from Everglades City to East Naples in the early 1960s and served for over a decade as a member of the Board of Trustees of Edison Community College. Watkins helped found and develop the David Lawrence Center, a facility for the mentally ill, the YMCA of Collier County, and Youth Haven, a shelter for abused, neglected and abandoned children. He led several advisory boards on land planning and zoning in the 1960s and 1970s Henry B. Watkins, Jr. died in 1989. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Country Club, 851 Gulf Shore Boulevard, Naples.

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### *Henry Nehrling,*

famed ornithologist and horticulturist, was born on 9 May 1853 in Herman, Wisconsin. His early education was in a parochial school several miles from his home. During walks to school, he developed a passionate interest in nature – especially birds and flowers. In 1890, he took the post of Custodian of the Public Museum in Milwaukee where he was given the opportunity to collect plant specimens for their greenhouse. Nehrling then used his knowledge to develop a garden in Gotha, Florida, where he had purchased land in 1884. Nehrling grew, hybridized, and popularized many unusual and exotic plants for the general public. Caladiums, palms, bamboo, and amaryllis were all introduced to the United States by

way of his Palm Cottage Gardens. Nehrling's garden became so well known during the 1890s that people like John Burroughs, Thomas Edison, and Theodore Roosevelt came to visit and learn gardening tips. Nehrling had resigned his post with the Public Museum of Milwaukee and permanently settled in Gotha in 1894. In 1917, Nehrling purchased land in Naples, Florida, to pursue an interest in fancy leaved Caladiums. In 1922, Nehrling settled permanently in Naples, fondly calling his garden there "Garden Solitude" or "Tropical Gardens." Henry Nehrling died on November 22, 1929. His Naples's garden was preserved as the Jungle Larry's Caribbean Gardens.

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## New Port Richey (Central West)

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### *Dr. Elroy McKendree Avery*

was born in 1844 and came to New Port Richey in June 1919 from Cleveland, Ohio, where he had worked in publishing. When he moved to New Port Richey, he brought a library exceeding 1,000 volumes that he donated to the town. Both the Avery Library and the Historical Society were founded in 1919 with his help. Today they are known as the New Port Richey Public Library and the West Pasco Historical Society Museum and Library. Avery served as New Port Richey's first mayor and as chairman and director of the First State Bank founded in October 1921. He was also president of the Cotee River Boat Club, president of the Cotee Hardware Company; and a member of the New Port Richey Volunteer Fire Department. He died in 1935. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the New Port Richey Public Library, 5939 Main Street, New Port Richey.

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### *Gene Sarazen*

was born in 1902 and came to New Port Richey in 1926. He was the first person to win all four of golf's Grand Slam events: the US Open in 1922; the PGA National in 1922 & 1923; the British Open in 1932; and the Masters Tournament in 1935. In addition, he won the PGA Seniors title in 1954 and scored a hole in one in the last tournament he played, the 1973 British Open. Sarazen invented the sand wedge in 1932, a club now used by every golfer around the world. Later in life he was a resident of Marco Island where he formed the Gene & Mary Sarazen Foundation, an organization that supported human service agencies in Collier County. He lived there until his death in 1999. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Sims Park Entry Pavilion, Main Street and the Pithlachascotee River Bridge, New Port Richey.

## *Smyrna Beach (Central East)*

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### *George E. Munson*

was born in 1929 and graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Florida. In 1971 the City Commission appointed him to the New Smyrna Beach Planning/Zoning Board and six years later he was elected Mayor, a position he held from 1977 to 1995. As mayor Munson played a major role in constructing the Harris Saxon high-rise bridge, constructing the North Causeway Bridge (renamed the George Munson Memorial Bridge in his honor); widening State Road 44 from I-95 to DeLand, and revitalizing downtown New Smyrna Beach. He was a member of the Florida League of Cities, Chairman of the Volusia Council of Governments, president of the Volusia League of Cities, and on the transportation committee for the National League of Cities. His Great Floridian plaque is located New Smyrna Beach City Hall, 210 Sams Avenue, New Smyrna Beach.

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## *North Redington Beach (Central West)*

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### *Al E. Fellner*

was born in 1908 in Belleville, Illinois. He graduated from Notre Dame University and went into the manufacturing business in Belleville. He came to North Redington Beach in 1950, built the Coral Shores Motel and operated it until he sold it in 1965. He was instrumental in the town's incorporation in 1953 and served as mayor until 1963. As mayor he installed lighting on Gulf Boulevard and coordinated with DOT in the construction of a six-lane boulevard that became known as the "Miracle Mile." Fellner improved sewage disposal and paved streets through a bond issue. He also served as chairman of the Board of Adjustments for North Redington Beach, was president and chairman of the Redington Beaches Fire Board and was first president and director of the Gulf Beach Civitan Club. Al E. Fellner died in 1975. His Great Floridian plaque is located at North Redington Beach Town Hall, 190 173rd Avenue, North Redington Beach.

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## *Okeechobee (Central East)*

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### *Peter Raulerson,*

Florida pioneer, was born in 1857 and came to what was then Tanti, and is now Okeechobee, in October 1896. He was the second postmaster for Tanti and carried the mail on horseback for 18 months from Ft. Drum to establish a Star Route. Governor Park Trammel appointed him the first mayor of Okeechobee City, which was incorporated June 4, 1915. He served as the first County Commissioner from the area when St. Lucie County was first established and was a trustee for the first brick school constructed in 1916. Peter Raulerson died October 9, 1947. His Great Floridian plaque is located at Okeechobee City Hall, 55 S.E. 3rd Avenue, Okeechobee.

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## *Oldsmar (Central West)*

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### *Ransom Eli Olds,*

born in 1864, was the inventor of the Oldsmobile and REO automobiles. In 1913, he purchased 37,541 acres of land in North Tampa Bay for \$400,000. He designed a well-platted community, now known as Oldsmar, with tree-lined boulevards leading from the bay to downtown. Advertisements glorifying the virtues of Oldsmar were placed in Detroit papers, using the slogan "Oldsmar for Health, Wealth and Happiness." A sawmill and foundry that made cast iron engines for tractors and grove heaters were established. The mill produced the Olds Chair, a sturdy chair similar to the Adirondack Chair. Olds had more than \$4.5 million invested in his city by 1923, when he started liquidating his assets, just as the Florida land boom was beginning. He suffered a financial loss of nearly \$3,000,000, but his vision laid the foundation for the modern community of Oldsmar. Ransom Eli Olds died in 1950. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Oldsmar Public Library, 101 State Street, Oldsmar.

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## *Orange City (East Central)*

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### *Dr. Francis Dickinson*

was born January 9, 1856 in Chicago, Illinois, where she became a doctor and surgeon. Dr. Dickinson came to Orange City to improve her health. She became a

prominent citizen, benefactor and philanthropist. She was first associated with Lois Leavitt in the real estate business circa 1900. Later she bought 160 acres of land southwest of town and built a home and library. She cleared 100 acres for an airport and called it Betsy Ross Airport. Dickinson championed women's voting rights. The result was Orange City was the first in the area where women were allowed to register and vote. Dr. Francis Dickinson died in 1945. Her Great Floridian plaque is located at the Albertus Cottage, corner of Rose and Holly Avenues, Orange City.

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### *Dr. Seth French*

was born May 7, 1824. A physician from Eau Claire, Wisconsin, French purchased 8,000 acres in Volusia County adjacent to Blue Spring in 1874. He made several trips back to Eau Claire bringing with him settlers, known as the Wisconsin Company. This marked the beginning of Orange City. In 1876, the community organized the first public school in Volusia County. In 1879, Dr. French was elected to the Florida Senate, where he was instrumental in establishing the Florida Bureau of Immigration and publishing the booklet *Florida As It Is*. In 1881 Governor George Drew appointed him Commissioner of Immigration. When President Grant toured Florida in 1880, Dr. French accompanied him along with George Barbour of the *Chicago Times*. Barbour's book, *Florida for Tourists, Invalids and Settlers* published in 1882, features Dr. French and was an early example of Florida promotional literature. Dr. French was also involved in the development of Sanford. He died January 29, 1896. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Seth French Home, 319 East Graves Avenue, Orange City.

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## *Orchid (Central East)*

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### *Alfred Benjamin "A. B." Michael,*

considered the "Dean of the Florida Citrus Industry," was born August 28, 1877 in Paw Paw, West Virginia. He moved to Florida with his parents in 1886. At the age of 13, he became ship's cook on a two-masted schooner and by the age of 17 was captain, a position he held until 1900. In 1902 he started a citrus grove on Orchid Isle near Wabasso. In 1917, he consolidated his holdings with the Deerfield Grove Co. of Cocoa and assumed full control of the company two years later. His Orchid Island grapefruit were shipped throughout the world. Michael was a founding director of the American Fruit Growers and the Florida Citrus Mutual, and was a charter member of the Indian River Citrus League. He also served on the Everglades National

Park Commission and on the Florida State Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. Alfred Benjamin Michael died February 26, 1964. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Town of Orchid Town Hall, 9970 North A1A, Orchid.

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## *Orlando (Central)*

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### *Martin Andersen,*

born in 1897, was a high school dropout from Mississippi who became the editor and owner of *The Orlando Sentinel*. At the age of 15, he quit school and worked for several newspapers in the South and Southwest. There he met Texas newspaper magnate Charles E. Marsh who sent him to run *The Orlando Morning Sentinel* and the *Evening Reporter-Star*. Within a few years Anderson owned the newspapers. He exerted his personal and editorial influence with elected officials and the public. Anderson demanded and got, a road network and airport for central Florida, which helped persuade Walt Disney to locate Walt Disney World and EPCOT in the state. He also revived interest in a port at Cape Canaveral. Through his friendship with President Lyndon B. Johnson, Orlando received a Naval Recruit Training Station. In 1958, *Florida Trend* magazine named Andersen as one of Florida's six most influential men. Martin Andersen died in 1986. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Orlando Sentinel building, 633 North Orange Avenue, Orlando.

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### *William A. (Bill) McCree, Jr.*

was born in Newton, Texas in 1913 and came to Orlando in 1926. He graduated from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 1936 with a degree in civil engineering. He became a general contractor with his father and became President of W.A. McCree, Inc., General Contractors, in 1953. His company built custom residences, churches and commercial projects, including an addition to the Citrus Bowl. McCree served on Orlando's Municipal Planning Board beginning in 1954 and became chairman in 1958. During his chairmanship the board accepted its first comprehensive development plan and the first arterial street plan for the city. He also prepared a comprehensive capital improvements program and served on the Interstate-4 planning committee. William McCree died in 1996. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Loch Haven Park Neighborhood Center, 610 Lake Formosa Drive, Orlando.

## Walter C. Meloon

was born in 1893 and brought his family to central Florida in 1925. That year he founded the Florida Variety Boat Company which in 1936 became Correct Craft. Correct Craft boats were featured in the first water-ski show and tournament. During World War II Correct Craft produced 400 boats for the Army, all ahead of schedule. For this, the company was awarded the Army and Navy "E" award in 1945. The company introduced Ski Nautique in 1951, revolutionizing the industry. In April 2000, Correct Craft celebrated its 75th anniversary, making it the oldest family-owned and operated boat manufacturer in the world. Walter C. Meloon died in 1974. His Great Floridian plaque is located at Correct Craft, Inc., 5717 South Orange Avenue, Orlando.

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## Ormond Beach (Central East)

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*Oakes Ames*, born in 1874, was considered the world's leading authority on orchids. Professor Ames was on the Harvard faculty from 1900 through the 1940s. He was a founding director of the American Orchid Society.

From 1920 through 1950 he maintained a residence in Ormond Beach where he pursued his study of orchids and other plants. In 1947, he and his wife Blanche Ames collaborated on the book *Drawings of Florida Orchids*, still considered a classic. Professor Ames authored over 20 books and hundreds of articles on orchids and economic botany. He was director of the Arnold Arboretum and curator and director of the Harvard Botanical Museum. He was a friend of David Fairchild, for whom the Miami Fairchild Garden was named. The Oakes Ames Herbarium at Harvard University is considered the most important collection of orchid specimens in the world. He died in 1950. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Ames Park Cottage, 173 South Beach Street, Ormond Beach.

## John Anderson,

born August 6, 1853, is considered Ormond Beach's greatest promoter. He came to the city, then called New Britain, in 1876 from New York City. From 1876 to 1878 and 1881 to 1882 he was Volusia County tax assessor. He built the Santa Lucia Plantation and, in 1888, the Hotel Ormond. Anderson also built Volusia County's first golf course. His friendship with James Ormond III led to the proposal to name the community after the Ormond family, rather than to use the name New Britain. In 1902, along with Joseph Price, he organized the first auto-racing tournament on the beach. He

later promoted a professional baseball team in Ormond Beach. John Anderson died February 17, 1911. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Hotel Ormond Cupola, Fortunato Park, 2 John Anderson Highway, Ormond Beach.

## Eileen Butts

was born in 1897 in Detroit, Michigan. She and her husband moved to Ormond Beach in 1936 and purchased the Lindsay Estate. Mrs. Butts collected botanical specimens. There are more than 3,000 specimens of Florida wildflowers currently listed in her name in the Gray (Oaks Ames) Herbarium at Harvard University. In Ormond Beach, she helped create Tomoka State Park, erect the Fred Dana Marsh Fountain in the park, preserve the Bulow Ruins (Bulow State Park) and construct the Ormond Memorial Art Gallery. In the 1970s, when John D. Rockefeller's home, The Casements, faced demolition, Butts helped raise money to restore it. She was a member of the Halifax Historical Society, Civic Music Association, Daytona Beach Symphony, Bethune-Cookman College Advisory Board and chairman of the Florida Board of Parks and Historic Memorials. In 1973 the Florida Senate and House recognized her for lifetime service to Ormond Beach and to the State of Florida. Eileen Butts died in 1991. Her Great Floridian plaque is located at Lisnaroe, 253 John Anderson Highway, Ormond Beach.

## James Carnell

was born September 30, 1849 in Leicester, England. His family moved to Connecticut in the 1850s. In 1875, he moved to Florida as a member of the New Britain settlement, which became the City of Ormond Beach in 1880. He married in 1879 and had three sons. Carnell's first business in Ormond Beach was an orange grove which was destroyed in the freeze of 1895. He then organized the Carnell Jelly Factory that for 25 years produced guava jelly, citrus marmalades and preserved tropical fruits. He encouraged farmers to grow fruits, especially figs. He also operated a successful real estate business. He served on the City Council and as postmaster. He was one of the original members of the Ormond Yacht club. James Carnell died in 1917. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Veranda beauty Salon (former Carnell House), 40 North Beach Street, Ormond Beach.

## Charles McNary

was born February 20, 1845. When his father retired from the Corbin Lock Company in New Britain, Connecticut, the family moved to New Britain, Florida and built a home. One of McNary's first jobs was to count the votes concerning incorporation of the

community and the selection of its name. He was later elected alderman, councilman, mayor and justice of the peace. The first meeting of the Ormond City Council was held at the McNary home, May 8, 1880. Charles McNary died on August 16, 1921. His Great Floridian plaque is located at 166 North Beach Street, Ormond Beach.

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### *Joseph Price*

was born in 1853 and came to Florida from Covington, Kentucky, where he had been a civil engineer. Upon his arrival in Ormond Beach (then New Britain) he met John Anderson, and the two men became friends and partners. After the St. Johns and Halifax River Railroad arrived in Ormond in 1886, Anderson and Price built the Hotel Ormond on the peninsula side of the river. The 75-room hotel opened in 1888 and was sold to Henry Flagler in 1891 who retained Price as manager. Price was also president of the Anderson & Price Hotel Company and owner of Bretton Hall, a hotel in New York City. In 1903 Price and Anderson promoted the world's first automobile races on the beach at Ormond. Price served as County commissioner in 1880 and 1881 and was elected mayor of Ormond in 1911. He died in 1911. His Great Floridian plaque is located at 311 John Anderson Highway, Ormond Beach.

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### *John D. Rockefeller, Sr.*

was born in 1839 in Richford, New York. Looking for a place to spend his winters, he settled in the community of Ormond on the Atlantic coast. As a residence he chose the Hotel Ormond, owned by fellow oil magnate Henry Flagler. In 1918, Rockefeller purchased a home called "The Casements," where he lived until his death in 1937 at the age of 97. Until his move to Ormond, Rockefeller was less than admired due to his dealings in the oil refining business. But after retiring from Standard Oil and settling at The Casements, he was accepted by the locals and was greatly admired for his philanthropic gifts. John D. Rockefeller's Great Floridian plaque is located at The Casements, 25 Riverside Drive, Ormond Beach.

