

Hillsborough County  
**Women's Hall of Fame**  
Class of 2013 Induction Ceremony



COMMISSION ON THE  
**Status**  
*of*  
**Women**

March 28, 2013





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**Status**  
*of*  
**Women**

## **PROGRAM**

### **Registration**

#### **Welcome**

Yvonne Fry, Commission Chair

#### **Color Guard**

MacDill Air Force

#### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Susan Leisner

#### **Invocation**

Ann Porter

#### **Purpose of COSW**

Dotti Groover-Skipper

#### **Introduction of COSW**

Mindy Murphy

#### **Remarks on Women's History**

Commissioner Sandra L. Murman

#### **Introduction of Speaker**

Linda D'Aquila

#### **Keynote Speaker**

Deirdre Macnab

President, Florida League of Women Voters

#### **Induction Ceremony**

Yvonne Fry

#### **2013 INDUCTEE**

**The Honorable Dottie Berger MacKinnon**

**Dr. Juel Hickman Shannon Smith**

**Deanne Dewey Roberts**

#### **PRESENTER**

**The Honorable Pam Bondi**

**The Honorable Betty Castor**

**Robert (Bob) Rohrlack, Jr.**

#### **Closing**

Yvonne Fry

## **Purpose of the Hillsborough County Women's Hall of Fame**

The Hillsborough County Women's Hall of Fame was created by the Hillsborough County Commission on the Status of Women to honor women who, through their lives and efforts, have made significant contributions to the improvement of life for women and for all citizens of Hillsborough County. The Commission maintains and facilitates the permanent Women's Hall of Fame display at the Tampa Convention Center.

## **Purpose of the Commission on the Status of Women**

The Hillsborough County Commission on the Status of Women was created April 16, 2003 to advise the Board of County Commissioners, County administration, and all agencies and persons in Hillsborough County with respect to all matters pertaining to the status of women.



The Commission is comprised of thirteen members. Seven are appointed by members of the Board of County Commissioners to represent their district, and six are permanent seats held by Hillsborough County organizations.

Denise Chavez	Commissioner Sandra L. Murman, Vice Chair
Rachel Marks Feinman	Commissioner Kevin Beckner
Yvonne Fry	Commissioner Al Higginbotham
Dotti Groover-Skipper	Commissioner Ken Hagan, Chair
Susan Leisner	Commissioner Mark Sharpe
Ann Porter	Commissioner Lesley "Les" Miller, Jr. Commissioner Victor D. Crist
Linda D'Aquila	League of Women Voters of Hillsborough County
Lydia Medrano, Ph.D.	Hispanic Professional Women's Association, Inc.
April Monteith	Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce
Alice Thompson	The Centre
Geraldine I. Twine	National Council for Negro Women
Mindy Murphy	The Spring of Tampa Bay, Inc.

## ***The work of the* Commission on the Status of Women**

Since inception, the Commission on the Status of Women has worked diligently to analyze issues impacting women in Hillsborough County. This initiative has produced detailed action reports on topics including:

- Children's Needs in Hillsborough County
- Women's Health Issues and Health Care
- Employment Issues for Women
- Housing Issues for Women
- Forum on Women Veterans

And most recently, the Forum on Sex Trafficking of Minors.

This Forum, held in November 2012, brought together more than 80 advocates, law enforcement personnel, and community leaders to share experiences and expertise and develop viable solutions to the crime of sex trafficking of minors. Notable speakers were the Honorable Pam Iorio, former Mayor of Tampa and Interim Executive Director of the Children's Board of Hillsborough County; Detective James McBride, the Director of the Clearwater/Tampa Bay Area Task Force on Human Trafficking; and Laura Hamilton, from the Clearwater Police Department and Department of Justice Human Trafficking Task Force.

Following the keynote speakers, roundtable discussions focused on four main issues: identification of those at risk, prevention, how to respond, and increasing awareness.

