

P R O G R A M



*Civil Rights*  
WALL OF FAME 2021  
AWARD CEREMONY

— THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 2021 —  
ROSEN SHINGLE CREEK RESORT

# PROGRAM

## MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES

*Monica May*

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

## LIFT EVERY VOICE

*Pre-recorded video*

## WELCOME

*Gwendolyn Wiggins, Esq.  
Human Relations Official*

## READING OF THE PROCLAMATION

*Mayor Buddy Dyer  
City of Orlando*

## INVOCATION

*Pastor Marcus McCoy*

## SPOKEN WORD PERFORMANCE

*Joe Davis*

## SPEAKER

*Congresswoman Val Demings*

## PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

*Visionary Community Leader Award  
Civil Rights Wall Award*

## CLOSING REMARKS

*Gwendolyn Wiggins, Esq., MBA  
Human Relations Official, City of Orlando*

# Ask Monica May

## More than a DJ



Monica May is a radio & television veteran, community affairs expert, and founder of **Let's Spill the Tea®**, a nonprofit organization supporting parent/teen relationships.

Her latest pivot is principal consultant with **Monica May Communications**.

In addition to **keynote speaking**, **political forum moderation**, and **community relations consulting**, Monica facilitates webinars on an array of topics including:

- Community/Civic Engagement
- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
- College & Career Readiness
- Creating Transparent Family Relationships
- Health & Wellness

Her flagship workshop, **Let's Spill the Tea®**, ([www.letsspillthetea.org](http://www.letsspillthetea.org)) came to life after a heart-to-heart with her daughter and other young women who felt guarded when having conversations with their mothers. To expand its reach, she co-authored, *Let's Spill the Tea: A 21-Day Mother Daughter Journal*, with her daughter, Monique.

Within the span of her career, Monica's philanthropic reach has generated a total of \$5.2 million in nontraditional revenue using her unique approach to leveraging community partnerships.

Since beginning her career at the helm of Urban One founder, Cathy Hughes and reaching a pinnacle with the beloved, Tom Joyner. Monica has been affectionately known as one of *the hardest working women in radio!*

## Awards

- A Gracie Award for "Pulse Nightclub" Coverage
- Central Florida Association of Black Journalists Lifetime Achievement Award
- YMCA Lifetime Achievement Award
- Orlando Magazine's "Best of List" for Community Leader of the Year
- Billboard's Top Programmer Nominee
- Urban Radio Programmer of the Year

## Social

Facebook: Monica May Communications 1.5K

- 70% Women 30% Men
- Ages 35+
- Audience Reach:
  - Orlando, Tampa, Jacksonville

Instagram: @AskMonicaMay 1.1K

Twitter: @AskMonicaMay 500



[www.monicamaycommunications.com](http://www.monicamaycommunications.com)

## “LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING”

by James Weldon Johnson (June 17, 1871 - June 26, 1938)

Lift every voice and sing  
Till earth and heaven ring,  
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;  
Let our rejoicing rise  
High as the listening skies,  
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.  
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,  
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us,  
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun  
Let us march on till victory is won.  
Stony the road we trod,  
Bitter the chastening rod,  
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;  
Yet with a steady beat,  
Have not our weary feet  
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?  
We have come over a way that with tears have been watered,  
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,  
Out from the gloomy past,  
Till now we stand at last  
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.  
God of our weary years,  
God of our silent tears,  
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;  
Thou who has by Thy might  
Led us into the light,  
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.  
Lest our feet stray from the places, Our God, where we met Thee;  
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;  
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,  
May we forever stand.  
True to our GOD,  
True to our native land

# Proclamation

## CITY OF ORLANDO - OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

**WHEREAS,** on January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, setting in motion the end of slavery in the United States; and

**WHEREAS,** it was not until June 19, 1865, that it was announced to those Americans still enslaved in Texas: "The people are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free"; and