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### *Edith Stanton*

was born in 1875 and came to Ormond Beach with her uncle, William Foulke and his two daughters. The Foulkes lived in "Foulke Haven," the first permanent house built on the beach in Ormond. She attended Rollins College in Winter Park which necessitated a journey by sloop, sailboat and railroad. During the early 1890s she taught school at Seabreeze in a one-room schoolhouse, and then in the old courthouse at Enterprise. She later worked in Philadelphia as a bookkeeper and as an investigator for Children's Aid in Baltimore. She returned to Ormond, married and wrote articles for newspapers and magazines about the

pioneer days. In 1949 she published *Ruins of the Early Plantations of the Halifax Area*, after collecting data, letters and newspaper clippings about the early days of the Ormond colony. Edith Stanton died in 1962. Her Great Floridian plaque is located at 174 Grove Street, Ormond Beach.

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## *Osprey (Southwest)*

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### *Elsa Scherer Burrows*

was born in 1884 and was responsible for the creation and preservation of the 1,384-acre Oscar Scherer Park, once part of the South Creek Ranch. The park, managed by the Florida Park Service, is almost completely surrounded by urban development. It is one of the few places in Sarasota County where the threatened Florida Scrub Jay has enough habitat to maintain a healthy population. Besides featuring numerous passive recreational activities including canoeing, picnicking, hiking, swimming and nature study, the park is also a popular camping destination. More than 130,000 visitors see it each year. Mrs. Burrows willed the park, then 462 acres, to the State of Florida when she died in 1955, naming it in memory of her father, Oscar Scherer. Her Great Floridian plaque is located at the Oscar Scherer State Park, 1843 South Tamiami Trail, Osprey.

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## *Palm Bay (Central East)*

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### *Francis Stephen Huggins*

was born January 20, 1917 in Kinmundy, Illinois. He received his Bachelor of Education degree in 1939 from Illinois State University. During World War II, he served in the Navy in Alameda, California. After the war his family moved to Arlington, Virginia where he worked in government until his retirement. In 1975 Huggins and his wife moved to Palm Bay. He served as President of the Board of Directors of the West Melbourne Health Care Center and of the South Brevard Geriatric Health Center, and was a charter member of the Greater South Brevard Senior Citizens Center, Inc. Huggins was active in the Port Malabar Lions Club, the Palm Bay Rotary Club, where he was a Paul Harris Fellow, and the American Legion Post in Palm Bay. He was named Palm Bay's Distinguished Citizen of Year for 1985 and was given a key to the city in 1990 for community service. Francis Stephen Huggins died in 1994. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the monument at the corner of U.S. 1 and Pt. Malabar Boulevard.

## *Palm Beach (Southeast)*

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### *Henry Morrison Flagler*

was born in 1830 and made his fortune as one of the founding partners of the Standard Oil Company. When he came to St. Augustine during the 1880s, he built the Hotel Ponce de Leon and the Hotel Alcazar, then built or purchased railroads to bring visitors to the hotels. In 1892, he obtained a Florida State charter to extend his rail lines to Miami and in 1895 he established the Florida East Coast Railroad. Reaching Ft. Pierce by 1894, Flagler's railroad extended to Lake Worth and Palm Beach. Flagler's promotion of Palm Beach transformed the island into a winter destination for America's elite. There he built the Hotel Royal Poinciana and the Palm Beach Inn, which would later become the Breakers. In 1901 he built Whitehall, his personal residence in Palm Beach. Flagler's railroad eventually reached Key West in 1912. Henry Morrison Flagler died in 1913. His Great Floridian plaque is located at Whitehall, Coconut Row and Whitehall Way, Palm Beach.

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## *Palmetto (Southwest)*

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### *Francis "Frankie" MacKay Howze*

was born in 1868, and taught school in Polk County from 1888 to 1889. She came to Palmetto in the fall of 1889 and taught there until her death in 1955. Called "the Mother of Education in Manatee County," she organized the county's first grade school and first high school. With her own funds she bought textbooks, blackboards and other school supplies and taught subjects as varied as French, Art and Music Appreciation. She coached fifth and sixth grade football. Palmetto's Carnegie Library evolved from the Literary Society which she organized the first year she came to the community. The Palmetto Elementary School building is named in her honor. Her Great Floridian plaque is located at the Carnegie Library Building, 515 10th Avenue West, Palmetto.

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### *Francis F. Taylor*

was born in 1883 in England and immigrated to the United States in 1906. Arriving in Manatee County in 1907, he became a realtor, land developer and promoter of Palmetto, a member of the Board of Trade and Secretary of the Palmetto Chamber of Commerce. He donated money for the care and protection of illegitimate children through county welfare agencies. Upon his

death, the Children's Homes of Florida received more than \$250,000. For many years Taylor provided a Christmas party for all the students in the Palmetto Elementary School. He sponsored Christmas dances for the older youth and Junior Woman's Club and provided flowers for patients in the county hospital. He renovated houses, selling them to young couples and gave land to the City of Palmetto for parks. In 1953 he received the United States Junior Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Citizen's Award. Frances F. Taylor died in 1954. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Masonic Building, 404 10th Avenue West, Palmetto.

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## *Panama City (Northwest)*

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### *George Mortimer West*

was born in 1845. In 1905 he helped organize the Gulf Coast Development Company. The company purchased much of early downtown Panama City and sold and developed tracts. At the same time, he persuaded A.B. Steele, a railroad builder from Georgia, to visit. From this invitation emerged the Atlanta and St. Andrews Bay Railroad, known as the Bay Line. Steele, West and the other town council members, decided to name the new community "Panama City." In 1907, West organized the *Panama City Pilot*, the town's first newspaper of which he was editor. He authored *St. Andrews, Florida*, *Old St. Joe* and *A Night on a Florida Beach*. In 1914, West established the Panama City's public library. George Mortimer West died in 1926. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Panama City Publishing Company, 1134 Beck Avenue, Panama City.

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## *Parker (Northwest)*

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### *Delbert Davis,*

born in 1889, was one of the first schoolteachers, scoutmasters, and surveyors in Florida. During World War I he was a "telegrapher" for a brief time in Washington D.C. He was one of Bay County's first scoutmasters and was instrumental in building the area's first Boy Scout headquarters near the Parker City Hall. He played a variety of musical instruments. He was an avid photographer and, because of his early efforts, the City of Parker has one of the largest photographic archives for a city its size in the nation. Delbert Davis died in 1980. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Parker Community Center, 1001 West Park Street, Parker.

## *Captain Ed Parker,*

born in 1912, was one of the early founders of the seafood industry, of primary importance to the City of Parker. Orphaned at the age of eight, he eventually became captain of a fishing boat, *The Friendship*. He was also an environmentalist. He was a powerful role model for the hundreds of men who served as deckhands on his boat. Captain Ed Parker died in 1999. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Parker City Hall, 1001 West Park Street, Parker.

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## *Pembroke Pines (Southeast)*

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### *Charles W. Flanagan*

was born in Boston in 1933 and moved with his family to Miami in the 1940s. In 1956, after he married, the family moved to the southwest section of what is now Pembroke Pines. He entered politics, winning a seat on the city commission and then became mayor in 1982. As mayor he was recognized for his wit, concern and dedication to the city. Charles W. Flanagan died in 1995. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Village Community Center, 6700 SW 13th Street, Pembroke Pines.

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## *Penney Farms (Northeast)*

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### *James Cash Penney,*

born in 1876, was a philanthropist and founder of J.C. Penney Department Stores. In 1920, he purchased 120,000 acres in Clay County and invited farmers to claim 40-acre tracts by clearing the land, building houses, growing crops and raising livestock. In 1922 Penney and associates formed the Florida Farms and Industries Company that planned, platted and registered 10,000 acres as Long Branch City, whose population rose to 825 in 1930 and is 654 in 2002. Here, in 1926, Penney built the Memorial Home Community to honor his parents. The Great Depression (1929) caused Mr. Penney to sell his holdings except 200 acres, which he deeded to the Memorial Home Community, and turned over its operation to the Christian Herald Foundation. In 1971 it became the self-sustaining Penney Retirement Community, Inc., and in 1999 was listed in the National Register of Historic Places. James Cash Penney died in 1971. His Great Floridian plaque is located at Town Hall, 4100 Clark Avenue, Penney Farms.

## *Pensacola (Northwest)*

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### *H. Clay Armstrong,*

born in 1870, opened the Pensacola Classical School in 1900 and operated it for 40 years. Students from the lower grades through high school attended this early school. In 1930, Professor Armstrong published the History of Escambia County. He also served as Pensacola's Mayor. H. Clay Armstrong died in 1950. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Escambia County School Board Building, 215 West Garden Street, Pensacola.

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### *William Dudley Chipley*

was born in Columbus, Georgia, June 6, 1840. He was an ex-Confederate officer who financed the building of the Pensacola and Atlantic Railroad between 1881 and 1883. Chipley's railroad became affiliated with the Louisville and Nashville system, which opened the Pensacola area to trade from the east. He served as Pensacola commissioner, councilman and mayor, state senator (1895; 1897) and narrowly lost election to the U.S. Senate. W. D. Chipley died December 1, 1897. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the W.D. Chipley Monument located in Ferdinand Plaza on Palofax Street, Pensacola.

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### *Occie Clubbs,*

born in 1888, was a teacher and principal in Escambia County for 48 years. She held B.A. and M.A. degrees, and the equivalent of a Ph.D. For her Master's thesis she wrote about former Florida Senator Stephen Russell Mallory, and her work was the basis for other studies of Mallory. She was an early president of the Pensacola Historical Society and the Florida Historical Society. Occie Clubbs died in 1971. Her Great Floridian plaque is located at the PATS Center (former Agnes McReynolds School), 1408 East Blount Street, Pensacola.

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### *Mayhew W. (Pat) Dodson III*

was born in 1929 and, with Mary Turner Rule Reed and J. Earl Bowden, established the Seville Square Historic District in Pensacola. As a member of the Florida Board of Regents, he promoted the establishment of the University of West Florida, which awarded him an honorary doctorate. Dodson served on the President's Council on Historic Preservation, the Historic Pensacola Preservation Board of Trustees and the Florida American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, where he was instrumental in the selection of Pensacola as Florida's pilot city. He also promoted the reconstruction

of the Tivoli High House in Seville Square. Mayhew W. (Pat) Dodson III died in 1975. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Tivoli High House, 300 East Zarragosa Street, Pensacola.

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### *Daniel “Chappie” James,*

born in 1920, was a native of Pensacola and the youngest of 17 children. He reached the highest peacetime rank in the U.S. Air Force, four-star general, and served with the famous Tuskegee Airmen in WWII. He was the leader of a fighter group during the Korean War, providing air support for advancing ground forces. James served with distinction in Vietnam, later becoming a public affairs officer in the Defense Department from 1970 to 1974. After Vietnam, he was assigned to Eglin Air Force Base. He died in 1978. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Daniel James State Office Building, 160 Governmental Center, Pensacola.

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### *Lillie Anna “Mother” James,*

born between 1875 and 1885, was a black resident of Pensacola who in 1903 established a private school in her back yard for African-American children. For more than 40 years, neighborhood children paid a nominal fee to attend. Out of her school came lawyers, doctors, teachers and her grandson, Daniel “Chappie” James. She died in 1957. Her Great Floridian plaque is located at the “Chappie James” Judicial Building, Government Center, Pensacola.

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### *Stephen Russell Mallory*

was born November 2, 1848 in Columbia, South Carolina. He served in the Confederate Army and Navy during the Civil War, then attended Georgetown College in Washington, D.C. He came to Pensacola in 1874 where he practiced law before entering politics. He was elected to the Florida House of Representatives in 1876, the Florida Senate in 1880, the United States Congress in 1891 and the United States Senate in 1897. He died in office December 23, 1907. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Stephen R. Mallory Monument, St. Michael’s Cemetery, Pensacola.

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### *Edward A. Perry,*

Florida’s 14th Governor, was born March 15, 1831 in Richmond, Massachusetts. He attended Yale, taught briefly in Alabama, and moved to Pensacola, where he was admitted to the bar in 1853. He fought in the Civil War, was twice wounded, and rose from private to Brigadier General. During Governor Perry’s administration from 1885 to 1889, Florida adopted a new

Constitution and established a State Board of Education. He died in Pensacola, October 15, 1889. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Scottish Rite Temple, 2 East Wright Street, Pensacola.

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### *Mary Turner Rule Reed,*

born in 1929, was an outspoken promoter of Pensacola history and preservation. With the support of Pat Dodson and J. Earl Bowden, she helped establish the city’s historic district. She lobbied the state legislature to create the Historic Pensacola Preservation Board and was a charter member of the Pensacola Historic Restoration and Preservation Commission. She was an early promoter of the Gulf Island National Seashore and encouraged the designation of the Plaza Ferdinand as a National Historic Landmark. She died in 1976. Her Great Floridian plaque is located at the Merritt House, 619 North Balen Street, Pensacola.

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### *Oliver J. Semmes, Jr.,*

born in 1903, was a Pensacola city engineer who was named city manager in 1947, a position he held for 14 years. He oversaw the surfacing of 150 miles of unpaved streets and negotiated the purchase of the gas company, which is now a municipally owned utility. He also negotiated the franchise agreement with the local power company, making it more equitable for the city. The Florida Junior Chamber of Commerce awarded Semmes the Good Government Award in 1957 and in 1959 Pensacola Junior College presented him with the Distinguished Service Award. Oliver J. Semmes, Jr. died in 1975. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Pensacola City Hall, Government Center, Pensacola.

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### *Joyce Garrett Turner*

was born in 1905 in Arkansas. She graduated from the University of Texas and did post-graduate work at UCLA. In 1935 she married, came to Pensacola and taught school for 20 years. In 1972 she founded the North Hill Preservation Association, and was instrumental in getting the North Hill Preservation District listed in the National Register of Historic Places. In 1974, she promoted the preservation of Rafford Hall, one of the few remaining wooden structures in Pensacola. She received awards from the Pensacola-Escambia Bicentennial Commission in 1974 for her work in the North Hill District; the City of Pensacola in 1976 for her work on the Fort George Project; and from the Historic Pensacola Historic Preservation Board in 1992. She served as President of the North Hill Preservation Association for five terms and, in 1980, the Association honored her with a granite monument in the North Hill District’s Alabama Square. The Joyce Garrett Turner

Award is given annually to the person who has made the most significant contribution to preservation. Joyce Garrett Turner died in 1998. Her Great Floridian plaque is located at the Turner House, 823 North Baylen Street, Pensacola.

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### *T. T. Wentworth, Jr.,*

born in 1898, was a founder of the Pensacola Historical Society. He was instrumental in establishing the Pensacola Public Library and opened the first Pensacola Historical Museum in the Dorothy Walton House. He later opened the Wentworth Museum in Ensley, where he collected artifacts. This collection was left to the public and today is displayed in the T.T. Wentworth Jr. Florida State Museum. Wentworth also served as Director of the Florida Historical Society. T. T. Wentworth Jr. died in 1989. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the T.T. Wentworth Jr. Florida State Museum, 233 South Jefferson Street, Pensacola.

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### *P. K. Yonge,*

born in 1850, was President of Southern States Land and Timber Company and manager of Muscogee Mills. He served on the Escambia County Board of Education, was a Pensacola alderman and chairman of the State Board of Control. For 40 years, Yonge and his son Julian gathered the most extensive collection of historical material relating to Florida in the state. The collection was given to the University of Florida by Julien in 1944 as a memorial to his father and is the foundation of the P. K. Yonge Library of Florida History at the University of Florida. Yonge was also a founder of the Florida Historical Society and was president of the organization at the time of his death in 1934. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (formerly the P. K. Yonge School), 1345 Palafox Street, Pensacola.

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## *Perry (North Central)*

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### *William Thomas Cash*

was born July 23, 1878 in Jefferson County. He began work at the age of 13 as a rural mail carrier, then became a teacher. He taught at the Florida State College for Women in 1915 and 1917 and was school superintendent of Taylor County from 1921 to 1925. He served in the Florida House of Representatives in the 1909, 1915 and 1917 sessions and the Florida Senate in the 1919 session. In 1909 he sponsored the first law requiring candidates to disclose expenses. On April 1,

1927 Governor John W. Martin appointed him Florida's first state librarian, a position he held until his death, July 8, 1951. He authored two books, *The Story of Florida* and *The History of the Democratic Party in Florida*. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Taylor County Historical Society, 118 East Main Street, Perry.

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## *Plantation (Southeast)*

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### *Edwin F. Deicke,*

born in 1896, was a resident of the City of Plantation for 32 years. He experimented with fruit bearing trees and worked with the Tropical Fruit Council and the University of Florida Agriculture Experiment Station in Plantation. He was the author of the *Book of Guavas* on tropical fruits. He established scholarship endowments at Plantation High School and the Plantation Woman's Club. He gave the city \$100,000 for a community center and in 1982 an additional \$10,000 to enlarge it. He donated \$150,000 for a park that was later named for him, and gave several gifts to the Helen B. Hoffman Plantation Library, as well as monies for a social hall at the Plantation Community Church. Edwin F. Deicke died in 1984. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Deicke Auditorium, 5701 Cypress Road, Plantation.