In order for the information discussed at the Forum to move past a discussion and into action to combat this issue in the community, the COSW recommended raising awareness of the issue in the community through education in schools and public service announcements, and greater publication for the hotline numbers to call if the sex trafficking of minors is suspected.

The Commission on the Status of Women is a dedicated and energized committee that will continue to achieve great successes for women in Hillsborough County.

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER



### Deirdre Macnab

#### President of the League of Women Voters of Florida



Deirdre Macnab is in her second term as President of the League of Women Voters of Florida. Graduating with an M.B.A. from Columbia University in marketing and finance and a B.A. from New York University in history and political science, Macnab has worked for Dun & Bradstreet Corporation, Manville Corporation and Bankers Trust, and she was president of her own direct marketing consulting firm in Nashville, TN.

In addition to working in the prisons of New York City for the Board of Correction, a watchdog agency, Macnab was elected to the Board of Education in Nashville, TN (70,000 students) and appointed by Mayor Shirley Franklin of Atlanta to serve as her designate on the Fulton County Library Board, prior to moving to the Orlando area. Macnab is a former member of the Board of MyRegion.org, a seven-county visioning coalition in Central Florida and a former member of WMFE's Citizens Advisory Board. She has been recognized by La Prensa newspaper as a "Community Champion" for their annual Mujeres Destacadas Awards, by the Florida Commission on the Status of Women as a recipient of their *2012 Florida Achievement Award*, and by the Orlando Sentinel as the *2012 Most Influential Central Floridian of the Year*.

### Clara Frye

1872-1936



#### Florida Women's Hall of Fame 2012-2013 Inductee Hillsborough County Women's Hall of Fame 2011 Charter Class

**Clara C. Frye formerly of Tampa** was trained in nursing care in Alabama and moved to Tampa in 1901. She had heard many stories about the high volume of black patients who died because they were denied medical treatment in "whites only" facilities. She committed her life to providing medical care to Tampa's black citizens.

She began caring for the sick and injured black population in her small Tampa home. In 1923, she moved to a small 17-bed hospital on Lamar Avenue, where she relied heavily on donations to alleviate the financial struggles of running a hospital. In 1928 the City of Tampa purchased the hospital, which was then known as the Tampa Negro Hospital. Ten years later the structure was dedicated as the Clara Frye Memorial Hospital.

Political and economic struggles, lack of funding, overcrowding, and insufficient staffing led to the closing and demolition of the hospital in 1973. Ms. Frye died an impoverished woman in 1936. In her honor, Tampa General Hospital named a pavilion after her.

In 2011, Ms. Frye was honored as one of the 10 charter inductees into the newly established Hillsborough County Women's Hall of Fame. She is remembered as a great selfless servant, leader, and a visionary humanitarian.

# The Honorable Dottie Berger MacKinnon

February 19, 1942



Dottie Berger MacKinnon grew up on a farm in Kentucky, but left home at fifteen to live with relatives in Maryland. One of ten children, she often said, “that you learn to form alliances, to compromise, to go with the flow.”

She began a career as a secretary in Washington, D.C. later moving to Tampa where, for twenty-two years, she worked for Bob Thomas in the real estate, investment and port business. In 1981, she earned her Associate of Arts degree from Hillsborough Community College and in 1984, her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of South Florida.

She has dedicated her life to children as a founder of Joshua House, Friends of Joshua House Foundation, Kids Charity of Tampa Bay, and A Kid’s Place. A tireless advocate for women, she has left her footprint throughout the Bay area. She has passionately supported the children served at Joshua House, a safe haven for abused, abandoned,

and neglected children in Lutz since 1992. She helped establish a \$1.2 million endowment, through the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay, to ensure the continuation of this important work.

From 2005-2009 she worked tirelessly to develop, create and co-found A Kid’s Place, a residential care facility for 60 foster children, mostly siblings. Before A Kid’s Place opened, in 2009, children who were taken away from abusive homes were often separated from their siblings, often never getting reunited.