**WHEREAS,** Juneteenth is the oldest known public celebration of the end of slavery in the United States, and began in the southern part of the country before moving nationwide; and

**WHEREAS,** Juneteenth celebrates freedom for African Americans and recognizes the strides gained through determination, perseverance, education and greater opportunity; and

**WHEREAS,** on a larger scale, the celebration of Juneteenth reminds each of us of the precious promises of freedom, equality and opportunity, which are at the core of the American dream, and serves as an occasion to observe an important milestone in our collective work toward justice, while also understanding the injustices that African Americans have endured; and

**WHEREAS,** through Orlando's Chapter 57 Review Board, which provides residents with an important avenue of due process to exercise their rights to the promises of equality and opportunity, the City of Orlando continues its commitment to affirmatively advancing equity, equal rights and creating stable inclusive neighborhoods that encourage the contributions of all, regardless of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, familial status, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity/expression; and

**WHEREAS,** we acknowledge that the struggle for equality continues and we recommit to continue the work to ensure that all residents, particularly residents of color, feel equally valued, equally protected and have equitable access to opportunities that help them thrive;

**NOW, THEREFORE, WE, Buddy Dyer, Mayor of the City of Orlando; Jim Gray, District 1 City Commissioner; Tony Ortiz, District 2 City Commissioner; Robert F. Stuart, District 3 City Commissioner; Patty Sheehan, District 4 City Commissioner; Regina I. Hill, District 5 City Commissioner; and Bakari F. Burns, District 6 City Commissioner, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2021, as**

**"Juneteenth"**

in the City of Orlando.

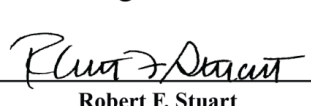


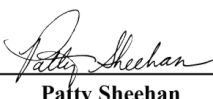
*IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we hereunto have set our hands and caused the Seal of the City of Orlando to be affixed this 10<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2021.*

  
MAYOR

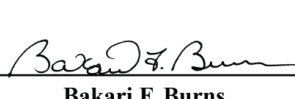
  
Jim Gray  
Commissioner, District 1

  
Tony Ortiz  
Commissioner, District 2

  
Robert F. Stuart  
Commissioner, District 3

  
Patty Sheehan  
Commissioner, District 4

  
Regina I. Hill  
Commissioner, District 5

  
Bakari F. Burns  
Commissioner, District 6



## *Joe Davis*

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Joe Davis is a nationally-touring artist, educator, and speaker based in Minneapolis, MN. He employs poetry, music, theater, and dance to shape culture.

His work has been featured on BET, CNN, and VH1. He is the Founder and Director of multimedia production company, The New Renaissance, the frontman of emerging soul funk band, The Poetic Diaspora, and co-creator of JUSTmove, racial justice education through art. He has keynoted, facilitated conversation, and served as teaching artist at hundreds of high schools and universities including programs in New York, Boston, and most recently as the Artist-in-Residence at Luther Seminary where he earned a Masters in Theology of the Arts.



## *David Bathen*

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World of Disney music performer, featured musician for Hilton, Ritz Carlton and Telemundo events. Two time OCSA best instrumentalist winner and two time WeddingWire couples choice awards winner, violinist David Bathen.



## *DJ Kyle LaRue*

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TenShare Media is a client-focused mobile DJ proprietorship based in Orlando, FL. Founder Kyle LaRue combines over 30 years experience as a radio announcer, club/mobile/radio mix show DJ, program producer and voiceover talent.

Kyle can be heard on Orlando's Star 94.5 as host and DJ for "The Thunderstorm" on Friday nights... and also on hip-hop sister-station Power 95.3. Through the course of his radio career, Kyle has also held influential on-air and programming positions in Baltimore, MD and his native Philadelphia, PA.

Kyle has been moving crowds of all types as a DJ since the age of 15... having played for wedding receptions, private "basement" parties, capacity-filled warehouse-style dance clubs, intimate upscale jazz networking sets, and everything else imaginable.