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### *Lois Deicke,*

born in 1917, was a founder of the Broward County Library Foundation, the first woman member of the Holy Cross Hospital Board, and a trustee of Elmhurst College. She served on the boards of the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation, the Goodwin Institute for Cancer Research, the Performing Arts Foundation and the Ralph J. Baudhuin Oral School of Nova University. She was awarded the 1983 Broward County Commission Award for the Arts, the 1985 Pioneer Award for Women in Communications, and the Outstanding Citizen Award from the Broward County Library in 1987. In 1994 she was inducted into the Broward County Women's Hall of Fame. Deicke's philanthropic interests included the Helen B. Hoffman Plantation Library, Lighthouse of Broward County, Hospice Care of Broward County, Broward County West Regional Library, Plantation Women's Club and the Philharmonic Orchestra. She created endowments for Plantation High School and for South Plantation High School and established the Deicke Scholarship Program which awards scholarship money for college. Lois Deicke died in 1999. Her Great Floridian plaque is located at Deicke Auditorium, 5701 Cypress Road, Plantation.

## *Helen B. Hoffman,*

born in 1898, was one of the 12 original residents of the City of Plantation. Her husband, Dr. Abram Hoffman, started the Plantation Homeowners Association and made her secretary, a position she held for more than 40 years. In 1961 she founded the Plantation Library that in 1981 was expanded and renamed the Helen B. Hoffman Plantation Library. In 1970 she was a founder and board member of the Area Agency on Aging. She also wrote for *The Bugle*, a village newspaper. Helen B. Hoffman died in 1993. Her Great Floridian plaque is located at the Helen B. Hoffman Plantation Library, 501 Fig Tree Lane, Plantation.

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## *Frederick C. Peters,*

born in 1900, made substantial innovations to the potato industry in South Florida. In the late 1930s he purchased 10,000 acres of land for \$25 an acre in Broward County. He stocked his ranch with 300 head of cattle and hired a civil engineer familiar with the Everglades to plan water control of his land. He designed a pumping station and pumping plant to make his land one of the least flood prone areas in Florida. In the 1950s he established the Agriculture Experiment Station of the University of Florida at Plantation. He was instrumental in the development of "Plantation Pride," a variety of sorghum. He also donated land for the Plantation Community Church, Plantation City Hall and the Broward County School Board. Frederick C. Peters died in 1964. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Plantation Historical Museum, 511 North Fig Tree Lane, Plantation.

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## *Port St. Joe (Northwest)*

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## *Jessie Ball duPont*

was born in 1884 and was educated at what is now Longwood College in Farmville, Virginia. In 1908 she moved with her parents to San Diego, where she became assistant principal in the largest elementary school in the city. In 1920, she re-established an earlier friendship with Alfred I. duPont, and they were married in 1921. When he died in 1935 she became the principal trustee of his estate. In his memory she created three foundations: one to build a children's hospital in Delaware; a second to serve the needy in Florida, Delaware and Virginia; and a third to recognize outstanding contributions in the field of broadcast journalism. For four decades she funded gifts to churches, major charities, children's homes, historic buildings and art museums. When she died in 1970, her will established the Jessie Ball duPont Religious,

Charitable and Educational Fund to continue her philanthropic work. Her Great Floridian plaque is located at the Chateau Nemours Seaport Inn Bed and Breakfast, 505 Monument Avenue, Port St. Joe. (See also Alfred I. duPont, page 34.)

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## *David W. Jones,*

born November 11, 1923, served Port St. Joe and its students from 1953 until 1970 as head coach and physical education instructor at the Washington High School. He often visited his students' homes and their churches, teaching them respect, responsibility, perseverance, initiative, kindness, fairness, honesty and cooperation. The David W. Jones Memorial Gymnasium is named in his honor. David W. Jones died June 2, 1976. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the David W. Jones Memorial Gymnasium, Port St. Joe.

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## *Quincy (North Central)*

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## *Witt A. Campbell*

was born December 31, 1910 in Quincy. He attended Florida A & M University for two years before joining the Army. He finished his undergraduate degree at Bethune-Cookman College and returned to Quincy where he worked in the public school system for 44 years. He served as principal of East Quincy School, 1942 to 1943, Midway High School, 1951 to 1953, and the Stevens High School and Elementary School, 1955 to 1970. He also served as assistant principal of Chattahoochee High School, 1970 to 1977 and principal of Gretna Elementary, from 1982 to 1983. During the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s Campbell registered voters in Gadsden County. In 1983 he was elected to the Gadsden County School Board. He served as financial secretary to the Good Shepherd Lodge of the Order of Emancipated Americans, until his death June 30, 1996. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Good Shepherd Lodge of the Order of Emancipated Americans, 1001 4th Street, Quincy.

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## *Dr. William Spencer Stevens*

was born November 21, 1882 in Tallahassee. He graduated from Florida State Normal and Industrial College and in 1904 received a medical degree from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee. Stevens returned to Florida and became the first African-American to open a medical practice in Quincy. In 1906, he opened Steven's Drug Store in downtown Quincy, then built a two-story building in the 1930s that served as a community hospital for the black population

of the city. In 1936, the “Colored Health Council” was organized in Gadsden County. In 1914, Stevens was named Supervisor of the Quincy City Schools. In 1925 he began a four-year process to expand Dunbar School and when the new building was finished, the school was renamed Stevens High School. Dr. Stevens served the City of Quincy as Supervisor of City Schools until his death in 1949. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the W. S. Stevens School, 1004 West Fourth Street, Quincy.

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### *Judge Hugh M. Taylor*

was born February 9, 1904 in Gadsden County. He earned his law degree from Washington and Lee University in Virginia at the age of 19, and returned to Florida where he began his practice in Quincy. Despite one term in the Florida House of Representatives (1931), he remained in private practice for 22 years before being appointed Judge for the Second Judicial Circuit in 1945 by Governor Millard Caldwell. Judge Taylor held this position for 31 years until he retired in 1976. In 1968, Judge Taylor was appointed chairman of the drafting committee for the Florida Constitutional Revision Commission. He also served as general counsel to the Florida Senate in its deliberations on the ratification of the revised Florida Constitution of 1968. In 1976, he received the Florida Council on Crime and Delinquency Distinguished Service Award and Governor Reubin Askew declared him a “Florida Patriot” by designation of the Bicentennial Commission of Florida. Judge Hugh M. Taylor died July 23, 1987. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Gadsden County Courthouse, 10 East Jefferson Street, Quincy.

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## *Safety Harbor (Central West)*

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### *Odet Philippe,*

born in 1787, arrived on the Pinellas peninsula by 1837, previously residing in Charleston, South Carolina, New River (now Ft. Lauderdale) and Key West. Phillippe claimed to have been born in Lyon, France. He was the first non-native, permanent settler in Pinellas County, homesteading his plantation on the northern end of Tampa Bay. He was the first to make cigars in Tampa and the first to cultivate citrus in the area. His introduction of grapefruit to Florida is recognized in the Citrus Hall of Fame. Odet Philippe died in 1869. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Safety Harbor Museum of Regional History, 329 South Bayshore Boulevard, Safety Harbor.

## *San Antonio (Central West)*

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### *Peter A. Demens*

was born Pyotr Alexeyevich Dementyev May 1, 1850, in St. Petersburg, Russia. In 1881, he arrived in Jacksonville and later settled in Longwood, where he bought an 80-acre orange grove and a one-third share in a sawmill. In Longwood he built station houses on the South Florida Railroad branch from Lakeland to Dade City, then negotiated a contract to furnish crossties to the Orange Belt Railway. When Orange Belt partners were unable to pay their debts, Demens took over the charter and rolling stock. He planned to lay rails to the Gulf of Mexico. By the time Demens reached Point Pinellas, June 14, 1888, it was time to name the new town located there. According to legend, by the flip of a coin, Demens got to name St. Petersburg for his birthplace. Demens later bought and operated a planing mill in Asheville, North Carolina and moved to California where he invested in citrus. He died January 21, 1919, at his Alta Loma, California home. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the San Antonio Railroad Depot, 32735 Railroad Avenue, San Antonio.

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### *Judge Edmund F. Dunne,*

founder of San Antonio, was born July 30, 1835 in Little Falls, New York. He went to California in 1852 where he was elected to the California legislature in 1862. In 1864 he served on the constitutional convention for the new state of Nevada and later served eight terms as a member of the Nevada judiciary. In 1874 President Ulysses S. Grant appointed him chief justice of the Arizona Territory. Dunne’s legal position that Catholics and other religious groups should receive tax funding for their schools caused President Grant to force his resignation. After his removal, Dunne was hired by Hamilton Disston, a wealthy Philadelphia saw manufacturer, to select lands in a four million-acre purchase Disston had made in Florida. In 1881, Dunne was given 50,000 acres of land to begin the Catholic colony of San Antonio. On February 15, 1882, he selected the colony’s site in Pasco County. By 1883 Dunne was promoting the area as “The Sicily of America.” The Orange Belt Railroad brought regular shipments of goods and mail to the town and San Antonio was incorporated in 1891. The freezes of 1894 and 1895 decimated San Antonio’s citrus industry but Saint Leo Abbey, Holy Name Priory and Saint Leo University were later founded in the area. Judge Edmund F. Dunne died October 4, 1904. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the San Antonio City Hall, 32819 Pennsylvania Avenue, San Antonio.

## James J. Horgan

was born in Springfield, Massachusetts, July 14, 1940. He received a Ph.D. in history in 1965 from St. Louis University. He came to San Antonio in 1965 as professor of history at nearby Saint Leo College. He served as chairman of the Division of Social Sciences from 1969 to 1991. His book, *Pioneer College*, was published as the centennial history of Saint Leo College, Saint Leo Abbey and Holy Name Priory and is used by the City of San Antonio. The Student Government Association at SLC named him Outstanding Faculty Member for the 1986-87 school year and in 1986 he was cited for teaching excellence by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. He served two terms as president of the Pasco County Historical Society and was elected to the board of directors of the Florida Historical Society in 1994. He was a founding officer of the Pasco County Chapter of the NAACP in 1968 and received a distinguished service award from the Florida NAACP that same year. During the 1972-73 school year, on sabbatical leave from Saint Leo College, he served as national director of research for the United Farm Workers Union in Keene, California. Horgan was the author or co-editor of 14 books and monographs, among them *City of Flight* (1984), *The Reagan Years* (1988), *The Catholic Colony of San Antonio, Florida* (1989), *Pioneer College* (1990), *Social Justice* (1992), *The Historic Places of Pasco County* (1992), *Florida Pathfinders* (1994) and *Florida Decades* (1995). James J. Horgan died May 3, 1997. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the James J. Horgan Home, 12221 Main Street, San Antonio.

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## Sanibel (Southwest)

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### Frank P. Bailey,

Sanibel pioneer, was born in 1873. He arrived on Sanibel Island in 1894 with his mother and two brothers. They began farming on a leased parcel while they bargained to buy acreage. The family eventually bought a plantation store that combined packing and shipping of their own produce as well as that of other farmers. Bailey co-founded the Sanibel Community Church in 1917, and when Sanibel Packing Company-the name given to the Bailey enterprises-was wiped out by a hurricane in 1926, he rebuilt a larger store in a more secure location. That same year he helped establish Sanibel Community House, a facility that still serves as a center of island activity. In the 1940s he set up a telephone system and served as Justice of the Peace. Frank Bailey operated the general store until his death in 1952. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Old Bailey Store, 950 Dunlop Road, Sanibel.

## Sarasota (Southwest)

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### Owen Burns

was born in Maryland in 1869 and first visited Sarasota in 1910 to take advantage local sports fishing. He established the Burns Realty Company and the Burns Dredging Company. Through his Burns Construction Company, he built the Ringling Causeways connecting Sarasota to St. Armands Key, Ringling Isles and Lido Key. All of Lido Key was at one time included in his land holdings. He was instrumental in laying out and paving streets in the city, overseeing the construction of the city's first seawalls, and building the first co-operative home subdivision, Burns Court in 1925. He also built Sarasota's El Vernona Hotel, in 1925. Owen Burns died in 1937. His Great Floridian plaque is located at 401 Burns Court, Sarasota.

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### John L. Early

was born December 19, 1896 in Staunton, Virginia. He graduated in three years from Washington and Lee University. After serving in World War I, he studied law at the University of Virginia. He came to Sarasota in October 1924 for health reasons. His practice was devoted largely to civil law. He served as school trustee for six years and attorney for the school board for eight years. In 1934 he was elected state representative from Sarasota County and served three successive terms. Early helped create Myakka State Park in eastern Sarasota County and secured funding for the first four-lane highway in Sarasota. One of the laws he sponsored helped people save their homes during the Depression by excusing back taxes. Early also served as Mayor of Sarasota, from 1953 to 1954. John L. Early died March 9, 1999, at the age of 102. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the John L. Early House, 1841 Oak Street, Sarasota.

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### Arthur Britton Edwards

was born October 2, 1874 on the mainland shore of Sarasota Bay. He opened the first real estate and insurance office in Sarasota in 1903, and worked with leading railroads to attract potential investors to Sarasota. He became the first elected tax assessor of Sarasota, serving from 1907 to 1913. When Sarasota was incorporated as a city, he became its first mayor, position he held until 1920. He played a leading role in the creation of Sarasota County and was commissioned by Governor Cary A. Hardee to establish the county tax assessor's office and write the first tax books. He was vice-president and for many years a director of Sarasota's first bank. In 1934 he was instrumental, along with Judge Paul C. Albritton, in convincing the

State of Florida to purchase 17,500 acres for Myakka River State Park. He was a member of the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Association and first president of the Sarasota Citrus Growers Association. A. B. Edwards died November 15, 1969. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Edwards Theater (Sarasota Opera House), 61 North Pineapple Avenue, Sarasota.

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### *John Hamilton Gillespie*

was born in Maffat, Dumfrienshire, Scotland in 1852, the son of Sir John Gillespie, head of the Florida Mortgage and Investment Company. He studied law in Edinburgh and in 1886 was sent to Sarasota to represent his father's company. The company owned the entire original town site, as well as an additional 50,000 acres. He was the only attorney and real estate agent in the community until after 1900. He served as a justice of the peace, and was a founder of the first railroad service in town. Gillespie built the DeSoto Hotel, Sarasota's first place of lodging. Following the incorporation of Sarasota, he served six one-year terms as mayor and one term as councilman. He has been credited with creating one of the first golf courses in the United States in Sarasota in 1886. He later laid out golf courses in Jacksonville, Kissimmee, Tampa, Bellair and Havana, Cuba. John Hamilton Gillespie died September 7, 1923. His Great Floridian plaque is located at Sarasota City Hall, 1565 First Street, Sarasota.

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### *Dr. Joseph Halton*

was born c. 1881 in St. Helen's, Lancashire, England, and came to the United States when he was seven years old. He graduated from Miami Medical College, Oxford, Ohio, and the University of Cincinnati. He settled in Sarasota in 1907 where he joined his brother, Dr. Jack Halton, in the Halton Sanitarium. Later he established a private hospital that grew into a 30-bed institution where he maintained his office. His fellow surgeons named him the first life member of the Florida Medical Association in 1957. Halton was also a fellow of the International College of Surgeons and a member of the Sarasota County Medical Society. In addition to his medical career, he served as a member of the Sarasota Town Council and was president of the council in 1910. In 1951, the American Legion named him Citizen of the Year in recognition of the 1,600 free operations he performed and the medical care he provided for needy children. Dr. Joseph Halton died June 17, 1963. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Halton House, 310 Cocanut Avenue, Sarasota.

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### *Harry Lee Higel*

was born in Philadelphia, December 31, 1867. He came to Sarasota in 1884 with other members of the

Higel family, and became a staunch supporter of the development of the community. Upon his arrival he purchased a downtown dock where Higel operated his boat, the Nemo, and ran a general mercantile business. Later he bought and operated the steamer Vandalia. Higel was Sarasota's first retailer of gasoline and kerosene and was the first local agent of the Gulf Refining Company. He handled land sales for Sarasota's largest landowner, J. Hamilton Gillespie. In 1907 he started development of the north end of Sarasota Key, which he named Siesta. He served five terms as a member of the town council and three terms as mayor. At the time of his death, January 6, 1921, Higel was director of the Bank of Sarasota. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Harry L. Higel House, 3308 Higel Avenue, Sarasota.

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### *David and George Lindsay,*

son and father, were newspapermen in Sarasota. David Lindsay established the *Sarasota Herald* in 1925. He served as the newspaper's publisher until 1938 when the *Herald* was consolidated with the *Sarasota Tribune* and continued as publisher of the combined papers until his death in 1946. George Lindsay, father of David Lindsay, served as the editor of the *Sarasota Herald* from 1925 until it was consolidated with the *Sarasota Tribune*. George Lindsay was the author of non-sectarian religious editorials, or sermonettes, which he produced each Sunday for 30 years. Two volumes of those editorials were published. The Lindsays' Great Floridian plaque is located at the Sarasota Herald (Woman's Exchange) Building, 539 South Orange Avenue, Sarasota.

