

Felicia Bruce Awarded Lifetime Achievement Recognition

RC 43 President, Felicia Bruce, has been recognized by the Florida Alliance of Retired Americans, FLARA, as having made service to others a key part of her life. She has served RC 43 as VP for several terms and in July made the transition to President. As VP she authored many award winning articles, helped to maintain the Face Book page and promoted the organization across the state.

Knowing only two local people in St. Lucie County when she relocated to the Treasure Coast, she was determined to continue "to live a purposeful life" and so she immersed herself in local activities. She made volunteerism a full time obligation dividing her time among the Sunrise Theatre, Savannahs State Park, Guardian Ad Litem, Main Street History Tours and several retired educators organizations as well as FLARA. It was with other retired educators that she found her 'calling': serving as legislative liaison. Working closely with the St. Lucie County Local 3616, its retiree division FEA-R (Florida Educators' Association-Retired), as well as other retirees from the area such as St. Lucie Co Retired Educators, out of state retirees relocated to Florida and more, she stepped into leadership roles.

Felicia Bruce is an ordained minister in addition to holding Masters' Degrees in Special Education and Liberal Arts. Before retiring she was a 'teacher of teachers' on Long Island in New York as well as a teacher of children with special needs. Ms. Bruce asserts that her struggles as a single parent with three daughters kept her connected to 'the innate compassion' that we must all draw from in order to maintain our humanity. She states that 'living a purposeful life' based on her values of Faith, Family and Friends is what fuels her. Daily prayer and meditation keep her focused and prevent her from losing sight on doing her best for the task at hand.

Traveling many times to Tallahassee during their 60 day sessions, Ms. Bruce went on behalf of these various groups and she spoke to elected officials about senior priorities, senior needs and educational concerns. Regular meetings were held with Congressman Mast as well.

Felicia Bruce is mother to three grown daughters living out of state and eight grandchildren. She takes pride in all their achievements and says it is a 'surprise' that she is old enough to have three successful granddaughters already in college!

Among the many 'hats' worn by Felicia are President of Treasure Coast FLARA as well as President of the local unit TRIF: Teachers Retired in Florida. She is also an activist with Faith in Public Life where she carries the message that we must all behave in ways that are consistent with the universal teaching of the Golden Rule: Do Unto Others. She recently moved from VP of Retiree Council 43 NYSUT: New York State United Teachers to its President.

It was not a surprise therefore when Jon Bowman, the Bowser of ShaNaNa singing fame, contacted her for his core outreach efforts to seniors in Florida to help launch SENIORS FOR BIDEN. Ms. Bruce was part of the successful FLARA lawsuit to protect voting rights in Florida. She is a frequent critic of lawmakers who promise to protect seniors, the environment, educators or children and yet fail to do so with votes and legislation that do more harm than good.