For more information, contact DJ Kyle LaRue at [djkylelarue@gmail.com](mailto:djkylelarue@gmail.com).

TenShare Media

Club, Mobile, Mixshow DJ Entertainment

Music Research, Consultation, Remix Services

Voiceover, Imaging, Production Services

Kyle M. LaRue, Proprietor

407.701.1503 phone / 801.527.6888 e-fax / [djkylelarue@gmail.com](mailto:djkylelarue@gmail.com)

[Facebook.com/djkylelarueTSM](https://www.facebook.com/djkylelarueTSM)





## *Congresswoman Val Demings*

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Congresswoman Val Demings represents Florida's 10th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Rep. Demings is a lifelong public servant who broke numerous glass ceilings in her rise through the Orlando Police Department and her election to Congress.

Today, she works on the House Judiciary, Homeland Security, and Intelligence Committees. In 2020, she broke another glass ceiling and continued her career as a guardian of the law when she became one of the first women and one of the first Black Americans to prosecute a presidential impeachment before the U.S. Senate.

Rep. Demings shared a two-room home in Jacksonville, Florida with her six older siblings. Her parents, Elouise, a maid, and James, a janitor, instilled in their children a deep respect for hard work, decency, and responsibility.

Rep. Demings got her first job at age 14. She worked, saved, and with the sacrifice and hard work of her parents became the first in her family to graduate from college. Her chosen field of study was guided by her parents' lessons and the police procedurals she had watched on T.V. as a child, which had instilled in her a fundamental sense of right and wrong. With her parents proudly at her side, she received a B.S. in Criminology from Florida State University, then went on to receive a Master's in Public Administration.

Rep. Demings began her career in Jacksonville as a social worker, working to protect foster children. Then, in the early 1980s, Rep. Demings was inspired to move to Orlando to join the police force. Despite institutional resistance to the idea of women in law enforcement, she determinedly pushed forward, graduating from the police academy as class president, receiving the Board of Trustees' Award for Overall Excellence, and earning the reputation of a smart, tenacious, no-nonsense cop.

During her distinguished 27-year career with the Orlando Police Department (OPD), she served in virtually every department, including serving as Commander of the Special Operations. In this role, she was responsible for some of Orlando's highest profile tasks, including special events and dignitary protection.

In 2007, Val Demings made history when she was appointed to serve as Orlando's first female Chief of Police.



When Chief Demings took office, she launched into a relentless campaign to reduce violent crime and build new connections with the community. Through the work of Chief Demings and her dedicated officers, OPD reduced violent crime by more than 40 percent.

By making the Orlando community a partner of the department, Chief Demings made the concept of “protect and serve” a tangible presence in Orlando’s most dangerous neighborhoods. She launched innovative programs like Operation Positive Direction, a mentoring program that empowers at-risk students through tutoring, community service, and positive incentives. She also launched Operation Free Palms, a project focusing on rejuvenating Orlando’s most crime-ridden housing complex, the Palms Apartments. By focusing on unorthodox strategies like access to childcare, building playgrounds, a GED program, and job skills training, OPD created an alternative to crime and improved the quality of life in Orlando’s most distressed community.

Rep. Demings is married to Orange County Mayor Jerry Demings, is a proud mother to three sons, and proud grandmother to five.

Rep. Demings holds an honorary doctorate of law from Bethune-Cookman University, as well as honorary doctorates from Florida Technical College and City College Fort Lauderdale.

Rep. Demings is an active member of St. Mark A.M.E., Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Orlando Chapter of the Links, Inc., NAACP Silver Life Member, Florida Bar Citizens Advisory Committee, Florida Police Chiefs, National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives, National Congress of Black Women, and numerous other affiliations.

Rep. Demings enjoys spending her very limited free time riding her Harley-Davidson Road King Classic motorcycle. She has completed the O.U.C. half marathon as well as the Walt Disney marathon.