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### *Andrew McAnsh,*

born c. 1886, was the builder of the Mira Mar Hotel. He was brought to Sarasota by W. C. Towles in 1922 to replace the 1887 Belle Haven Inn. McAnsh proposed building a hotel, apartments, and an indoor swimming pool. Ground for the Mira Mar Apartments was broken October 6, 1922. McAnsh agreed to construct a first class hotel with the concession that the city would not levy property taxes for 10 years and would provide free water and power for the same time period. Work began on the Mira Mar Hotel in July 1923 and it was completed six months later. McAnsh added an auditorium rather than a swimming pool, and the entire Mira Mar complex was complete by 1924. The Mira Mar was Sarasota's premier hotel for the next 20 years. The hotel portion of the complex was demolished in 1983 but the Mira Mar Apartments survive. Andrew McAnsh died in 1946. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Mira Mar Apartments, 77 South Palm Avenue, Sarasota.

## *Thomas Reed Martin*

was born in 1866 in Menasha, Wisconsin. He came to Sarasota in 1911 and secured his first local commission to construct "The Oaks" for Mrs. Potter Palmer. By 1923 he had established himself as one of the "Builders of Sarasota." He made the original sketches for John Ringling's home, Ca' d' Zan, although his design was not executed. He designed more than 500 houses in the Sarasota area, ranging from "Floridian" homes to the use of glass block and formed concrete in later compositions. His work often reflected modern streamlined forms embellished with Mediterranean Revival features. Some of Martin's 1920s work included residences for Dr. Fred Albee, a surgeon and real estate developer; John J. McGraw, manager of the New York Giants baseball team; and Samuel W. Gumpertz, a successful showman. He also designed Exhibition Hall, a 1930s Works Progress Administration building. Thomas Reed Martin died in 1949. His Great Floridian plaque is located at 401 Burns Court, Sarasota.

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## *Charles Ringling*

was born on December 2, 1863 in MacGregor, Iowa. He was one of seven brothers who formed the Ringling Brothers Circus in the late 1880s. By 1920, only two brothers remained, John and Charles. John Ringling was the public face of the circus, while Charles ensured day-to-day operations. Both John and Charles invested heavily in Sarasota real estate after their arrival in 1911. In contrast to his brother's interest in developing Sarasota's coastal areas, Charles Ringling invested in the downtown. He bought the old Gillespie golf course and developed the city's business district. He was president of the Sarasota Chamber of Commerce, 1925-26, during which time he built the Sarasota Terrace Hotel. Ringling founded his own bank, the Ringling Bank and Trust Company and gave property to the county for a courthouse. Charles and Edith Ringling built their Sarasota home in 1925 next to his brother John's residence, Ca' d'Zan. Designed in the Italian Renaissance style, it was completed in 1926 at a cost of \$800,000. Charles Ringling died on December 3, 1926. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Charles Ringling Building, 1927 Ringling Boulevard, Sarasota.

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## *John Ringling*

was born in 1866 in MacGregor, Iowa. Together with his brothers he founded the most successful circus in the world in 1884. John took control of the circus after his brother Charles died in 1926. In 1905 he married Mable Burton and they began spending winters in Florida, first in Tarpon Springs and Tampa and ultimately in Sarasota. In 1926 he built the exotic Venetian palace, Ca' d'Zan (Venetian dialect for "House of John") in Sarasota. The circus industry was a critical element of

Ringling's early financial success, and it was the vehicle that allowed him to indulge his love of art. During his circus years, he collected more than 600 Baroque masterpieces. His collection of Rubens' work is thought to be the finest in the world. Upon his death in 1936, John Ringling willed his art museum, residence and its entire contents to the State of Florida. His Great Floridian plaque is located at Ca' d'Zan, 5401 Bayshore Road, Sarasota.

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## *Marie Selby*

was born Mariah Minshall, August 9, 1885 in Wood County, West Virginia. She attended a music seminary in Illinois, after which she met William Selby, a partner in the Selby Oil and Gas Company (which later created the Texaco Oil Company). They were married in 1908. William Selby brought Marie to Sarasota the year after their marriage. They built their bayfront residence in 1921. Marie created a garden for the property, enhancing it with flowerbeds and borders of flowers. The garden specializes in epiphytes (air plants) and has what many consider the most beautiful botanical garden collection of orchids in the United States. Marie Selby willed the property to the community as a garden; it was opened to the public in 1975. The Selbys also established the William and Marie Selby Foundation in 1955. Since its inception, the foundation has gifted more than 3,000 grants totaling \$50 million for education and scholarships. Marie Selby died June 9, 1971. Her great Floridian plaque is located at the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, 926 South Palm Avenue, Sarasota.

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## *Ernest Arthur Smith*

was born in Manchester, New Hampshire, July 18, 1878. He led one of the largest automobile distributing agencies in New England. He retired in 1921 and came to Sarasota where he entered the real estate business and became president of the Sarasota Abstract Company. In 1922 he helped reorganize the Chamber of Commerce. In 1931, Smith was elected Mayor of Sarasota and served for 12 years. During his six terms, water mains were extended to outlying communities, a water softening plant was built and fire hydrants installed, thus cutting insurance rates. Smith led the movement to acquire land for the Sarasota Municipal Auditorium, a municipal airport and the Chidsey Memorial Library. With the help of the Garden Club and other organizations, he made the municipal park into a city asset. Ernest Arthur Smith died in 1962. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Sarasota Municipal Auditorium, 801 North Tamiami Trail, Sarasota.

## *Karl Wallenda,*

patriarch of the Great Wallendas, a circus high wire act, was born in Magdeburg, Germany, in 1905. He learned wire walking from Louis Weitzmann and began to develop his own act, recruiting his brother Herman, an aerialist named Josef Geiger, and a teenage girl, Helen Kreis, who became his wife. When John Ringling saw them performing in Cuba in 1928 he contracted with them to appear in his circus. The Great Wallendas were headliners with the Ringling Brothers circus during the 1930s and 1940s. In 1947 in Sarasota, Wallenda created a seven-person pyramid for the act. Karl Wallenda died March 22, 1978 while performing on the high wire in Puerto Rico. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Karl Wallenda House, 1622 Arlington Street, Sarasota.

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## *Satellite Beach (Central East)*

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### *Percy L. Hedgecock*

was born in 1916 in North Carolina. After operating a construction business he came to Florida, first settling in Miami in 1952 and then moving to Brevard County in 1956. In August 1957, after the City of Satellite Beach was incorporated, Hedgecock became the first mayor and was elected to eight consecutive terms. While serving on the County School Board he negotiated the sale of an 80-acre tract on which was built a complete K-12 public school complex. He was also instrumental in the county's acquisition of the only oceanfront park in the city. Hedgecock traveled to Southeast Asia and the Soviet Union to seek Americans missing in action from the Vietnam War and to promote international cooperation. He was a member of service organizations, including the Lions Club and the Brevard County United Appeal. He assisted with the founding of Brevard Engineering College and served on the Board of Trustees of the Florida Institute of Technology. Percy L. Hedgecock died in 1987. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Satellite Beach City hall, 565 Cassia Boulevard, Satellite Beach.

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## *Sebastian (Central East)*

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### *Paul Kroegal*

was born January 9, 1864, the son of a German immigrant who homesteaded in the Sebastian area in 1881. Kroegal studied navigation and obtained his captain's papers when he was 21. He was the first county commissioner of St. Lucie County in 1905, and

was chairman of the board that built the first paved road from Micco to Stuart and the first bridge across the Sebastian River. Opposed to the shooting of pelicans for plumes, he campaigned to protect them, which resulted in a 1901 state law protecting all non-game birds. On March 14, 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt issued an Executive Order setting aside Pelican Island as a nature preserve and breeding ground for native birds. Kroegal was appointed the first National Wildlife Refuge warden in America. He held this position until 1926. Paul Kroegal died March 8, 1948 at his Sebastian home. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Paul Kroegal Memorial Statue, Riverview Park, Fellsmere Road and Indian River Drive, Sebastian.

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## *Sebring (Central)*

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### *Margaret Shippen Roebing*

was born in 1867 in Bernardsville, New Jersey. About 1930, while she and her husband were building a home in Lake Placid, Mrs. Roebing became aware of efforts to purchase and preserve Hooker's Hammock. The National Park System had previously declined to acquire it. The State of Florida did not have the means to purchase it, so Mrs. Roebing donated \$25,000 to enable local citizens to purchase acreage. She then donated another \$25,000 for a subsequent purchase. In 1930, after only a few of her ideas had been carried out, Mrs. Roebing died. Her husband completed her work as a memorial to her. The family ultimately donated a total of \$400 to \$500,000 to the project. The 8,140-acre Highlands Hammock State Park opened to the public in 1931, and is one of the oldest state parks and one of the earliest examples of grass-roots public support for environmental preservation in Florida. Mrs. Roebing's Great Floridian plaque is located in front of an interpretive display at Highlands Hammock State Park.

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## *St. Augustine (Northeast)*

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### *Dr. Andrew Anderson, Jr.*

was born in St. Augustine in 1839, a few months before his father died of yellow fever. He received his medical degree from Princeton University in 1865 and in 1874 was one of 14 physicians to form the Florida Medical Association. He wintered in St. Augustine until 1895 when he married Mary Elizabeth Smethurst, and they became full-time residents. Anderson became a close friend of Henry Flagler and in 1888 supervised

the construction of Flagler's two hotels, the Ponce de Leon and the Alcazar. Much of the Flagler property in downtown St. Augustine was purchased from Dr. Anderson. Anderson contributed the Carrera marble lions that guard the approach to the Bridge of Lions from downtown to Anastasia Island. Dr. Anderson also donated money to Flagler Hospital, the Memorial Presbyterian Church and the University of Florida. He died in 1924. His Great Floridian plaque is located at Markland, 102 King Street, St. Augustine.

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### *Frank B. Butler,*

born in Georgia in 1885, was a businessman, civic and political leader and founder of one of the few beaches for African-Americans in Florida. He operated a grocery store beginning in 1914 and the following year went into the real estate business. His company developed the College Park subdivision. He was the only African-American citizen from Florida to have an exhibit at the 1933 World's Fair in Chicago and was the first in Florida to serve on a grand jury. Butler began the development of Butler Beach, south of St. Augustine, in response to segregated beaches nearby. This site and American Beach north of Jacksonville were popular vacation resorts for African-Americans from northeast Florida and southeast Georgia. Frank B. Butler died in 1973. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Butler House, 87A Washington Street, St. Augustine.

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### *Felix deCrano,*

born in France in 1842, came to St. Augustine from Philadelphia in 1893 as part of Henry Flagler's "artist colony." As part of his resort complex, Flagler established a studio for half a dozen young artists. DeCrano was an accomplished portrait, landscape, genre and still life painter whose garden views and flower paintings became popular with the tourists who purchased them. The St. Augustine artist colony was discontinued in 1902 when Flagler and his entourage relocated to Palm Beach. DeCrano died September 15, 1908 in Wallingford, Pennsylvania. His works continue to be collected and represent landscapes from New England, St. Augustine and Europe, locations where he studied and worked. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Ponce de Leon Studios, Valencia and Cordova Streets, St. Augustine.

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### *Earl Cunningham*

was born in Maine in 1893. He moved to St. Augustine in 1949 where he developed as a self-taught American folk artist. His work included paintings of early 20th century schooners and portrayals of Seminole Indian life that he infused with images of Viking ships. Cunningham's work went largely unappreciated during his lifetime.

Not until 1986 when his works were exhibited through a partnership between the center for American Art and New York University was his ability as a folk artist recognized. Earl Cunningham died in 1977. Mr. Cunningham's work may be seen at the Mennello Museum of American Folk Art, 900 E. Princeton St., Orlando, Florida. For over thirty years, the museum has received more than 300 Cunningham paintings. His Great Floridian plaque is located at 1080 North Ponce de Leon Boulevard, St. Augustine.

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### *Anna Maria Dummett,*

was born in Barbados, the Bahamas in 1819 to English parents. She came to Florida with them about 1830 where they occupied a sugar plantation near present-day Titusville. As the Seminole Wars accelerated, the family moved to St. Augustine. In 1845 she inherited the Garcia-Dummett House (now the St. Francis Inn) and operated it as a boarding house. During the Civil War, she cared for the children of her brother-in-law General Hardee, volunteered as a nurse and may have been a Confederate spy. In 1866 she returned to St. Augustine and helped found the ladies Memorial Association, serving as president until her death in 1899. She helped establish a Confederate memorial on the Plaza. When the United Daughters of the Confederacy formed a chapter in St. Augustine, the women named it after Anna Dummett. Her Great Floridian plaque is located at the Garcia-Dummett House/St. Francis Inn, 279 St. George Street, St. Augustine.

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### *Louisa Fatio*

was born in 1797 to settlers at New Switzerland on the St. John's River located west of St. Augustine. She was born on the family's 10,000-acre plantation, which was burned during the War of 1812. The family returned to New Switzerland and rebuilt the plantation house between 1822 and 1824. In 1836, she moved to St. Augustine and began operating a boarding house. Miss Fatio was known for the fine table she kept at a house on the bay front, and at another establishment on south St. George Street. She purchased property at 22 Aviles Street in 1855. For 20 years, the Fatio House was highly regarded as one of St. Augustine's Inns. Visitors included Abijah Gilbert, Reconstruction senator from Florida, and nieces of James Fenimore Cooper, including Constance Fenimore Woolson. Louisa Fatio died in 1875. Her Great Floridian plaque is located at the Ximenez-Fatio House, 22 Aviles Street, St. Augustine.

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### *Henry Morrison Flagler*

was born in Hopewell, New York in 1830. Following the Civil War, he entered into a partnership with John D. Rockefeller and Samuel Andrews to found Standard

Oil Company. In 1885, Flagler came to St. Augustine and met Dr. Andrew Anderson. With Dr. Anderson's help, Flagler constructed the Hotel Ponce de Leon in 1888. Flagler invested \$60 million of his fortune in the development of Florida's East Coast, first through his hotels, then through his railroads and the land purchases that accompanied them. He crowned his career by extending the Florida East Coast Railway across the open sea to Key West. In addition to his coastal railroads and hotels, Flagler also financed agricultural enterprises and founded the Florida Power and Light Company. Henry Morrison Flagler died in 1913 and is buried in St. Augustine. His Great Floridian plaque is located at Flagler College, 74 King Street, St. Augustine.

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### *William B. Fraser,*

born in Flowery Branch, Georgia in 1888, was one of nine children of a circuit Methodist minister. In 1912 he became Superintendent of Schools in Worth County, Georgia and began to explore Southeast Georgia and North Florida. In 1927 he purchased the St. Augustine estate of Dr. Luella McConnell, known as the "Fountain of Youth." From 1933 to 1943 Fraser served on the City Commission, the last seven of those years as mayor. He served in the Florida Senate from 1944 to 1948. During the 1930s Fraser organized St. Augustine's first formal restoration movement, Colonial St. Augustine, Inc. This was the forerunner of the Historic St. Augustine Preservation Board. Research was undertaken, properties acquired and significant sites developed for interpretation by Colonial St. Augustine, Inc. He donated the statues of Ponce de Leon and Pedro Menendez that flank U.S. 1 at the North City Gate. William B. Fraser died in 1972. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Oldest School House, 14 St. George Street, St. Augustine.

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### *Nina Hawkins*

was born in 1889 at Lake George in Putnam County and lived there until 1900 when her family moved to St. Augustine. In 1909, she received a teaching certificate from Stetson University. The following year she accepted a job with the St. Augustine Record as a society reporter. Hawkins became City Editor and, by 1925, was Managing Editor. Nine years later she was appointed Editor by the Flagler Board of Trustees, the first Florida woman to do so without being related to a newspaper owner. She served in that capacity until her retirement in 1953. She co-founded the Florida Women's Press Club and was a founder of the St. Augustine Art Association. When St. Augustine's historic preservation movement began during the 1930s, Hawkins focused the newspaper on local history and historic preservation to aid the effort. Nina Hawkins died in 1972. Her Great Floridian

plaque is located at the St. Augustine Record Building, 158 Cordova Street, St. Augustine.

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### *Martin Johnson Heade*

was born in 1819 in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. His father, a prosperous farmer, encouraged him to paint. He worked as a portrait and genre painter early in his life, and later turned to painting landscapes, especially salt marshes. In 1883 he married, bought a house and settled in St. Augustine. He had a wealthy patron in Henry Flagler who furnished Heade with a studio at his Ponce de Leon Hotel. Heade's popularity and income declined as Flagler extended his railroad further south from St. Augustine and his hotel patrons continued with it. Martin Johnson Heade died in 1904. His work was largely overlooked until 1945, when a Museum of Modern Art exhibition included one of his paintings. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Ponce de Leon Studios, Valencia Street, St. Augustine.