Berger MacKinnon has served on the Board of Directors of Tampa General Hospital; the Environmental Protection Commission (Chairman, 1995-1996); and the Children’s Home Society of Florida, State (1985-94) and Gulf Coast Division (1984-1999; President 1988-89). She is a member of countless groups and committees – Leadership Tampa Alumni, the Athena Society, Guardian ad Litem, and the Tiger Bay Club and the recipient of numerous awards for humanitarian efforts. She served as Chair of the 2009 Super Bowl Volunteer committee (6,500 volunteers) and was the recipient of the *2010 Florida State Senate Spirit of Service Award* and the *2011 Lifetime Achievement Award* from the League of Women Voters.

She also served the community as a Hillsborough County Commissioner (District 4, 1994-1998) - Chairman (1996-1997), Vice Chairman (1995-1996) and Chaplain (1994-95, 1997-98). On May 4, 2011, Dottie was honored with the *Ellsworth G. Simmons Good Government Award* by the Hillsborough County Commissioners in recognition of the significant role that she played in improving government through leadership and vision.

Although she now battles cancer, she still works tirelessly in her quest to improve the lives of children in the Tampa Bay area. In 2011, the City of Tampa dedicated the Dottie Berger MacKinnon Children’s Playground. She is married to A.D. “Sandy” MacKinnon and their blended family embraces 5 children and 17 grandchildren.

## Deanne Dewey Roberts

October 31, 1952 – January 12, 2012



A fourth-generation Floridian, Deanne was born in Tampa and attended high school at the Academy of Holy Names. While there, she developed her speechwriting, debate and persuasive presentation skills, which would lead to a career in strategic communications and guide her professional path for the next 30 years. In 1974, she graduated from the University of South Florida with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mass Communications.

Deanne Roberts began her profession in public relations at St. Anthony's Hospital, and later in Sun City Center. In 1978, she launched Deanne Roberts & Associates; a one-person PR firm. In 2008, she transitioned to chairman of the board of ChappellRoberts, the successor Tampa advertising and public relations agency.

Deanne was chairman of Leadership Florida, the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce and the Tampa Bay Chapter of the Public

Relations Society of America. She served on the board of SunTrust Bank of Tampa Bay, the Tampa & Ybor City Street Railway Society, Jesuit High School and the Marketing Committee of the Tampa Bay History Center, and was involved with several non-profit organizations, including the Florida Aquarium, Tampa's Riverwalk Committee, Metropolitan Ministries and Suncoast Hospice.

She was a founder of Creative Tampa Bay and a member of The Athena Society, Leadership Florida Alumni and Leadership Tampa Alumni. She supported a number of local groups committed to improving the community and was a mentor of young women who were aspiring entrepreneurs. Deanne was especially proud of her involvement in Emerge Tampa (now Connect Florida), a leadership program of the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce, designed for promising young professionals aged 21 to 35.

She received several awards, including the *Leadership Tampa Alumni Park Wright III Award*, *Tampa Bay Advertising Federation Lifetime Achievement Award*, Silver Medal, and USF's School of Mass Communications, *Distinguished Alumni Award*.

On January 12, 2012, Deanne Dewey Roberts lost her battle to cancer. Deanne's entrepreneurial spirit and tenacity fueled her passion for affecting community change. She is survived by her two beloved sons, Kirk and Kent Roberts, mother, Bette Durrance Dewey, and brother and sister-in-law, Wayne and Vicki Dewey.

Her contributions were many: business owner, organization leader, mentor, philanthropist and change advocate. Deanne's dedication to the community lives on through her personal scholarship funds at the University of South Florida and Jesuit High School.



# Dr. Juel Hickman Shannon Smith

July 20, 1944



Dr. Smith was born in Sapulpa, Oklahoma and graduated from Sapulpa High School in 1960 and from Langston University in Oklahoma in 1972 with a degree in Education. Dr. Smith relocated to Tampa and received her Masters and Education Specialist Degree with a Thesis on “Women Who Combine Career and Family” and a Ph.D. in Counselor Education in 1987 from the University of South Florida (USF).

