



Citizen of the Year Award Recipients

- 1978. George E. Heitzmann
- 1979. Leo Seal, Jr.
- 1980. J. D. Rutherford, Jr.
- 1981. Perry F. Gibson
- 1982. May Beyer
- 1983. William "Bill" Breland
- 1984. Richard E. Kosbab
- 1985. Ina R. Piazza
- 1986. Louise C. Lynch
- 1987. Jimmy Lagasse
- 1988. Geraldine Lang
- 1989. Andrew Lizana
- 1990. Charles R. Ramsey
- 1991. Ellis C. Cuevas
- 1992. Conrad Mauffray
- 1993. David N. McDonald, Jr.
- 1994. Rev. Charles R. Johnson
- 1995. Carol Vegas
- 1996. Elaine Colson
- 1997. Donald Wright Diboll
- 1998. Princess Fahey
- 1999. Charles Gray
- 2000. Cleveland Wyatt
- 2001. Sidney and Mary Doug Chevis
- 2002. No event held
- 2003. Jody Compretta
- 2004. Charles B. Benvenuti, CPA
- 2005. Dave A. Treutel, Jr.
- 2006. The Katrina Volunteers (no event held)
- 2007. Martin and Alicein Chambers
- 2008. Marcie Baria
- 2009. J. Larry Ladner
- 2010. Basil Kennedy
- 2011. David Kenny
- 2012. John Ferrucci
- 2013. Angelyn Scardino Treutel
- 2014. LiLi Stahler Murphy
- 2015. Governor & Mrs. Haley Barbour
- 2016. Myron Labat
- 2017. Raymunda Barnes
- 2018. Jim Collins
- 2019. Nikki Moon
- 2020/2021. Dina Hitt Rosetti
- 2022. Joy Saucier
- 2023. Tim Kellar

Hancock County Outstanding Citizens

Outstanding Citizens – 2023

Jason Chiniche, Chiniche Engineering & Surveying
Arthur Phillip “Art” Clementin, III, retired educator (posthumous)
Sarah Shelton, Diamondhead School of Fine Arts
Rachel Knight, Ross & Yeager Insurance
Tim Kellar, Hancock County Chancery Clerk, 1996 - 2024
Chris Roth, Hancock County Historical Society
Karen Keith Compretta, Arabesque School of Dance (posthumous)
Heather Ladner Smith, Butler Snow
Mamie Hillery, The Arts, Hancock County

Outstanding Citizens – 2022

John Anderson, unAbridged Architecture
Clarence Harris, Waveland Civic Association
Kay Kell, Retired
Julie Cannon, Memorial Hospital
Joy Saucier, Mississippi Power
Myrna Green, Hancock County Tourism Development Commission
Geoff Belcher, Sea Coast Echo
Ginny Cabell, Mystic Krewe of the Seahorse
Starr Chapman, Rum Kitchen/Mississippi Attorney General’s Office
Mike Lee, Announcer for Bay High Tigers

Outstanding Citizens – 2020/2021 (2020 event held over until 2021 due to pandemic)

Cami Cornfoot, Hancock County Tourism Bureau Board
Penelope “Penny” Wallace Crawford, Retired
Rhonda Aime Gamble, Mask Response
Janice Guido, Bay Life Gifts at Century Hall
Paul Harris, Hancock County Fair
Connie Lyons, King’s Kitchen
Donna Coward Martin, Dragon Fire Studio
Lindsey Lind Richard, Coldwell Banker Alfonso Realty
Catherine & Jim MacPhaille, BSL Restaurant Group
Dina Hitt Rosetti, Rosetti’s Liquor Barrel
Kristen Tusa, St. Stanislaus College

Outstanding Citizens – 2019

Chris Cochran, S&L Office Supplies & Printing
Jason Edwards, Diamondhead Community Church
David Hilbert, Silver Slipper Casino & Hotel
Alan E. Hodges, Ochsner Medical Center – Hancock
Ann Madden – Smith & Lens
Nikki Moon, Bay Town Inn
Tami Munsch, Attorney at Law
Sarge Washington, Volunteer Leader
Karen West, Volunteer Leader