Rep. Demings sits on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (Subcommittee on Intelligence Modernization and Readiness; Subcommittee on Defense Intelligence and Warfighter Support), the House Judiciary Committee (Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security; Subcommittee on Antitrust, Commercial and Administrative Law), and the House Committee on Homeland Security (Subcommittee on Transportation and Maritime Security).

She is Chair of the House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery.



## *Dick J. Batchelor*

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Dick J. Batchelor (born December 12, 1947) is a former member of the Florida House of Representatives. He is president of Dick Batchelor Management Group, Inc., a management consulting firm that specializes in business development, strategic governmental affairs and public policy issues. He has been featured numerous times as one of the “50 Most Powerful People in Orlando.”

Batchelor was born the middle child of seven in Fort Bragg, North Carolina. His mother and father worked on tobacco fields as tenant farmers. When Batchelor was still a child, they relocated to Orlando, Florida, where his father worked in construction and later as a carpenter. From 1957 to 1960, the family lived in Reeves Terrace, which operates today as a public housing complex for low-income families. Three years later, the family moved to a house in the Orlo Vista neighborhood of Orange County, Florida. Batchelor attended Maynard Evans High School, where he graduated in 1966.

Between 1966 and 1968, Batchelor served as a volunteer with the United States Marine Corps. He was deployed to Vietnam from 1967 to 1968 and stationed in the port city of Da Nang during the Tet Offensive. Batchelor has said that his experience in the military is where he learned how to effectively work alongside people of different backgrounds, ethnicities and religions in the pursuit of a common goal.

Upon returning to the United States, Batchelor used the G.I. Bill to further his education. He attended Valencia Community College (now Valencia College) and the University of Central Florida, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in 1971. He also completed post baccalaureate work in Political Science and Public Administration at the University of Central Florida.

In 2012, Batchelor joined fellow Evans High School alumnus and U.S. Congressman Dan Webster in the unveiling of a new memorial dedicated to the twenty-three fallen Vietnam veterans who were graduates of the school. During the ceremony, family members of the men were called forward and presented with a folded flag once flown over the nation’s capital.

Batchelor is one of the youngest individuals ever to serve in the Florida House of Representatives. He ran in 1974 at age 26. Representing District 43, Batchelor won with more than two-thirds of the vote.

Five of Batchelor's eight years in legislative service were spent in leadership roles. He served as chairman of the Auditing Committee, the Health and Rehabilitative Services Committee and the House Energy Committee, in addition to chairman of four subcommittees. Batchelor received more than 50 awards for his legislative service.

In 1994, Batchelor was appointed by President Bill Clinton to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. Batchelor traveled to Geneva, Switzerland, where he spent six weeks examining abuses and drafting resolutions to condemn violations made by certain countries, the timeliest of which was one criticizing Russia for their invasion of Chechnya, he said. Three years later, Batchelor returned to Geneva as an observer to the 59th annual meeting of the commission in the wake of mounting global criticism surrounding the U.S. 2003 invasion of Iraq.

In 1994, Batchelor was appointed by President Bill Clinton to serve as a member of the U.S. delegation to observe the South African elections. He traveled alongside Jesse Jackson and met with President-elect Nelson Mandela following the historic election that marked the end of the apartheid era.

In 2000, Clinton appointed Batchelor to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. Batchelor traveled to Geneva, Switzerland, where he spent six weeks examining abuses and drafting resolutions to condemn violations made by certain countries, the timeliest of which was one criticizing Russia for their invasion of Chechnya, he said. Three years later, Batchelor returned to Geneva as an observer to the 59th annual meeting of the commission in the wake of mounting global criticism surrounding the U.S. 2003 invasion of Iraq.

Batchelor established his own firm in 1986 and continues to specialize in providing business development consulting services, strategic government relations and public affairs issues management to his clients.