She pursued post graduate study at Harvard University’s Institute of Management Development.

She was a driving force at USF. She is the first African American woman to establish an official Institute at USF: The Institute on Black Life and the Center for Africa and the Diaspora. She served as its Founding Executive Director for thirteen years. Dr. Smith worked with faculty to establish the Women’s Studies Program and served as the Founding Executive Director of the USF Women in Leadership &

Philanthropy Program. As Executive Director she helped to establish an endowment to fund scholarships for female students and research grants for women faculty. She also served thirteen years as a career and personal counselor in the Counseling Center for Human Development.

Dr. Smith served at the national level of The Links, Incorporated for fourteen years; ten years as National Director of International Trends and Services. In this capacity she established the “Education Across the Miles Program,” building more than sixty schools in remote villages of South Africa and Nigeria. The last four years she served as The Link’s NGO Representative to the United Nations.

Dr. Smith was the first African American woman to be elected president of the Athena Society, Incorporated. Her leadership has served The Hillsborough County Commission on the Status of Women, The Crisis Center of Tampa Bay, The Spring of Tampa Bay, Central City YMCA, Hillsborough County Children’s Advisory Committee, Junior League of Tampa, College Hill Advisory Board, National Council of Christians and Jews, The Straz Center for the Performing Arts, Tampa Chapter of The Links, Incorporated, Leadership Florida and the International Board of Habitat for Humanity, where she worked closely with former President Jimmy Carter and his wife, Rosalyn, to provide shelter for women and families.

Her awards include the *Tampa-Hillsborough County Human Rights Council Award*, *The Sojourner Truth Award*, *USF Women in Leadership Award*, *Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated Service Award*, *Florida State House of Representatives and the Senate Award for Outstanding Leadership*, *The Elizabeth Catlett Award*, *Girls Scouts of West Central Florida Woman of Distinction Award*, *Tampa Organization of Black Affairs Leadership Award*, and the *Langston University Outstanding Alumni Award*.

Dr. Smith is married to Dr. John L. Smith, Jr. and is the mother of five children, Kenneth, Babette, Lisa, Angela and Gina.



## Past Women's Hall of Fame Inductees

### **Phyllis Busansky**

Hillsborough County Commissioner, Hillsborough County Supervisor of Elections

### **Mary T. Cash**

First Florida Registered Nurse of African American heritage

### **Elizabeth "Betty" Castor**

First woman elected to the Hillsborough County Commission and the Florida State Cabinet, first woman President of USF

### **Helen Gordon Davis**

First woman from Hillsborough County elected to the Florida House of Representatives

### **Cecile Waterman Essrig**

First woman elected to Hillsborough County School Board

### **Pat Collier Frank**

County Commissioner, Florida House of Representatives, Florida Senate, Clerk of Court

### **Sandra W. Freedman**

First woman Mayor of City of Tampa

### **Clara C. Frye**

Founded first Negro Hospital in Hillsborough County

### **Adela Hernandez Gonzmart**

Concert pianist, patroness of Hispanic Culture in Ybor City and founder of the Ballet Folklorico of Ybor



### **Sylvia Rodriguez Kimbell**

First African American woman elected to Hillsborough County Commission

### **Sadye Gibbs Martin**

First woman Mayor of Plant City, the first female African American elected mayor of a major city in Florida, educator

### **Gwendolyn Miller**

First African-American woman elected to Tampa City Council

### **Jan Kaminis Platt**

Hillsborough County Commissioner, Tampa City Councilwoman

*The COSW graciously thanks all our sponsors.*

**Hillsborough County Communications and Digital Media Services**

**Congresswoman Kathy Castor**, for the complimentary book, *Women in Congress 1917-2006*, provided to each inductee.

The League of Women Voters of Hillsborough County

Liz Dunham for research and writing contributions.





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Mindy Murphy  
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of Tampa Bay



Learn more about the Commission on the Status of Women at [www.hillsboroughcounty.org/statusofwomen](http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/statusofwomen)