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### *Lawrence Lewis, Jr.*

was born in Wilmington, North Carolina, July 6, 1918. That same year he moved with his family to St. Augustine. He attended the University of Virginia. During the 1960s he rose from executive president to chairman of the Flagler Systems, a company formed by the merger of the Florida East Coast Hotel Company and the Model Land Company. Lewis established Flagler College, an independent liberal arts college in St. Augustine in 1968. The college is housed in the former Hotel Ponce de Leon, built by Henry Flagler in 1888. Renovation and transformation costs of the hotel as Flagler College totaled more than \$14 million. This undertaking was planned and executed under the leadership of Lewis and was funded by him and the members of his family, the Flagler Foundation and the Kenan Charitable Trust. Lewis' contributions to the college included scholarships, endowments and new buildings. Lewis was the president of both the Historic St. Augustine Preservation Board and the St. Augustine Foundation. In 1995 Lewis was made an Honorary Member of the American Institute of Architects, the highest honor given to a non-architect by the organization. The University of Virginia later established the Lewis Chair in Architecture. Lawrence Lewis died in 1995. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Lewis House, 18 Valencia Street, St. Augustine.

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### *William Wing Loring*

was born in 1818 in Wilmington, North Carolina. In 1834, at the age of 14, he served with the Florida Militia in the Seminole Indian War. He became a lawyer and in 1841 was appointed governor of the Florida Territory. In 1845 he was elected from St. Johns County to the House

of Representatives of the new State of Florida. He served in the Mexican War in 1847 and in the 1850s spent eight years with the U. S. Army in the West. In 1860 he was appointed Brigadier General in the Confederate Army. He served in West Virginia, Vicksburg and the Atlanta campaign where he was severely wounded. After the Civil War he led a contingent of Union and Confederate officers to Egypt where he spent eight years as head of the country's defense. In 1880 Loring returned to St. Augustine and then to New York City. After lecturing for a number of years he died in 1886. His Great Floridian plaque is located at Loring Plot, 138 St. George Street, St. Augustine.

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### *Dr. Luella Day McConnell*

was born in 1870 in Baltimore, Maryland. She was a practicing physician in Chicago, when, in 1898 she succumbed to "gold rush fever" and relocated to Dawson, a trading post that became the capital of the Yukon Territory. She was outspoken about graft and corruption in the territorial government, and officials passed laws that precluded her ability to practice medicine. About 1904, "Diamond Lil," as she was known, arrived in St. Augustine. She bought land adjacent to the Matanzas Inlet north of the Mission de Nombre de Dios and created the Fountain of Youth tourist attraction. Until her death in 1927, in St. Augustine, she fabricated stories to amuse and appall the city's residents. Her Great Floridian plaque is located at the Fountain of Youth, 11 Magnolia Street, St. Augustine.

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### *Albert Manucy,*

born in 1910, was the authoritative scholar on St. Augustine history and architecture. After graduating with a Master's degree from the University of Florida in 1934, he went to work for the National Park Service, and studied the Castillo de San Marcos in detail. He published his first book, *The Houses of St. Augustine, 1566-1821*, and explored Spanish architecture on a Fulbright scholarship. In 1966 he became curator for the Southeast Regional Office of the Park Service. In 1977, he published *Sixteenth Century St. Augustine: The People and Their Homes*. He discovered that from 1566 to 1572, the town of St. Augustine was actually situated on Anastasia Island, not on the mainland. This was later confirmed by historians. Albert Manucy died in 1997. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the National Park Service Administration Building, 1 Castillo Drive, St. Augustine.

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### *Pedro Menendez de Aviles,*

born in Spain in 1519, was a Spanish Naval Officer and founder of St. Augustine. At the age of 35 he was appointed captain-general of the Indies fleet and in

June, 1565 sailed with his fleet from Cadiz to Florida and sailed north to Jean Ribaut's French fleet at Fort Caroline. It was during this voyage looking for Ribaut, probably on September 4, 1656, that he located a "good harbor, with a good beach," to which he gave the name St. Augustine. He scattered Ribaut's forces and took his fleet back to St. Augustine, where on the morning of September 8th he came ashore and founded the city. Using St. Augustine as his base, he marched overland to Fort Caroline and on September 20th captured it. He proceeded to explore the Florida peninsula and to establish Spanish posts on both coasts, at Port Royal and in Chesapeake Bay. He died in 1574. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Pedro Menendez de Aviles Statue, 75 King Street, St. Augustine.

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### *Prince Napoleon Achille Murat*

was born in 1801, the Crown Prince of Naples. In physical appearance, he resembled his uncle, Napoleon Bonaparte. Murat came to St. Augustine in the spring of 1824, and quickly became woven into the social fabric of the community. He joined the Masonic lodge, became a bondsman of the city treasurer and dabbled in local politics. While living in New Orleans and Tallahassee, Murat studied and wrote about the law and government, publishing *A Moral and Political Sketch of the United States of North America* in 1832 and other works. After unsuccessfully pursuing the Bonaparte inheritance in Europe in the late 1830s, Murat and his wife Catherine, retired to their Tallahassee plantation. There, he died April 15, 1847 at the age of 46. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Prince Murat House, 250 St. George Street, St. Augustine.

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### *Francisco Pellicer*

was born in Minorca around 1747. He was 21 when he left Minorca and landed in New Smyrna. After entering into a partnership, he and Jose Peso de Burgo bought a lot on St. George Street in St. Augustine where they built a house. Pellicer was one of a dozen carpenters in St. Augustine and prospered. He bought land on present-day Orange Street and sold his house on St. George Street. Later he moved his family to a larger farm south of St. Augustine on the Matanzas River. Today the creek and the surrounding area bear his name, Pellicer Creek. His house on St. George Street has been reconstructed and bears his name. Francisco Pellicer died c. 1820. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Pellicer House, 53 St. George Street, St. Augustine.

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### *Xavier Lopez Pellicer*

was born in St. Augustine, February 8, 1900, one of nine children of Andrew Joseph and Josephine Lopez Pellicer. He attended the Rutgers School of Banking, went to

work for the St. Augustine National Bank in 1919 and retired as a senior vice president in 1966. He served as president of the Rotary Club; president of the Board of Trustees of Flagler Hospital and trustee for 40 years; president and director of the St. Augustine Historical Society; president of the Florida Bankers Association and president of the Florida Forestry Association. Pellicer also served for seven years as a national director of the American Forestry Association and for three years on the Florida Board of Forestry and Parks during the term of Governor Millard Caldwell. During the restoration of the Llambias House in St. Augustine, he met Fernando Rubio of Mahon, Minorca. They were responsible for the donation of a bronze statue commemorating the Minorcans. Xavier Lopez Pellicer died in 1990. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Llambias House, 31 St. Francis Street, St. Augustine.

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### *Verle A. Pope,*

51st President of the Florida Senate, was born in Jacksonville, December 12, 1903. He spent most of his life in St. Augustine where he became a successful businessman and one of St. Johns County's largest landowners. He first entered politics in 1934 as a candidate for the St. Johns County Commission. He won a seat in the Florida House of Representatives in 1942 but resigned to enter the U. S. Army. He returned to St. Augustine in 1945 and in 1948 was elected to the Florida Senate. He served as Senate President from 1966 to 1968. Pope helped to approve the Florida Constitutional revision of 1968, to establish the community college system, create the Historic St. Augustine Preservation Board and advance the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind. He donated 40 acres of land to the St. Augustine Technical School and contributed to historic preservation in St. Augustine. Verle A. Pope died at his St. Augustine home July 18, 1973. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind, 207 North San Marco Avenue, St. Augustine.

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### *Robert L. Ripley*

was born December 25, 1893 in Santa Rosa, California. His *Believe It Or Not* cartoon panel was a staple of American newspapers in the first half of the 20th century. The cartoon featured true-life oddities from around the world, always with the tagline "Believe It . . . Or Not!" Ripley's first cartoon appeared in the New York Globe in 1918. As his readership grew, he began traveling abroad to find information, eventually claiming to have visited 198 different countries. He owned three homes in Florida, one of which was located in Palm Beach. Although Ripley never lived in St. Augustine, he often passed the Castle Warden Building and spoke of it as an ideal showplace. After his death, May 27, 1949, the building became home to a unique collection of art

objects, oddities and curiosities. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Ripley's Believe or Not Museum, 19 San Marco Avenue, St. Augustine.

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### *General Edmund Kirby Smith,*

born in 1824 in St. Augustine, graduated from West Point in 1845 and served in the army during the Mexican War. He resigned from the U. S. Army to join the Confederacy. He served under generals Joseph Johnston, Gustave Beauregard and Braxton Bragg and was instrumental in Confederate success at the First Battle of Bull Run in Virginia. In 1863, he was promoted to Lieutenant General commanding the Trans-Mississippi Department, the highest-ranking Confederate officer in the western campaign. On May 26, 1865, he surrendered his troops, the last major Confederate army to surrender. Following the war, Kirby Smith served as president of a telegraph company, then of the Western Military Academy in Nashville, and became a mathematics teacher at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee. General Edmund Kirby Smith died in 1893, the last surviving full general of either army. His Great Floridian plaque is Sequi-Kirby Smith House, 12 Aviles Street, St. Augustine.

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### *Frances Kirby Smith,*

born in 1785, was St. Augustine's most successful Confederate spy. Though born in Connecticut, she and her husband Judge Joseph Lee Smith moved to St. Augustine about 1820. For months before and during the Union occupation of Fort Marion (Castillo de San Marcos) she orchestrated the transport of mail to Confederate troops. At the same time, she entertained Union officers and learned of planned maneuvers, passing the knowledge to the Confederate Army. In the spring of 1863, the federal government ordered the removal of Southern sympathizers from their homes. After the war Smith returned to St. Augustine and lived for another decade, a Confederate supporter until the end. Francis Kirby Smith died in 1875. Her Great Floridian plaque is Sequi-Kirby Smith House, 12 Aviles Street, St. Augustine.

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### *Franklin Waldo Smith*

was born in Boston, Massachusetts, October 9, 1826. A prominent architect, his accomplishments in Boston included renovation of the Tremont Temple. Smith and his wife decided to maintain a winter residence in St. Augustine, and built the Villa Zorayda based on the Moorish architecture of the Alhambra in Granada, Spain. To construct the building he used reinforced concrete mixed with coquina, a mix of shell fragments and quartz sand found in deposits around the city. He encouraged Henry Flagler to use Spanish architecture

for his St. Augustine hotels and to use the poured concrete and coquina method of construction. In 1891 he built the Casa Monica Hotel in the Moorish Revival style to complement Flagler's Ponce de Leon and Alcazar Hotels. Smith's architectural design influenced William G. Warden of Standard Oil, who built the Castle Warden in the Moorish Revival style. An early preservationist, Smith recommended that future construction in St. Augustine conform to the city's Spanish architectural heritage. Franklin Waldo Smith died in 1911. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Casa Monica Hotel, 99 Cordova Street, St. Augustine.

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### *Thomas Buckingham Smith*

was born in 1810 on Cumberland Island, Georgia. In 1820, he moved to St. Augustine with his mother and younger sister. In 1836 he graduated from Harvard Law School and returned to St. Augustine to practice law. Smith served a term on the city council and, in 1841, a term in the Florida Territorial Legislature. From 1850 until 1868, he held foreign service offices in Mexico and Spain. During these years, he researched Spanish settlement in Florida. He translated numerous documents from Spanish or Portuguese to English including *The Narrative of Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca* (1851) and *Narratives of the Career of Hernando de Soto in the Conquest of Florida, as told by a Knight of Elvas* (1866), and authored several important publications. Although Smith and his mother were slave owners he supported the Union in the Civil War. His will provided a life estate to one of his former slaves and cash to others. The remainder of his estate became The Buckingham Smith Benevolent Association, a corporation that benefits African-Americans in St. Augustine. This fund is partially responsible for recent nursing home construction in the city. In 1868 he was appointed tax commissioner in Florida, but in 1870, relocated to New York City and died there the following year. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Huguenot Cemetery, Castillo Drive, St. Augustine.

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### *Elizabeth Morley Towers*

was born in 1899. She came to St. Augustine in 1918 shortly before she married and moved to Jacksonville. When the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America acquired the Ximenez-Fatio House in downtown St. Augustine in 1939, she served as the house chairman overseeing the building's restoration. Her duties included researching and collecting photographs and memorabilia for the museum and fundraising to complete the project. For 40 years she was involved with historic preservation in St. Augustine. She served on the St. Augustine Preservation Board and helped restore the Hispanic Garden. Her final preservation project was the restoration of the Joaneda House. Under three Florida

governors she served on the State Park Board. Elizabeth Morley Towers died in 1985. Her Great Floridian plaque is located at the Joaneda House, 57 Treasury Street, St. Augustine.

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### *Henry L. Twine*

was born in 1923 in Tallahassee, Florida and spent his adult life working for the betterment of the African-American community in St. Augustine. He served as president of the local NAACP chapter during the 1960s Civil Rights movement, and was a member of the Democratic Party's Executive Committee. During his three terms on the St. Augustine City Commission he gained a reputation as a consensus builder. He served two terms as the city's first African-American vice mayor. Henry L. Twine died in 1994. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Twine House, 163 Twine Street, St. Augustine.

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### *F. Charles Usina*

was born in 1903 and educated in St. Augustine. He was a State Representative for 11 terms from 1943 until 1966, and was noted for his work on the public health committees. He was a champion of the State Mental Health program and helped pass legislation benefiting the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind in St. Augustine. He served on the school's Board of Trustees from 1963 to 1966, and the school's stadium is named for him. Representative Usina was a past president and Lt. Governor of the Kiwanis, past president of the Chamber of Commerce and the past deputy grand knight of the Knights of Columbus. He was also a member of the Elks Club, the Loyal Order of Moose, the St. Augustine Historical Society and the Committee of 100. F. Charles Usina died in 1966. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the F. Charles Usina Athletic Field, Florida School for the Deaf and Blind, 207 North San Marco Avenue, St. Augustine.

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### *Father Felix Varela*

was born in Santiago, Cuba, November 20, 1788. After the death of his mother, he was placed in the care of his maternal grandfather, an officer at the Castillo de San Marcos in St. Augustine. He was ordained a priest in 1811 and was designated a Professor of Philosophy at the Seminary College of San Carlos y San Ambrosia in Havana. In 1823, he moved to New York City where he conducted his ministry for 30 years. There he founded schools for children, built churches and evangelized the poor. Varela was an outspoken advocate for Cuban independence and worked to improve the conditions of African-Americans. Poor health forced him to retire to St. Augustine where he died February 18, 1853. He was buried in the city's Tolomato Cemetery but was re-

interred in 1911 in Havana where a national shrine was built in his honor. In 1985 the Holy See authorized the Cuban Episcopate to begin the canonical process on the sainthood of Father Varela. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Basilica-Cathedral of St. Augustine, 36 Cathedral Place, St. Augustine.

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### *Emily Lloyd Wilson*

was born c. 1868 in Altoona, Pennsylvania. After studying at the Philadelphia School of Design, her interest in art encouraged her to visit St. Augustine in 1901 when Henry Flagler's artist colony was in residence at the Ponce de Leon studios. She purchased a residence at 280 St. George Street and lived there each winter until she was 90 years old. From 1919 to 1953 she researched the history of the city. She traveled repeatedly to Tallahassee and Washington, D.C. in search of information and during her summers in New Jersey she solicited documents and maps for review. Wilson secured copies of old maps, documents and Spanish records, which became the basis for the St. Augustine Historical Society's library. She served as librarian and historian. When city officials began to resurrect the colonial city in the 1930s, her research provided valuable information. Emily Lloyd Wilson died in 1960. Her Great Floridian plaque is located at the Webb Building, 18 St. Francis Street, St. Augustine.

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### *St. Pete Beach (Central West)*

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#### *Frank T. Hurley*

was born August 16, 1898 on the Sioux Indian Reservation at Fort Peck, Montana and graduated from Gonzaga College in 1917. He spent World Wars I and II on the General Staff of the U.S. Army and in 1944, was assigned to General Dwight Eisenhower's Supreme Headquarters in Europe. He retired because of disabilities in late 1945, and moved to Pass-a-Grille Beach. In 1948 he formed Frank T. Hurley Associates, Inc., Realtors. He became director of the St. Petersburg Board of Realtors, president and lifetime director of the Gulf Beach-Seminole Board of Realtors, president of the Gulf Coast Mortgage Company, and served on the boards of private and civic organizations. From 1957 to 1965 Hurley headed the Long Key Sewer District, which consolidated Long Key's four small towns—Pass-a-Grille Beach, Don Ce-Sar Place, Belle Vista Beach and St. Petersburg Beach—into present-day St. Petersburg Beach (now named St. Pete Beach). Frank T. Hurley died March 9, 1966. His Great Floridian plaque is located at Colonel Frank T. Hurley Park, Gulf Way between 15th and 16th Avenues, St. Pete Beach.