Outstanding Citizens – 2018

Cynthia Chauvin, CASA Hancock County
Janita Cole, St. Rose Outreach Group

Jim Collins, Hancock County Food Pantry
Bernie Cullen, Community Volunteer
Rickey Fayard, American Medical Response
Ashley Mayley, Coast Electric Power Association
Karen Rice, Keep Diamondhead Beautiful
Samantha Walley, Bay St. Louis Rotary Club
Edward H. Wikoff, Architect
Brian Wilemon, Bay Rats Marching Battery

Outstanding Citizens – 2017

Raymunda Barnes, PRCC – Hancock Center
David Bassett, CPA
Elise Deano, Hancock County Youth Court Judge
Susan Duffy, Hancock County Visitors Center
Craig Foster, Edward Jones
Madella & Blu Jordan, Community Volunteers
Paul Montjoy, Keep Diamondhead Beautiful
Christina Richardson, Management Consultant
Susan Stevens, Community Volunteer
Chuck Underwood, Treasures of the Bay/Breezy Porches

Outstanding Citizens – 2016

Allison Anderson, Unabridged Architecture;

Lisa Cowand, Community Leader;

Mark Duffy, Community Volunteer;

Barbara Huet, Community Volunteer;

Regan Kane, GRI, Broker, John McDonald Realty;

Myron Labat, a retired educator and administrator

Cynthia Mahner, The Arts, Hancock County,

Mike Meyers, State Farm Insurance;

Robert J. “Bob” Occhi, Coast Electric Power Association;

Terie Velardi, Bay St. Louis Rotary Club.

Outstanding Citizens – 2015 (Recognized the Citizens of the Year from 2006 – 2014)

Katrina Volunteers – 2006
Martin Chamber & Alicein Chambers – 2007
Marcie Baria – 2008
J. Larry Ladner – 2009
Basil Kennedy – 2010
David Kenny – 2011
John Ferrucci – 2012
Angelyn Treutel Zeringue – 2013
LiLi Stahler Murphy - 2014

Outstanding Citizens – 2014

Jane Alford, Bay-Tique & Carroll House Bed & Breakfast
Debbie A. Benefield, Mississippi Power Company
William “Bill” Bradford, MD, Retired Emergency Medicine Physician
Dr. Cherie Antoinette Labat, Bay Waveland School District
Kerryn F. Liebkemann, Friends of McLeod Park
LiLi Stahler Murphy, City of Waveland & Ground Zero Hurricane Museum
M. Carolyn Rhodes, Gaits to Success
Rhonda Dean Rhodes, Hancock Resource Center
Linda Tucker, Hancock Medical Center

Outstanding Citizens – 2013

Angelyn Scardino Treutel, SouthGroup Insurance
Bobby Necaie, Friends of McLeod Park
Di Filhart, Starfish Café
Pat Murphy, 100 Men Hall
Teri Wyly, Balch & Bingham
Leslie Henderson, Lazy Magnolia Brewing Company
Mike Kopke, Hancock County Tourism Commission
Betty Maxwell, Coldwell Banker Realty, Coast Delta Realty
Guy Johnson, Coast Electric Power Association

Outstanding Citizens – 2012

Scott Blackwell, Mombo Graphix
Julia Ann Williams Caruso, Stuckey’s Caruso Plaza
John Ferrucci, Silver Slipper Casino
the late H. Vernon Dutch Haas, Kiln Water & Sewer
Chuck Jung, Bay Carpet
Katharine Truett Ohman, Keep Bay St. Louis Beautiful
Frances Pike, SPCA of Diamondhead
John Yarbrough, Diamondhead POA
Cathy Wilson, Hancock County Schools

Outstanding Citizens – 2011

Frank Cuevas, M & F Cycles & Apparels
Trent Favre , Watkins, Ludlam, Winter & Stennis
Aissa Wiggins, Silver Slipper Casino
Terry Latham, Hope Haven’s Children’s Services
Frank Manchester, Hancock County Food Pantry
Phillip and Jannie Malley
Bobbie Tate , Hancock County Welcome Center
Ruth Thompson , The Arts, Hancock County
Maurice Singleton, Jr. , St. Rose de Lima Catholic Church
David Kenny, Pike Grounds Maintenance

Outstanding Citizens - 2010

Brehm Bell, Attorney at Law

Susan Carron, Retired Nurse
Paula Fairconnetue, St. Rose de Lima Church
Vicki D. Hughes, Hospice Compassus
Basil Kennedy, The Peoples Bank
Mary M. Perkins, Hancock County Library System
Judith Redshaw, Giclee Fine Art
Susan M. Veglia, Hancock County Development Commission
Nora Wikoff, Wikoff Architects
Kathleen Monti, Retired Business Owner

