



Julie Cotton - Contemporary Inductee

Ms. Cotton has been a resident of Okaloosa County for over 20 years making an everlasting mark of dedication to improve the life of women and leadership training in our community. Julie began her love for community upon graduation from college and has given countless hours of her professional skills serving in positions including, past-chairman of the Destin Chamber, currently serving on the boards for the Destin Chamber, Fort Walton Beach Medical Center and the Okaloosa County Public Schools Foundation, Inc. She has served as past president of the Junior League of the Emerald Coast, BOD for the Walton Area Chamber, the YMCA Emerald Coast and Kiwanis Club of Destin. She volunteered with the American Heart Association, United Way and marketing chair for the Destin Harbor Association. She is a graduate of Leadership Okaloosa and served as Honorary Commander, 1st Special Operations Wing, at Hurlburt Field in 2012-2013. Julie received the Destin Chamber Chairman's Volunteer Service Award for 2015 and was awarded Member of the Year by the Junior League of the Emerald Coast in 2007. She was selected as an Emerald Lady by Emerald Ladies Journal in 2006 and was named an Emerging Leader "Next Generation" to Watch in 2005 by Emerald Coast Magazine. Today Ms. Cotton has led over 290 young professional in Leadership Okaloosa and is active with the Krewe of Bowlegs.



2020 Hall of Fame Inductees

**Vickie Warner -
Carolyn Spencer**
Humanitarian Inductee

Bobbie Ponder -
Pioneer Inductee

Julie Cotton -
Contemporary Inductee

Vickie Edge -
Community Service
Inductee

Teresa Halverson -
Military Inductee



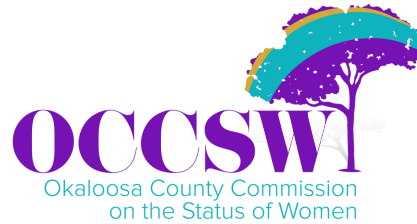
Vickie Warner- Carolyn Spencer Humanitarian Inductee

Vickie moved here with a BA in Sociology from Indiana University. When she found no jobs in her chosen career, she went to work at the Daily News Advertising Dept. Then in 1985 she became marketing director at Santa Rosa Mall which was under expansion and renovation. Vickie has been a volunteer since 1976. She has served many civic organizations, including the United Way, the Salvation Army, Horizon (now ARC), and the FWB Chamber of Commerce—where she was the first woman to chair the Billy Bowlegs Festival committee. Other Okaloosa County "firsts" that Vickie created include the Chili Festival, the Snowbird Expo, the first judged Fine Arts show, and the Exotic Seafood Festival—now known as the Destin Seafood Festival. She was one of the founders of the local Cancer Society's popular "Bid for Bachelors" fundraiser. She created and implemented Okaloosa County's first Angel Tree for the Salvation Army, even though the regional office told her FWB was not large enough to support the program. While working at Abbott/ResortQuest as the regional marketing director and director of group sales; she assisted disaster relief workers and coordinated contact with the media. Vickie learned firsthand how important the American Red Cross was for those experiencing the aftermath of a disaster. As a Red Cross Disaster Relief Worker she volunteered in many local shelters. Vickie became a Red Cross volunteer after Hurricane Katrina, and currently works on Eglin AFB assisting families during crisis to contact military loved ones and assists in acquiring leave and travel. She was named as their 2019 Volunteer of the Year. Vickie was ABWA's 2009 Business Associate of the Year. She has served as Honorary Commander at both Eglin Air Force Base and Hurlburt Field. She's a past president and former chair of special events for the Center for Lifelong Learning, and is currently chair of registration. She is also a docent at the Emerald Coast Wildlife Refuge, and has been a board member and past president of the Panhandle Animal Welfare Society. Vickie worked as Marketing Director for Edwin Watts for four years before she retired in 2014.



Teresa Halverson - Military Inductee

How does someone who has more than 28 years of professional service in the healthcare industry as a case manager, licensed social worker and currently the Director of Marketing/Development & Admissions for a skilled nursing/rehabilitation facility in Bluewater Bay be recognized for the 2020 Hall of Fame Military Inductee? The answer is easy! She's a leader 24/7, always "stepping up" to volunteer, someone that doesn't take "No" for an answer, always pro-active in the community and is a jewelry artist to express her creativity in her spare time! She's a military spouse to husband, Bob, who's Air Force career brought them to the Emerald Coast in 2000 and her son is soon to be an F-18 pilot w/the US Marines. Teresa serves on the boards of both the Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation, where she served three years and is the current Chairman Elect, and Fisher House of the Emerald Coast, where she served an unprecedented 4-year term as Chairman of the Board. She was the key note speaker for the past three years as part of the Niceville Exchange Club's Field of Valor by sharing her personal testimony of the struggle of newborn's health challenges while her husband was deployed before Fisher Houses began. Teresa is heavily involved in the Niceville Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce serving on their military affairs councils, as well as the healthcare committees while also a member of the Emerald Coast Military Affairs. As a military spouse, Teresa continues to serve thru honorary commander roles w/the 53rd at Eglin, the 505th at Hurlburt and now as an honorary battalion commander w/the 7th Special Fighter Group in Crestview.



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Bobbie Ponder - Pioneer Inductee

Bobbie has nearly seven decades of devoted service to our community. She served in many Beulah First Baptist Church ministries and leadership positions, and now serves as Church School Superintendent, President of General Mission and member of the Deaconess community outreach ministry –which founded the “Helping Hand House”– President of the Progressive Missionary Baptist Association of West Florida and Vice-President of the Progressive Missionary and Educational Baptist State Convention of Florida. Professionally, Ms. Ponder served as a Financial Counselor on Eglin AFB for 20+ years, making a difference in personal financial management for all base newcomers. When the NAACP filed a successful Class Action lawsuit against Eglin for racial discrimination, Ms. Ponder served as office administrator for the base's Plaintiff Monitoring Office to oversee complaints and resulting compliance activities. Her lengthy community service includes: volunteer poll worker since 1972, with 15+ years as precinct clerk and now as assistant clerk for training; coordinator of the Okaloosa County School Board's "Follow-Thru Program"; activities supervisor for the Community Action Program; office administrator for the Public Housing Authority's Ed Brown low-income housing project; organizer of the area's first Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration; and Grand Marshall for the 2020 MLK Day parade. Her efforts were instrumental in starting local programs such as Head Start, Food Commodities, Council on Aging Program, Supervised Senior Citizen Group activities and 4-H club for youth.



Vickie Edge - Community Service Inductee

lifelong resident of Okaloosa County and 1979 Choctaw graduate, Vickie Mae Edge was the ultimate “giver”. If you needed help, she would give you her last penny then as owner of the Edge of Paradise Day Spa, would reach out to friends or clients to do the same. She supported many organizations in the community, but her favorites included Shelter House, United for a Good Cause’s Hope Squad Suicide Prevention program, feeding the homeless and SO many more. She was planning to give her biggest gift yet this coming January when she was scheduled to donate a kidney to fellow community leader, Kathy Houchins. Unfortunately, her life was tragically cut short on August 6, 2020. As the community still mourns her loss, her hard work and tremendous heart earned her a spot as the Community Service Inductee in the Women’s Hall of Fame which she will be awarded posthumously.



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Congratulations!