In 2002, Batchelor was named "Central Floridian of the Year" by the Orlando Sentinel for his successful efforts to generate more than \$2 billion worth of funding in construction and renovation for Orange County Public Schools. After six prior referendum efforts had failed to generate some level of taxation to support the district's dire construction challenges, Batchelor organized the "Change 4 Kids" campaign.

The ballot initiative passed with nearly 60 percent of the vote, despite the fact that fewer than 25 percent of residents have children enrolled in the county's public-school system. Batchelor was widely credited for helping coalesce the community at large to support the effort.

In the fall of 2013, the Orlando Sentinel reported that Dick Batchelor would again serve as chairman for the effort to renew the tax. The decisions to extend the sales tax will go on the ballot before local voters in 2014.

Batchelor has served as honorary chairman of the Dick Batchelor Run for the Children since 1981, which has raised more than \$1 million. The race is the largest annual fundraiser for the Howard Phillips Center for Children and Families, which is part of the Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children. In 2011 the run was held for the first time at Universal Orlando per the request of Universal executive Jan Stratton before her death.

In addition to his annual 5K Run for the Children, Dick Batchelor is an advocate to a number of children's causes, both locally and nationally. Batchelor is chairman of the Florida Hospital for Children Board, chair to the Children's Leadership Alliance of Orange County, advisory board member to the Federation of Families of Central Florida organization, board member of the Florida's Children First, and actively involved with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Florida.

Batchelor also serves as vice chairman to the Washington, D.C.-based organization, Children's environmental Health Network.

In 2007, Batchelor was among 15 people appointed by Gov. Charlie Crist to his Children and Youth Cabinet. In 2010, Batchelor was the recipient of the Chiles Advocacy Award for his dedication "to improving the lives of children by successfully promoting policies and programs that benefit those children and families."

Batchelor met his wife Andrea in 1982. The couple have three sons.



## *Fred B. Clayton*

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Freddy Clayton is a fifth-generation Floridian who joined the Board of Directors of the Orlando Union Rescue Mission in 2010. He served as Vice Chairman until he became President and CEO in 2015. He began his professional career as a lawyer, handling litigation in state and federal trial and appellate courts, and left the practice of law to enter business. He co-founded and sold two successful businesses, the first of which manufactures systems that generate and dispense fragrances for commercial applications. The second company creates and distributes interactive, web-based training programs for medical personnel. He received his A.B. from Davidson College and his J.D. (with honors) from the University of Florida College of Law. He and Susan, his bride of 40 years, raised their two grown sons in Orlando. Freddy and Susan are members of St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Orlando, where they have been active in leadership roles and various ministries since they joined the church 30 years ago.

One of our significant efforts over the past two years is to educate the community about the Mission's programs and objectives. Most folks think we are a shelter for slightly dangerous men, and that we house those guys every night, feed them supper and breakfast, and then release them every morning to torment nearby neighborhoods. That impression is hugely misleading. Our ministries focus on long-term residential programs that equip our guests to escape homelessness permanently. Guests live with us for an extended period, typically from six months to two years, while they get the education training, counseling, and other assistance to enable them to live independently and self-sufficiently for the rest of their lives. We have two major facilities – our Men's Home where 120 single men live with us, and our Family Home, where we serve 136 men, women, and children. Everything – food, shelter, clothing, toiletries, and personal items – is free to our guests, and we accept no (really, not a penny) of government funding. We are funded entirely by private, voluntary donations.

We have an accredited high school for adults on our campus, and every adult who moves into the Mission must get a high school diploma (we award actual diplomas, not GED certificates). We have an in-house substance-abuse recovery program for the majority of our adult guests, who need that help, and we participate in Celebrate Recovery, the Christ-centered 12-step program. We have a full preschool, where we educate and care for the young children of our guests, and we have a full range of after-school activities every day for our school-age kids (tutoring, homework monitoring and help, physical activity, Bible studies, social time, and arts education). Our adult guests participate in Jobs Partnership, a faith-based jobs-preparedness program that has been very successful, and participation in our chapel activities is mandatory.