### *Thomas J. Rowe*

was born June 14, 1872 in Cambridge Post, Massachusetts. Educated in England, he returned to the U.S. at 21 and moved to Norfolk, Virginia, where he dealt in real estate for more than 20 years. In 1919 he moved to St. Petersburg where he decided to build a large hotel on the beach. Construction began in 1926 and the hotel opened January 16, 1928. Even though the real estate boom was nearing an end, Rowe parlayed a \$21,000 investment into a fortune of over \$1million. Rowe named the hotel after his favorite opera star, Don Caesae de Bazan from the opera "Maritana." Thomas J. Rowe died at the Don CeSar Hotel, May 5, 1940. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Don CeSar Beach Resort & Spa, 3400 Gulf Boulevard, St. Pete Beach.

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### *St. Petersburg (Central West)*

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#### *Earl Morrow Clark*

was born May 5, 1915 in Hamlet, North Carolina. He came to Admiral Farragut Academy in St. Petersburg in 1946 and taught French and Spanish. In 1948 he was named Headmaster and served 28 years. During his tenure, he added a new academic building, a new science building, a new gym and a new swimming pool. He was a member of the Southern Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges, the Association of Military Schools and Colleges of the United States, and the Southern Association of Independent Schools. In 1958 Clark was appointed to the Florida Committee of Southern Schools and Colleges and, as a representative of Florida, became a member of the Central Reviewing Committee of the Association. In 1976 the Florida Committee Secondary Commission issued a Special Citation to him for his outstanding contribution to education. Earl Morrow Clark died February 25, 1976. His great Floridian plaque is located on the Clark Building, Admiral Farragut Academy, 501 Park Street North, St. Petersburg.

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#### *Dr. Paul R. Hortin*

was born in 1903 in Albion, Illinois. He graduated from Garrett Biblical Institute in 1931, obtaining his Doctor of Divinity Degree in 1941. He came to St. Petersburg to begin the longest ministry at any one church in the Florida Methodist Conference, 41 years. Christ United Methodist Church in downtown St. Petersburg, was founded in 1890, and under Dr. Hortin's leadership, the sanctuary was completed in 1953. He carried out his ministry not only from the pulpit but also on fishing expeditions, hunting trips and in travelogues. The

Religious Heritage of America recognized Horton in 1969 with the Religious Service Citation for “outstanding service to God and mankind.” The City of St. Petersburg gave him the Silver Citizen Award and made him Sportsman of the Year. Dr. Paul Hortin died in 1990. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Christ Methodist Church, First Avenue North at Fifth Street, St. Petersburg.

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## *Stuart (Southeast)*

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### *Morris Raiford Johns*

was born September 3, 1867 in Orange County, Florida. He left the Orlando area when he was in his early twenties for the town of Rockledge in Brevard County. He established a reputation there as a skilled farmer. When O. K. Woods and his two brothers came to Stuart in 1889 to farm pineapples, they hired Morris to oversee their plantings. In 1894 he homesteaded a 160-acre parcel of land and, following his marriage, established a successful pineapple plantation. Johns later operated a grocery, dry cleaning service, and funeral home. In the 1920s he became Deputy Sheriff of Juno. He died in the line of duty, October 1, 1924. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Martin County Cultural Arts Center, East Ocean Boulevard, Stuart.

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### *Walter Kitching,*

born in 1846, came to Stuart, then called Potsdam, in 1883. He was a merchant, philanthropist, justice of the peace, notary public, banker and superintendent of the Methodist Sunday School. In 1894 he persuaded Henry Flagler to bring his Florida East Coast (FEC) Railroad through Stuart rather than Sewall’s Point, and to build a ferry landing on the south side of the river. Kitching offered Flagler \$200 and all the land he needed to bring the FEC line through Stuart. Flagler accepted the land but not the cash, and the FEC line is still active today in Stuart. Walter Kitching died in 1932. His Great Floridian plaque is located at his former residence, 210 Atlanta Avenue, Stuart.

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### *George W. Parks*

was born January 28, 1876 at Seven Springs, North Carolina. He moved with his family when he was seven to Altoona in Lake County and then came to Jensen on the Florida East Coast when he was 17. Parks was a pioneer in Stuart’s early history, building the present-day Stuart Feed Store (now renovated and operating as a museum) in 1901 to provide necessary commodities for the town’s people. He raised his family in the building’s upstairs apartment, and the store remained in the

Parks’ family until 1946. He was instrumental in the founding of Stuart’s first bank in 1912 and served on the Town Council, as well as mayor. He was one of the organizers to incorporate the Town of Stuart in 1914 and was instrumental in the formation of Martin County in 1925. He brought Gulf Oil to Stuart in 1908 and went into business with C. E. (Riley) Christensen in the Stuart Mercantile Company from 1911 to 1924. He was a member of the Rotary Club, Masonic Lodge, Chamber of Commerce (then called the Commercial Club) and Woodmen of the World. George W. Parks died in 1943. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Stuart Feed Store, 161 S.W. Flagler Avenue, Stuart.

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### *James R. Pomeroy,*

born in 1872, came to Florida in 1900 from Crosswell, Michigan. He taught school and was principal of Fort Pierce and Stuart schools between 1900 and 1925. In 1910 he became a member and later served a term as Superintendent of the Palm Beach County School Board, while continuing to teach and serve as principal in Stuart. He managed the East Coast Lumber Company in Stuart and in 1914 was one of the charter members for the incorporation of the town, after which he served as president of the town council. During these years Pomeroy bought land, and planted and sold pineapples, under the name of the Silk Oak Pinery. In 1918 he was appointed Postmaster of the Stuart Post Office. When Martin County was created in 1925, he was appointed Clerk of the Circuit Court and remained in the position until his death in 1949. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Martin County Cultural Arts Center, East Ocean Boulevard, Stuart.

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## *Sunrise (Southeast)*

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### *Dan Pearl*

was born in 1910. A former New York State parole officer, he retired and moved to Sunrise in 1972. He was appointed to the City Commission in 1978, then was elected to office in 1979. He served as assistant deputy mayor, deputy mayor and mayor of Sunrise from 1989 to 1993. Broward County’s largest branch library bears his name. It was built in Sunrise after much effort by Pearl. He was a member of numerous boards and organizations, including the Florida League of Cities, the Gold Coast League of Cities, the Broward Planning Council, the South Florida Regional Planning Council and the American Cancer Society. Dan Pearl died in 1996. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Sunrise Dan Pearl Library, 10500 West Oakland Park Boulevard, Sunrise.

## Tallahassee (North Central)

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### *Dr. Mark Frederick Boyd*

was born in 1898 and was internationally recognized for his research in tropical diseases. He was President of the American Academy of Tropical Medicine and the American Society of Tropical Medicine and edited two volumes concerning Malaria. He was director of the Station for Malaria Research, International Health Division, Rockefeller Foundation. He was president of the Florida Historical Society and initiated the Florida Historical Marker Program. Boyd wrote several articles for the Florida Historical Quarterly on Civil War battles in Florida and on early Mission sites and helped survey the Woodruff Reservoir area. He was instrumental in the preservation of the San Luis Mission site in Tallahassee. Dr. Mark Frederick Boyd died in 1968. His Great Floridian Plaque is located at the San Luis Mission Site, Tallahassee.

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### *Dr. Merritt Ryals Clements*

was born in Greenville, Florida in 1911. He graduated from high school at the age of 16, and from Emory Medical School in 1935. In 1939 he moved to Tallahassee to begin his medical practice, then served in the Navy in World War II. Upon returning to Tallahassee, he worked at Florida A&M Hospital and the Baptist Hospital at Dale Mabry Field. He was a founder of the Cancer Tumor Clinic at the FAMU Hospital. In 1948 Dr. Clements was a founder of Tallahassee Memorial Hospital and advanced the field of obstetrics and gynecology in rural North Florida. He served as Department Chairman and Chief of Staff at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital from 1958 to 1959. He was the first physician in the area to have an integrated waiting room. Dr. Merritt Clements died in 1988. His Great Floridian plaque is located at 1545 Lee Avenue, Tallahassee.

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### *Dr. J. Broward Culpepper*

was born December 9, 1907 in Perry. He received a Ph. D. from Columbia University, then began his career in education as an administrator, teacher and high school principal of Leon High School, Tallahassee, from 1941 to 1944. He then became Dean of Men at Florida State University. He left FSU to become Secretary and Director of the Board of Control (the previous name for the Board of Regents), and was subsequently named the first Chancellor of Florida's State University system. Culpepper expanded the university system, creating the Universities of West Florida, South Florida and Florida Atlantic University. He resigned from the Florida State

University System to become Vice President of Texas Woman's University. Dr. J. Broward Culpepper died in 1991. His Great Floridian plaque is located at Leon High School, Tennessee Street and Meridian Road, Tallahassee.

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### *B. Calvin Jones*

was born October 31, 1938 in Longview Texas. He received his B.A. and M.A. degrees in anthropology from the University of Oklahoma. In 1968 he became an archaeologist with the State of Florida. In 1987, he discovered and excavated the 1539-40 deSoto winter encampment site located in Tallahassee, the first identified site for that expedition. Governor Bob Graham and his cabinet commended and thanked Jones for his efforts, in May 1987. On May 17, 1990, he was recognized by a Florida Senate Resolution for the discovery and excavation of nine Spanish mission sites in Leon and Jefferson Counties, and for his work at the Lake Jackson Mounds site. His Lake Jackson Mounds research resulted in the site's recognition of one of the most important Native-American sites in the Southeastern United States dating from the period 1000-1400. B. Calvin Jones died February 15, 1998. His Great Floridian plaque is located adjacent to the Governor Martin House, 1022 De Soto Park Drive, Tallahassee.

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### *William Valentine Knott*

was born in Georgia in 1863, and journeyed to Florida in a covered wagon in 1881. In 1885, he was appointed Deputy Clerk of the Court in Sumterville. He filled that post for three years, then held the same position in Putnam County for a year. In 1896 he was appointed by Hillsborough County to audit its accounts, and in 1897 Governor William Bloxham asked him to audit accounts statewide. As State Auditor for the next six years, Knott saved Florida's citizens more than \$100,000. In 1903 he was appointed State Treasurer. He held that post until 1912 when Governor Albert Gilchrist named him State Comptroller. After a defeat in his bid for governor in 1916, Knott served as superintendent of the Florida State Hospital in Chattahoochee from 1921 to 1927. In 1927, Governor John Martin appointed him State Comptroller, again. The next year Knott was appointed, then elected, State Treasurer, a position he filled until his retirement in 1941. William V. Knott died in 1965 at the age of 101. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the W. V. Knott House, 301 East Park Avenue, Tallahassee.

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### *Catherine Murat,*

great-grandniece of George Washington, was born August 17, 1803 near Fredericksburg, Virginia. She came with her parents, three brothers and two sisters to

Tallahassee about 1825 and married her second husband, Achille Murat, in 1826. He was the nephew of Napoleon Bonaparte. She inherited the 2,000-acre Murat plantation in Jefferson County in 1847 upon the death of her husband. In 1854 she bought Bellevue, in Leon County, which became her primary residence. During her years at Bellevue, Catherine became involved in the nation's first successful preservation effort, the Mount Vernon Ladies Association's work to preserve George Washington's home. She was appointed Vice-Regent for Florida, the title given the central person in each state organizing the association's work. The state raised \$3,791 toward the restoration of Mount Vernon, the largest per capita amount raised by any of the 30 contributing states. During the Civil War, Murat participated in the local "Soldiers Aid Societies," who met as sewing circles to clothe the southern troops. Early in 1866, Napoleon III, who had come to power in France in 1849, granted Murat an annuity from the French government in consideration of her losses during the Civil War. Catherine Murat died August 6, 1867 at Bellevue. Her Great Floridian plaque is located at Bellevue, Tallahassee Museum of History and Natural Science, 3945 Museum Drive, Tallahassee.

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### *James Page*

was born in 1808 into slavery in Richmond, Virginia. At about the age of 20, he and his wife came to Leon County with their master, Colonel John H. Parkhill, settling on a plantation named Bel Air. Parkhill's religious devotion influenced Page to take up the ministry. In 1851 at Newport, Florida, a white, Baptist minister ordained James Page as Florida's first and only African-American minister at that time. In the same year he founded the Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church of Bel Air, the first regularly organized black church in Florida. Between 1865 and 1870 Reverend Page organized the Bethel Baptist Church in Tallahassee. Page served as a Leon County delegate to the Republican Convention in 1867, a Leon County Commissioner, 1869 to 1870, and legislative chaplain of the Florida Senate, 1868 to 1870. In 1870 he ran unsuccessfully for State Senate, but returned to public office in 1872 when Governor Hart appointed him as Leon County's Justice of the Peace. Reverend James Page died March 14, 1883. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church, 3945 Museum Drive, Tallahassee.

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### *Romulus Hunter Thompson*

was born in 1906. In 1938, he was hired by the Okaloosa County School Board to form the first high school band at Okaloosa County High School in Crestview (now Crestview High School). He completed two successful years in Crestview before being hired to form the first band at Leon High School in Tallahassee. In 1940, he

began a 10-year tenure as director at Leon High School, one of two public high schools in Tallahassee. He was also responsible for teaching musical instruments to elementary school students. In the mid-1950s, he was hired as the band director at Jefferson County High School in Monticello, Florida. Romulus Hunter Thompson retired from teaching in the 1970s and died in 1996. His Great Floridian plaque is located at Leon High School, Tennessee Street and Meridian Road, Tallahassee.

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### *Curtis L. Waller,*

born in 1887, came to Florida as a young attorney in 1918. Shortly thereafter he and Claude Pepper established the law firm of Waller and Pepper. Judge Waller was elected to the state legislature, became State's Attorney, State Circuit Judge and was finally appointed to the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals by Franklin Roosevelt. During his judicial career Judge Waller never had a decision overturned by a higher court. After his death in 1950, the State of Florida named a park near the south steps of the Florida Capitol building in his honor. His Great Floridian plaque is located at 416 Williams Street, Tallahassee.

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## *Tampa (Central West)*

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### *Cesar Gonzmart*

was born March 6, 1920 in Tampa. He expanded the oldest Spanish restaurant in the United States, the original Columbia Restaurant in Tampa's Ybor City, into a series of successful restaurants in Sarasota, St. Augustine, St. Petersburg, Sand Key and Tampa's Harbour Island. He was cited by state and community organizations for promoting Tampa's Ybor City Historic District. Citations include the 1991 Tony Pizzo Award for Preservation of Tampa's Latin Heritage from the Ybor City Museum Society; 1992 Hispanic Man of the Year from Tampa Hispanic Heritage; and a 1993 State of Florida Resolution citing his lifetime accomplishments to the community and as a Florida businessman. In 1972 Gonzmart founded the Krewe of the Knights of Sant' Yago Tampa. He was honored as an official Knight of Sant' Yago and served as its second king in 1974. Cesar Gonzmart died on December 9, 1992. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Columbia Restaurant, 2117 East 7th Avenue, Tampa.

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### *Celestino Vega*

was born in 1870 in Spain. He immigrated to the United States in 1884, became a citizen in 1896 and moved his

cigar manufacturing facility to West Tampa from Chicago in 1908. The Centro Espanol, one of the first ethnic benevolent societies in the United States, was established in Tampa in 1891 with 205 members. Vega was elected to the presidency in 1911, a position he held for five years. During his years of leadership, he raised the capital and supervised the construction of two of the society's buildings. In 1929 King Alfonso XIII of Spain inducted Vega into the prestigious Order of Ysebella La Catolica in recognition of his lifetime contribution to the promotion of Spanish arts and culture in the United States. Celestino Vega died in 1963. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Centro Espanol, 7th Avenue and 16th Street, Tampa.

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### *Vicente Martinez Ybor,*

born in 1818, was a major figure in the founding and development of Ybor City. He participated in negotiations with the Tampa Board of Trade in 1885 and led efforts to purchase land adjacent to Tampa for the cigar industry and its accompanying community. In addition to building his factory, Ybor created a system for the workers to buy their houses. He built the first hotel in Ybor City, El Pasaje. He organized the Ybor Land & Improvement Company, which encouraged entrepreneurs to establish businesses in Ybor City. The company invested in the Florida Brewing Company and the Tampa Gas Company, provided more than \$250,000 to grade streets, erect streetlights and enforce sanitary measures. Vicente Martinez Ybor died in 1896. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Ybor City State Museum, 1818 East 9th Avenue, Tampa.

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### *Tarpon Springs (Central West)*

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### *Peter Themis Assimack*

was born in 1961 and attended the University of Florida. A certified public accountant by profession, he served as president of the Tarpon Springs Chamber of Commerce, treasurer of the Board of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral, member of the Tarpon Springs and New Port Richey Rotary, and member of the Florida Conservation Association. Assimack was elected president of the American Hellenic Education Progressive Association (AHEPA) and volunteered much time to the organization. Following his death in 1996, the Tarpon Springs Chamber of Commerce named its fishing tournament in his memory. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral Community Center, Orange Street and Pinellas Avenue North, Tarpon Springs.