Outstanding Citizens – 2009

Ray Cox, Walmart SuperCenter
Gerald C. Gex, Attorney at Law
Ames Kergosien, Bay St. Louis
J. Larry Ladner, Kiln
Woodrow Ladner, North Hancock County
Hal W. Leftwich, Hancock Medical Center
Janell Nolan, Coast Electric Power Association
Charley “Dusty” Rhodes, The First
Margaret Taylor, Gulf Coast Boys & Girls Club
Myron Webb, NASA –Stennis Space Center

Outstanding Citizens - 2008

Ellis Anderson
Ronald J. Artigues Jr., Attorney at Law
Marcie Baria, Recycle Hancock County
Jenny Bell, Ad Lib Advertising
Michael Reinike Cuevas
Kay Gough, Bay Books
Rhonda Labat, St. Rose de Lima Catholic Church
Ted Longo, Merrill Lynch
Linda Lou Nelson, Music South
Yuki Northington, Yuki Art & Interiors
Bill Blaisdell, Hancock County Food Pantry

2007 Outstanding Citizens

Martin and Alicein Chambers- Mockingbird Cafe
Charlie Cornelius- Waveland Community Coalition
Pastor Tyrone Dastugue- Word of Faith Church
Herb Dubuisson- Coldwell Banker-Alfonso Realty
John”Corky” Hadden- Raymond James Investments
Jean F. Larroux, III, Lagniappe Presbyterian Church
Chip Marz, Diamondhead Property Owners Association
Wendy McDonald, Habitat For Humanity
Charles and Ruth Olivier, Hancock County Retired Senior Volunteer Program
Fr Sebastian Myladiyil, SVD- St. Rose de Lima Catholic Church

(During 2007, the Chamber established a policy to limit the number of citizens recognized to the Top Ten. Nominations can be submitted by any citizen and a committee appointed by the Chamber selects the top ten.)

2006 Outstanding Citizens & Citizen of the Year

Katrina Volunteers who came to help and gave us hope
The Volunteers of the Bucks-Mont PA Katrina Relief Project
accepted the award on behalf of all volunteers.

2005 Outstanding Citizens

Jeannie Deen, The Peoples Bank
Nate Fairconnetue, St. Rose de Lima Catholic Church
John Gallagher, Community Volunteer
Margaret Gavagnie, Retired Senior Volunteer Program
Linda Graffeo, Hancock Bank
Howard Hamilton, Community Volunteer
Cecilia Howe, The Sea Coast Echo
Gwen Impson, The Arts – Hancock County
Frank R. Ladner, Community Volunteer
Jimmy Loiacano, City of Bay St. Louis
Brice Phillips, HCARA, Inc. – WQRZ Community Radio
Chari Rapp, McIntyre-Rapp Real Estate
Dr. Gaynell Ladner Roberts, Pearl River Community College – Hancock Center
David A. Treutel, Jr., Treutel Insurance Agency, Inc.

2004 Outstanding Citizens

Sue Ashman, Ashman-Mollere Realty, Inc.
John F. Auderer, Jr. (deceased)
Charles B. Benvenuti, CPA
Retired U.S. Army Lt. Col. Randolph C. Bourgeois
David A. Geiger, The Boeing Company
Nicholas McLeod Haas, Attorney at Law
John Hall, Coldwell Banker-Alfonso Realty
Louis D. Hall
Martha Claire Haun, Granny1.com & Creative Health Resources
Marian T. Martin, Gulfside United Methodist Assembly
David Mayley, Pest Control Specialists, Inc.

2003 Outstanding Citizens

Joseph P. “Jody” Compretta, Jr., Patients Choice, Inc. (deceased)
Valerie Edenfield – Hope Haven Children’s Shelter
Ethel Favre, Community Volunteer
Hancock County Volunteer Fire Fighters
John “JJ” Jagunich, Casino Magic Bay St. Louis
Ronald G. Magee – NASA-Stennis Space Center
Olive T. McKenna – Bay St. Louis-Waveland Schools
Kathy Pinn, That Cute Little Shoppe
Prima Plauche– ’ Hancock County Library System
Jon E. Ritten, Coldwell Banker – Coast Delta Realty
(During 2003, the Chamber established a recognition program to recognize more than one citizen for outstanding service to Hancock County.)