## *Ronald O. Rogers*

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Ronald O. Rogers was a native of Orlando, Florida and a proud graduate of the historic Jones High School. Mr. Rogers attended the prestigious Florida A & M University and the Graduate School of City Planning - Georgia Institute of Technology with advanced Post Graduate study at Harvard University.

Mr. Rogers served as President of Ronald O. Rogers & Associates, a business development and management firm specializing in market penetration, community relations, planning and coordination of community outreach and involvement.

During his tenure as City Administrator with the Town of Eatonville, Florida, the oldest Black Incorporated Municipality in the United States, the Town of Eatonville experienced unprecedented growth and development.

For more than 40 years, Mr. Rogers served on Boards of numerous Civic and Community Organizations including the first Orange County, Florida Charter Review Commission, which brought single member Commission Districts to Orange County thus allowing elected African American representation. In addition, he was appointed by the Governor to the Valencia Community College Board of Trustees and the Ninth Judicial Circuit Nominating Commission, Leadership Orlando (1978), Past Chairman of the Florida A&M University College of Law - Board of Visitors, Past Member United Way Board of Directors. Past Chairman-Citrus Club of Orlando Board of Governors, Past Member of the Visit Orlando Board of Directors and Past Member of the Metro Orlando Economic Development Commission, Executive Board, and Past Chairman of the African American Chamber of Commerce of Central Florida.

Mr. Rogers also was one of twenty-five (25) Citizens appointed to serve on a Blue-Ribbon Panel for Education to assess the Orange County School System and was appointed by the Mayor of the City of Orlando to serve on the Mayor's Violence Prevention Task Force, the Central Florida Transportation Corridors "Task Force", The Orange County Library System Board of Directors, Past Director - Bill Dickey National Golf Tournament Board of Directors. University of Central Florida Commencement Speaker and a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. He was active in the community serving in several capacities, most notably Chairman Emeritus of 100 Black Men of Greater Orlando, Inc. and the Orange County Membership and Mission Review (MMRB) Nominating Board.

Recognized for his public service, Mr. Rogers received numerous awards and honors including the coveted “Star Award” from the Orlando/Orange County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Inc. (Visit Orlando) for fostering the promotion of African-American Tourism in Central Florida; the Jones High School “Legacy Award” for outstanding service to the community, the Town of Eatonville - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Freedom Award, Central State Minority Contractors - Outstanding Service Award, The Greater Orlando Florida A&M University Alumni Association Presidents Award, Orlando Minority Youth Golf Association (OMYGA) - Award of Appreciation, The Greater Orlando Florida A&M University Alumni Service Award and The Links, Incorporated 45th Southern Area Conference Civic Award Honoree.

The Orlando Business Journal named Mr. Rogers as a “Businessman to Watch” in the twenty (20) most up and coming Influential Businessmen in Central Florida. He was the recipient of the 2008 Orange County Community Action Agency “Humanitarian of the Year Award,” Orange County Chapter - National Alumni Association of Bethune-Cookman University Award of Appreciation, and recognized for his support of the Bethune-Cookman University Orange County Wildcat Booster Club, the Legacy Magazine’s 100 Most influential African Americans in Central Florida, the recipient of the Public Service Award from Onyx Magazine and recognized as one of Florida’s most impactful and influential Black Men.





## *State Representative Geraldine F. Thompson*

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When state Representative Geraldine F. Thompson was elected on November 6, 2018, she became the first female, Democrat, and person of color to serve Florida House District 44. The district includes Oakland, Winter Garden, Windermere, Isleworth, Buena Vista, I-Drive, Gotha, Williamsburg, and part of Ocoee.