### *John K. Cheyney*

was born in 1858 in Philadelphia. His father sent him to Tarpon Springs in 1886 to manage family interests in developing the town as a tourist destination and base for fishing, lumber and citrus. Cheyney believed that the sponge industry would provide additional revenue for the town's economic development. In 1891, he formed the Anclote and Rock Island Sponge Company, with offices in Philadelphia and Tarpon Springs. In 1897 Cheyney hired John Corcoris, a Greek sponge buyer who utilized a diving suit that allowed men to spend hours at a time underwater to harvest greater quantities of sponge. In 1905 the first Greek sponge divers were invited to Tarpon Springs, the beginning of the city's Greek community. In 1907 Cheyney helped form the Sponge Exchange, a marketplace where buyers could bid on spongers' harvests. He served on committees that promoted the industry and lobbied against legislation that would restrict the Tarpon Springs divers. He held a number of offices in the Tarpon Springs government. John K. Cheyney died in 1939. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the AHEPA Building, 20 West Tarpon Avenue, Tarpon Springs.

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### *Thomas Craig*

was born in Micanopy in 1905 and came to Tarpon Springs when he five. While still in high school in 1917 he bought a dry cleaning shop and operated the business until he graduated. He worked briefly in Detroit, then returned to Tarpon Springs where he operated appliance repair businesses in New Port Richey, Clearwater and Tarpon Springs before retiring at age 85. He served as Tarpon Springs City Commissioner from 1956 to 1960 and as mayor from 1960 to 1964. As mayor his administration built a new public library, put a seawall around Spring Bayou and began construction on what is now Helen Ellis Memorial Hospital. Thomas Craig died October 20, 1994. His Great Floridian plaque is located at Craig Park, South Spring Boulevard, Tarpon Springs.

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### *George Frantzis,*

born in 1911, came to the United States from Greece in 1940. He was a Cum Laude graduate of the University of Athens School of Law. In the 1930s, he helped organize the liberation of the Dodecanese Islands from Italy. During World War II, he played a major role in the decision of the Allies to have the Dodecanese Islands reunited with Greece. From 1941 to 1949 he was Principal of the Greek Orthodox Parochial School of Tarpon Springs and helped rebuild Tarpon Springs' sponge industry. In 1955, Frantzis organized the Committee for Reorganization of the Sponge Industry and served as its first president. His book *Strangers of Ithaca—The Story of the Spongers of Tarpon Springs* was published in 1962. George Frantzis died May 30, 1970. His

Great Floridian plaque is located at 715 Dodecanese Boulevard, Tarpon Springs.

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### *George Inness, Jr.,*

born in 1854 in Paris, France, was one of America's foremost landscape and figure artists. He and his wife purchased a home in Tarpon Springs in 1904 where they spent the winter months each year. His wife, Julia Inness, founded the Tarpon Springs Library. Though he was already an established artist when he moved to town, much of Inness' major work was produced in his studio in Tarpon Springs. He was honored in Europe, and was made an officer in the Academy at the Beaux-Arts. George Inness, Jr. died in 1926. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Inness Manor, 34 West Orange Street, Tarpon Springs.

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### *Demos A. Megaloudis,*

born in 1932 in Tarpon Springs, was a business and civic leader in Tarpon Springs. He was director of Ellis Springs Bank, Tarpon Springs General Hospital and chair of the Tarpon Springs Housing Authority. He was a member and vice chair of the St. Petersburg Community College Board of Trustees, a charter member of the Pinellas County Education Foundation and chair of the Tarpon Springs Community School Board. His civic contributions included membership in the Lions Club, Masonic Lodge and the Elks Club, which named him the 1992 Tarpon Springs Citizen of the Year. On three occasions he was awarded the Key to the City of Tarpon Springs. Demos Megaloudis died September 11, 1996. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Tarpon Springs High School, 1411 Gulf Road, Tarpon Springs.

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### *Anson Peasely Killen Safford,*

born in 1830 in Hyde Park, Vermont, founded the City of Tarpon Springs. He was surveyor general of Nevada and Governor of the Arizona Territory, and worked to establish the public school system in Arizona. After moving to Philadelphia, he became president of the Lake Butler Company, the land development firm offering property for sale in Tarpon Springs. He moved to the city and lived there for the rest of his life. Safford built the first school and gave land for several churches. He brought more businesses and settlers to the town and served as president of the local bank. After the town's incorporation in 1887, he was elected alderman. Anson P. K. Safford died December 15, 1891. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Safford House, 23 Parkin Court, Tarpon Springs.

### *Dr. Mary J. Safford,*

the first practicing woman physician in Florida, was born in 1834 and was a native of Cairo, Illinois. She served as a nurse during the Civil War, where wounded called her "the Cairo Angel." After the war she studied medicine in New York and Europe. Safford established a practice in Chicago and New England, and taught at the Boston University College of Medicine. Health problems prompted her to relocate to Tarpon Springs where her brother, Anson P. K. Safford, was a leader in developing and promoting the city. Dr. Safford treated patients in Tarpon Springs until her death, December 8, 1891. Her Great Floridian plaque is located at the Safford House, 23 Parkin Court, Tarpon Springs.

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### *Colonel Henry McKie Salley*

was born July 1, 1901 in Salley, South Carolina. He received a degree in engineering from the University of Florida in 1925, and served with the U. S. Army for more than 30 years. In 1940, he was assigned to the construction of Drew (now Tampa International Airport) and MacDill fields. He was project engineer for the Overseas Highway to Key West and later was sent overseas on active duty. Salley was Tarpon Springs City Manager after World War II, returned to military duty in 1947, then again served as city manager from 1957 to 1963. Under his leadership, streets were paved, the sea wall at Spring Bayou replaced, a new source of drinking water developed and a new fire department building constructed. He served as President of the Tarpon Springs Area Historical Society and worked to clean up the Anclote River. Colonel Henry McKie Salley died September 13, 1994. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Meres House, 25 West Orange Street, Tarpon Springs.

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### *Tavares (Central)*

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### *Major Alexander St. Clair-Abrams*

is believed to have been born March 10, 1845 in Louisiana. He moved to Florida prior to 1875 and practiced law in Orlando. In 1875 he purchased land for a city that he envisioned would become the State Capitol. The town he designed designated a four-block area for the state government. He constructed a sawmill, hotel, office building, and opera house. He brought five railroads to town in an effort to create a center of commerce, and invested in the town and citrus industry. He spent more than \$500,000 creating Tavares. Ultimately, fire and freezes bankrupted many residents, including Major St. Clair-Abrams, who moved to Jacksonville in 1895 or 1896 and resumed his law

practice. Major Alexander St. Clair-Abrams died in 1931. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the St. Clair-Abrams House, 305 New Hampshire Avenue, Tavares.

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## *Vero Beach (East Central)*

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### *James Hudson Baker*

was born in 1866 near Sumpter, South Carolina. He married Ida Mitchell of Savannah, Georgia and they moved to Melbourne in 1896. In 1912 the Bakers moved to Vero Beach where he became a building contractor. He built many commercial and residential buildings in the city, including the Vero Theatre Building and the Farmers Bank Building. James Hudson Baker died in 1951. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Vero Theatre Building, 2036 14th Avenue, Vero Beach.

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### *Merrill P. Barber,*

born in 1910, began his career in 1930 as co-owner of one of the first growers supply businesses in Vero Beach. He was a founder and director of the Indian River Citrus Bank, in 1935, and served as president of the bank from 1948 to 1975. From 1947 to 1949 he was Mayor of Vero Beach, and negotiated the contract that brought the Brooklyn Dodgers (now the Los Angeles Dodgers) for spring training. As a member of the Florida State Road Board, he brought road improvements to Vero Beach and Indian River County, including the first modern bridge across the Indian River. He was elected to the Florida Senate in 1953, serving two terms. He supported legislation providing polio vaccines to Floridians, supported the state's community college system and sponsored legislation establishing the Appellate Court System. Merrill P. Barber died in 1985. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Vero Beach City Hall, 1053 20th Place, Vero Beach.

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### *Alex MacWilliam, Sr.*

was born May 25, 1891 in Edinburgh, Scotland. His family later immigrated to Cleveland, Ohio. In 1919, he decided to move to Vero Beach where he helped build the Riomar Subdivision and Riomar Country Club. He was elected to the Vero Beach City Council from 1925 to 1927, then served as Mayor of Vero Beach (1927 to 1945 and 1949 to 1951). As mayor he helped establish Vero Beach as the county seat, helped write and pass the city's first planning and zoning ordinance, and initiated a bond issue to expand the Indian River County School system. While serving as mayor, he also served 13 years as Indian River County's State Representative and as Justice of the Peace. As State Representative he

sponsored legislation to create Florida's first veteran's hospital; was responsible for building the Stephen Foster Memorial in White Springs; and supported the building of State Route 60. He also was responsible for the Memorial Island Sanctuary honoring Indian River County's dead war veterans. Alex MacWilliam died August 13, 1966. His Great Floridian plaque is located at Vero Beach City Hall, 1053 20th Place, Vero Beach.

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### *Garnett L. Radin*

was born in 1902 in Nebraska. She graduated as a Registered Nurse from the Nebraska Methodist Hospital School of Nursing in Omaha and moved to Vero Beach in 1931. She purchased a small hotel, in 1932, and converted it into Indian River Memorial Hospital. She joined the United States Naval Reserve Nurses Corp during World War II. After the war Radin resumed her position as administrator of Indian River Hospital and supervised construction of a new Vero Beach hospital. She returned to school and received her Master's degree in hospital administration from Northwestern University. She then served as administrator and consultant for the Shriner's Hospitals for Crippled Children in the United States and Mexico from 1957 to 1971. In 1972 she returned to Indian River Memorial Hospital as planning coordinator, retiring in 1983. Garnett L. Radin died in 1987. Her Great Floridian plaque is located at Indian River Memorial Hospital, 1000 36th Street, Vero Beach.

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### *Waldo E. Sexton*

was born March 23, 1885. He came to Vero Beach in 1914, invested in oceanfront property and planted some of the earliest citrus west of the Indian River. He established his own citrus company, the Indian River Products Company, and built a packinghouse, the Oslo Packing Company. The packing house now known as Oslo Citrus Growers Association is the oldest operating packing house on the Florida East Coast. He started the Vero Beach Dairy and supplied milk to Indian River and St. Lucie Counties. With Arthur G. McKee he planted a 400-acre grove, Oslo Hammock, and developed the McKee Jungle Gardens and the Hall of Giants. He constructed the Driftwood Inn, Ocean Grill and Patio Restaurant, all Vero Beach landmarks. Waldo E. Sexton died December 21, 1967. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Driftwood Inn, 3150 Ocean Drive, Vero Beach.

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### *Sherman N. Smith, Jr.*

was born June 13, 1914 in Crossville, Tennessee. He graduated from Cumberland University Law School where he received an LL.B. degree in 1935. He was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1935 and was arguing

before the Florida State Supreme Court by the age of 24. During World War II he served in the United States Navy. He was elected prosecuting attorney of Indian River County in 1940, and held that office for 12 years. He was a member of the Florida House of Representatives from 1952 to 1956, and received the Allen Morris Award for being the outstanding first-term member of the legislature. He was the only person to serve as chief judge of two appellate courts—the Second District Court of Appeal in Lakeland and the Fourth District Court of Appeal in Vero Beach. He practiced law in Florida until shortly before his death, January 7, 1998. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Court House Executive Center, 2145 14th Avenue, Vero Beach.

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### *Herman Julius Zeuch,*

born in 1867, was Vero Beach's first major developer. A native of Iowa, he founded the Indian River Farms Company in 1912, which acquired and drained 48,000 acres of land in what is now Indian River County. The company also provided the land and plat for the Town of Vero, later Vero Beach, and donated the land for Pocahontas Park, which became the home of the city's community center. Zeuch also pioneered the citrus industry, establishing groves in 1917. He died in 1937. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Heritage Center, 2140 14th Avenue, Vero Beach.

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## *Wachula (Central)*

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### *W. Curtis Ezelle*

was born in 1921 in Hardee County and spent two years at the University of Florida before entering the Army in 1941 following the attack on Pearl Harbor. In 1948, he was elected to the first of 12 terms (nearly 48 years) as Hardee County Tax Collector. His community service included membership in the Masonic Lodge and Kiwanis Club, which sponsored the Hardee High School Key Club, in which he took a special interest. He was active in the National Association of Counties and was president of state and national organizations for county tax collectors and financial advisors. W. Curtis Ezelle died in 1996. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Hardee County Courthouse Annex, U.S. Highway 17 and Oak Avenue, Wachula.

## *Wakulla Springs (North Central)*

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### *Edward Ball*

was born in 1888 Northumberland County, Virginia, and came to Florida in the 1920s after being asked by his brother-in-law, Alfred I. duPont, to assist with his Florida business interests. Ball tripled duPont's holdings, investing in real estate and banking. When the State of Florida was having revenue difficulty, Ball prepaid the taxes on the duPont estate in order to assist the state. After duPont's death in 1935, Ball acquired more than a million acres of Florida land, as well as a major interest in the Florida National Bank, which he used as basis for the Florida National Group, one of the most successful banking ventures in the state. Ball also established the Ed Ball Wildlife Foundation, a perpetual trust with sanctuaries in seven locations across Florida. He bequeathed his estate to the Nemours Foundation established by Alfred duPont, which operates the Nemours Children's Clinic in Jacksonville. Edward Ball died in 1981. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Wakulla Springs Lodge, Wakulla Springs, south of Tallahassee, where Edward Ball frequently stayed.

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## *West Palm Beach (Southeast)*

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### *Edward R. Bradley*

was born December 12, 1859 in Johnston, Pennsylvania. At the age of 14, he went to Texas to be a rancher. He came to St. Augustine in 1891 and seven years later to Palm Beach. In 1898, he built the Beach Club Restaurant, invested in real estate and became wealthy. He donated to St. Mary's Hospital, St. Edward's Catholic Church, and the West Palm Beach Public Golf Course. He promoted Palm Beach County with his associates and friends, especially those in Kentucky and New York. He served as President of the Thoroughbred Horse Association of the United States and was known as a pre-eminent breeder. Edward R. Bradley died in 1946. His Great Floridian plaque is located at E.R. Bradley's, 104 Clematis Street, West Palm Beach.

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### *Dr. Joseph Wiley Jenkins*

was born in Summerville, South Carolina in 1901. He studied to become a pharmacist at South Carolina State University. Roberta Robinson Jenkins was studying in Tampa when she met Dr. Jenkins in 1929. The Jenkins moved to West Palm Beach in 1933 and in 1937 they opened the Economical Drug Store, which became a popular gathering place. Their home, built in 1946, gained the admiration of people far and wide for

its grandeur and elegance. The house soon became a meeting place for West Palm Beach's black society. The store operated until 1952. After Dr. Jenkins' death in 1950, his wife operated the store until 1952. Dr. Jenkins' Great Floridians 2000 plaque is located at the Historic Jenkins House, 815 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd., West Palm Beach.

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### *Marvin U. Mounts*

was born in 1898. In 1925, he became the first Assistant County Agricultural Agent. In 1929 he was made County Agent in Palm Beach County, a position he held until the 1960s. During his tenure the value of the county's agriculture grew from \$2 million to \$120 million and Palm Beach County led the country in the production of corn and green beans. Marvin Mounts formed the first chartered 4-H Club in Florida and during World War II was Chair of the State Farm Labor Committee. He was President of the Florida Extension Workers Association, Florida County Agricultural Agents Association, Florida State Horticultural Society, Audubon Society of the Everglades, Florida Mango Forum and the Rotary Club of West Palm Beach. Mounts Botanical Garden is named for him. Marvin U. Mounts died in 1969. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Mounts Botanical Garden, 531 North Military Trail, West Palm Beach.

### *Dr. Thomas Rudolph Vickers*

was born in 1879 in Key West and was educated at Howard University. He arrived in West Palm Beach between 1912 and 1916 to begin his medical practice. He was one of seven African-American pioneer physicians to practice in West Palm Beach. His wife, Alice W. Vickers, was an opera singer and together they were known for their service, leadership, education, culture and successful professional status. During segregation, Dr. Vickers provided medical care at affordable rates to the African-American community. Dr. Thomas Rudolph Vickers died in 1965. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Vickers House, now restored and operated as a Community Resource Center, 811 Palm Lakes Boulevard, West Palm Beach.

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## *Windermere (Central)*

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### *Nellie A. Grice,*

born in 1897 in St. Clair, Michigan, and her husband, James Edwin Grice, came to Windermere by way of Gulfport, Florida in 1923. They operated a grocery store from 1923 to 1925 and purchased the Little Inn, a hotel, in 1925. Jim and Nellie Grice helped incorporate Windermere, February 9, 1925. Grice served as Town

Clerk from 1930 to 1936 and Nellie Grice occupied the office from 1937 through 1960. Nellie A Grice died in 1974. Her Great Floridian plaque is located at the Town Office (1916 school), 614 Main Street, Windermere.

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### *Dr. John Howard Johnson*

was born in 1871 in Springbelt, Ohio and graduated in 1897 from the Cleveland University Medical Department. He was a member of the Wauseon, Ohio Board of Education and a surgeon for the Wabash Railroad Division. In 1910 he visited Florida and Windermere with John Calvin Palmer, also of Ohio. They bought 2,000 acres (240 acres within the town) for \$10,000 in 1911. Palmer remained in Windermere to develop the property and Dr. Johnson returned to Ohio where the headquarters of the Windermere Improvement Company remained until 1925. The Johnsons moved to Windermere in 1925 where Dr. Johnson served as mayor in 1935 and 1936. Dr. Johnson and Cal Palmer donated land for four parks in town and for the woman's club. In 1923 they gave land for the Windermere Union Church. Dr. Johnson died March 22, 1936. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Cal Palmer Memorial Building, 520 Main Street, Windermere.

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### *John Calvin Palmer,*

born in 1869 in Wauseon, Ohio, and Dr. J.H. Johnson of Ohio, visited Windermere, Florida in 1910. They bought 2,000 acres in and around the town in 1911. Forming the Windermere Improvement Company, Palmer moved to Windermere while Johnson remained in Ohio running their sales office. Palmer was co-founder of the Windermere Club Company that developed and sold land in the town. He was Postmaster from 1911 to 1914, a Trustee of the Gotha-Windermere Special Tax Sub-District from 1918 to 1922 and in 1933 and 1934. He was Chairman of the Orange County School Board Budget Committee in 1933. He helped found the Windermere Citrus Growers Association in 1920, was a member of the Florida Citrus Exchange from 1929 to 1943, and served as director from 1934 to 1943. He donated land for four parks and gave land for the Windermere Union Church. John Calvin Palmer died in 1966. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Windemere Town Hall, 520 Main Street, Windermere.

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## *Winter Haven (Central)*

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### *Dick Pope, Sr.,*

born in 1900 in Des Moines, Iowa, was the founder of Cypress Gardens. In the early 1930s he took 16 acres of

swampland and created one of the most famous tourist attractions in Florida prior to the arrival of Disney. His publicity stunts enticed visitors to Cypress Gardens from the beginning. In the 1940s and 1950s, the motion pictures "On an Island with You," "East to Love," and "This is Cinerama" were all filmed at Cypress Gardens. The park was used for television commercials and outdoor location shoots including the Mike Douglas Show and the Johnny Carson Show. Called "Mr. Florida," Pope was an incessant promoter and played a role in the establishment of Walt Disney World. Under his direction, Cypress Gardens was at the forefront of the tourist industry that swept Central Florida in the 1970s. Dick Pope Sr. died in 1988. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Pope Museum, Cypress Roots, Cypress Gardens, 2641 South Lake Summit Drive, Winter Haven.

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## *Winter Park (Central)*

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### *Loring A. Chase*

was born in 1839 in Nashua, New Hampshire and went to work in Boston as a bookkeeper. In 1880 his physician advised him to go south to cure his chronic bronchitis. Arriving in what is now Winter Park, he contacted an old friend, Oliver E. Chapman of Canton, Massachusetts. They purchased 600 acres and laid out a new town, naming it Winter Park. From 1881 to 1885 Chase and Chapman advertised Winter Park as a resort for wealthy northerners, opened streets, planted orange trees and built cottages. In 1885 Chapman sold his interest to Chase and incorporated the Winter Park Company. Chase sold his interest in the Winter Park Company to Francis B. Knowles in 1886 and retired. The following year the Town of Winter Park was incorporated. Loring A. Chase died in 1906. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Winter Park City Hall, 401 Park Avenue South, Winter Park.

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### *Jeannette Genius McKean*

was born in 1909 and attended the Grand Central Art School and Art Students League in New York City. Exhibitions of her paintings were held throughout the world. Her lifelong interest in Rollins College began in 1926 when she studied there for a summer session. She served on the Rollins College Board of Trustees from 1942 to 1975. In 1942 she founded the Morse Gallery on the Rollins campus and created the Charles Hosmer Morse and Elizabeth Morse Genius McKean Foundation to ensure the gallery would grow and operate independently. Thirteen years after she founded the Morse Gallery, she staged an exhibition of the works of Louis Comfort Tiffany. Her acquisitions established the nucleus of the most comprehensive collection of his

work in the world. McKean was President of the Winter Park Land Company which controlled her grandfather's (Charles Hosmer Morse) Winter Park holdings. Jeannette Genius McKean died in 1989. Her Great Floridian plaque is located at the Morse Block, 122-136 Park Avenue South, Winter Park.

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### *Albin Polasek*

was born in 1879 in Frenstat, Moravia (now part of the Czech Republic) and arrived in America in 1901. He attended the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts and the American Academy of Rome, and was recognized with awards, prizes and scholarships. In 1916 he became the first head of the Department of Sculpture at the Art Institute of Chicago. Polasek visited friends in Winter Park and decided to purchase property. He became associated with the community's social, educational and cultural life. Some of his best-known Winter Park sculptures include "Victory of Moral Law," "Ascended Christ," "Man Reaching for the Moon," "The Nativity," and "Emily." More than 400 of his works are displayed in American and European collections with the largest single collection in Winter Park. Albin Polasek died in 1965. His Great Floridian plaque is located at the Albin Polasek Museum and Sculpture Garden (Albin Polasek House), 633 Osceola Avenue, Winter Park.

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## *Zephyrhills (Central West)*

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### *Alice Fryer Hall*

was born in 1904 in Mississippi. A teacher and journalist, she moved to Zephyrhills in 1941. She was a member of the Chamber of Commerce, Garden Club, veteran's associations and the Democratic Party. She devoted herself to bringing a hospital to the community, which she did in the 1980s. She then raised \$750,000 for state-of-the-art cardiovascular equipment. In the early 1970s she helped open the community's first nursing home. Hall supported the establishment of parks, museums and a rescue squad in Zephyrhills. Alice Fryer Hall died in 1996. Her Great Floridian plaque is located at the Alice Hall Community Center, 38116 5th Avenue, Zephyrhills.

Florida's Division of Historical Resources (DHR) operates within the Florida Department of State's Office of Cultural, and Historical Information Programs.

**The Division of Historical Resources**, one of six divisions within the Florida Department of State, is the primary state agency responsible for promoting the preservation of the historical, archaeological, museum and folk culture resources in Florida. The three bureaus of DHR include: Bureau of Archaeological Research, Bureau of Historic Preservation and the Bureau of Historical Museums.

#### **The Bureau of Archaeological Research**

Florida has a rich human past, dating back at least 12,000 years and over 95% of it is buried in archaeological sites. The Bureau identifies, preserves and interprets the tangible remains of Florida's

cultures. Part of this bureau is Mission San Luis de Apalachee, the western capital of the mission system in La Florida from 1656 to 1704. The Mission, a National Historic Landmark, was purchased in 1983 by the State of Florida, and is co-managed by the Department of State's Bureau of Archaeological Research and Museum of Florida History.

**The Bureau of Historic Preservation** preserves historic sites and properties that reflect the diversity of our past. Program areas include:

- Architectural Preservation Services
- Compliance Review Section
- Survey and Registration Section
- Statewide Education and Folklife Services Outreach
- Master Site File
- Grants Services

#### **The Bureau of Historical Museums**

The Museum of Florida History collects, preserves, exhibits, and interprets evidence of past and present Florida cultures, and promotes knowledge and appreciation of this heritage. Through exhibits, educational programs, research, and a nearly 44,000-item collection, the Museum reflects the ways that people have shaped and reacted to their cultural and natural environments.

**The Bureau of Historical Museums** administers two sites in Tallahassee: the Museum of Florida History main gallery (R.A. Gray Building), and the Knott House Museum. Visitors can take self-guided tours, and organized groups can receive a free site introduction or tour with advance reservation. Sites also offer longer, theme-related, hands-on programs for groups for a small fee.



For information on any of the programs identified above, visit [www.flheritage.com](http://www.flheritage.com), call 1.800.847.7278, or write:

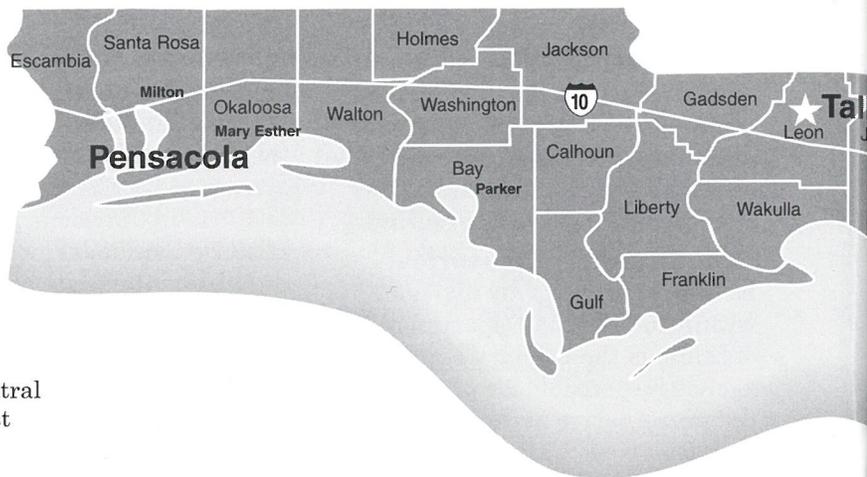
Division of Historical Resources  
R.A. Gray Building  
500 South Bronough Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250  
or contact the DHR regional office nearest you.

Southeast Regional Office  
Bonnie Dearborn, Community Assistance Consultant  
[bdearborn@dos.state.fl.us](mailto:bdearborn@dos.state.fl.us)  
71 N. Federal Highway  
Boca Raton, Florida 33432  
Phone: 561.416.2115  
Fax: 561.416.2149

Central Regional Office  
Jeffrey Thirlwall, Community Assistance Consultant  
[dhrtampa@mail.state.fl.us](mailto:dhrtampa@mail.state.fl.us)  
1802 East 9th Avenue  
Tampa, Florida 33605  
Phone: 813.272.3843  
Fax: 813.272.2340

Northeast Regional Office  
J. Susan Parker, Community Assistance Consultant  
[sarpres@aug.com](mailto:sarpres@aug.com)  
P.O. Box 4168  
St. Augustine, Florida  
32085-4168  
Phone: 904.825.5045  
Fax: 904.825.5044

# State of Florida



*Cities are listed in alphabetical order with county and region.*

Legend: NW=Northwest ..... SE=Southeast C=Central  
 NC=North Central CW=Central West CE=Central East

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|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Apalachicola .....       | Franklin County (NW)     | LaBelle.....                 | Hendry County (SW)     |
| Archer .....             | Alachua County (NC)      | Lake City .....              | Columbia County (NC)   |
| Auburndale.....          | Polk Co. (C)             | Lake Helen .....             | Volusia County (CE)    |
| Bartow .....             | Polk County (C)          | Lake Wales .....             | Polk County (C)        |
| Boca Raton.....          | Palm Beach County (SE)   | Lakeland.....                | Polk County (C)        |
| Boynton.....             | Palm Beach County (SE)   | Layton.....                  | Monroe County (SE)     |
| Bradenton Beach.....     | Manatee County (SE)      | Leesburg .....               | Lake County (C)        |
| Brooksville.....         | Hernando County (CW)     | Live Oak .....               | Suwannee County (NC)   |
| Cedar Key .....          | Manatee County (NC)      | Longwood.....                | Seminole County (C)    |
| Clearwater.....          | Pinellas County (CW)     | Madison .....                | Madison County (NC)    |
| Cocoa.....               | Brevard County (CE)      | Marco Island.....            | Collier County (SW)    |
| Cocoa Beach.....         | Brevard (CE)             | Marianna .....               | Jackson County (NW)    |
| Crescent City.....       | Putnam County (NE)       | Mary Esther .....            | Okaloosa County (NW)   |
| Crystal River .....      | Citrus County (CW)       | Melbourne.....               | Brevard County (CE)    |
| Dade City .....          | Pasco County (CW)        | Miami.....                   | Dade County (SE)       |
| Dania Beach .....        | Broward County (SE)      | Miami Beach .....            | Dade County (SE)       |
| Daytona Beach .....      | Volusia County (CE)      | Miami Springs.....           | Dade County (SE)       |
| DeBary.....              | Volusia County (CE)      | Micanopy .....               | Alachua (NC)           |
| Deerfield Beach.....     | Volusia County (CE)      | Milton .....                 | Santa Rosa County (NW) |
| DeLand .....             | Volusia County (CE)      | Montverde.....               | Lake County (C)        |
| Delray Beach .....       | Palm Beach County (SE)   | Naples .....                 | Collier County (SW)    |
| Dunedin .....            | Pinellas County (CW)     | New Port Richey.....         | Pasco County (CW)      |
| Eagle Lake.....          | Polk County (C)          | New Smyrna Beach.....        | Volusia County (CE)    |
| Eatonville .....         | Orange County (C)        | North Reddington Beach ..... | Pinellas County (CW)   |
| Edgewater.....           | Volusia County (CE)      | Okeechobee.....              | Okeechobee County (CE) |
| Estero.....              | Lee County (SW)          | Oldsmar .....                | Pinellas County (CW)   |
| Eustis.....              | Lake County (C)          | Orange City .....            | Volusia County (EC)    |
| Everglades City.....     | Collier County (SW)      | Orchid .....                 | Indian River (SE)      |
| Fellsmere .....          | Indian River County (CE) | Orlando.....                 | Orange (C)             |
| Fernandina Beach.....    | Nassau County (NE)       | Ormond Beach.....            | Volusia (CE)           |
| Fort Lauderdale .....    | Broward County (SE)      | Osprey.....                  | Sarasota (SW)          |
| Fort Meade .....         | Polk (C)                 | Palm Bay .....               | Brevard (CE)           |
| Fort Myers.....          | Lee County (SW)          | Palm Beach.....              | Palm Beach (SE)        |
| Fort Pierce .....        | St. Lucie County (CE)    | Palmetto .....               | Manatee (SW)           |
| Fort Walton Beach.....   | Okaloosa County (NW)     | Panama City.....             | Bay (NW)               |
| Frostproof.....          | Polk County (C)          | Parker .....                 | Bay (NW)               |
| Ft. Myers .....          | Lee County (SW)          | Pembroke Pines.....          | Broward (SE)           |
| Gainesville.....         | Alachua County (NC)      | Penney Farms .....           | Clay (NE)              |
| Glen St. Mary .....      | Baker County (NE)        | Pensacola.....               | Escambia (NW)          |
| Green Cove Springs ..... | Clay (NE)                | Perry .....                  | Taylor (NW)            |
| Gulfport .....           | Pinellas County (CW)     | Plantation .....             | Broward (SE)           |
| Hawthorne.....           | Alachua County (NC)      | Port St. Joe .....           | Gulf (NW)              |
| Holly Hill .....         | Volusia County (CE)      | Quincy.....                  | Gadsden (NW)           |
| Hollywood.....           | Broward County (SE)      | Safety Harbor .....          | Pinellas (CW)          |
| Homestead.....           | Dade County (SE)         | San Antonio.....             | Pasco (CW)             |
| Homosassa.....           | Citrus (CW)              | Sanibel.....                 | Lee (SW)               |
| Jacksonville.....        | Duval County (NE)        | Sarasota.....                | Sarasota (SW)          |
| Jupiter .....            | Palm Beach County (SE)   | Satellite Beach .....        | Brevard (CE)           |
| Jupiter Island.....      | Martin County (SE)       |                              |                        |
| Key West.....            | Monroe County (SE)       |                              |                        |
| Keystone Heights.....    | Clay County (NE)         |                              |                        |



Sebastian ..... Indian River (SE)  
 Sebring..... Highlands (C)  
 St. Augustine..... St. Johns (NE)  
 St. Pete Beach ..... Pinellas (CW)  
 St. Petersburg ..... Pinellas (CW)  
 Stuart..... Martin (SE)  
 Sunrise..... Broward (SE)  
 Tallahassee..... Leon (NW)  
 Tampa..... Hillsborough (CW)  
 Tarpon Springs..... Pinellas (CW)  
 Tavares ..... Lake (C)  
 Town of Jupiter Island..... Martin (SE)  
 Vero Beach..... Indian River (SE)  
 Wauchula..... Hardee (C)

**KEY WEST**  
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West Palm Beach ..... Palm Beach (SE)  
 Windemere ..... Orange (C)  
 Winter Haven..... Polk (C)  
 Winter Park..... Orange (C)  
 Zephyrhills ..... Pasco (CW)



## The Great Floridians 2000 Program

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<http://www.flheritage.com>