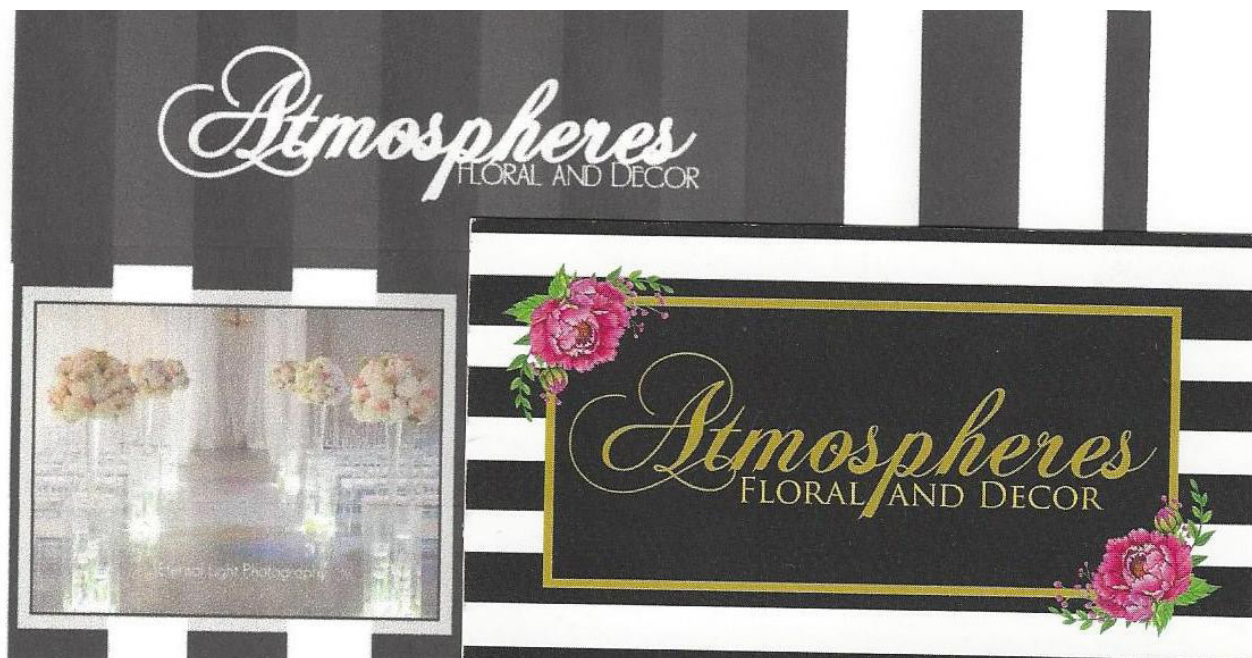
After receiving an undergraduate degree from the University of Miami in 1970 and a Master of Science Degree from the Florida State University in 1973, Geraldine F. Thompson served for six years as an Orange County Public Schools teacher. She later served for 24 years as an administrator at Valencia Community College where she established the College Reach Out Program, which enabled thousands of low income and disadvantaged students to fulfill their dream of going to college.

Rep. Thompson also developed a reputation as a respected historian for compiling the history of African Americans in Central Florida and authoring the book “Black America: Orlando,

Florida”. She led the campaign to preserve one of Orlando’s unique landmarks, the Wells’Built Hotel which, during the days of segregation, provided lodging to some of America’s most prominent citizens including Justice Thurgood Marshall. Today that landmark is known as the Wells’Built Museum of African American History and Culture.

She previously served in the Florida House of Representatives from 2006 until 2012. She was elected to the Florida Senate in 2012 and served until 2016. Significant legislation which she initiated and saw passed included bills to exonerate the Groveland Four, provide compensation to James Joseph Richardson who was wrongfully incarcerated for 22 years, and outlaw discrimination against pregnant women in the workplace.

Geraldine F. Thompson was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, and grew up in the South Dade town of Perrine, Florida, where members of her family worked in agriculture and construction. She is married to the Honorable Emerson R. Thompson, Jr. She is the mother of three children (Laurise, Emerson III, and Elizabeth) and the proud grandmother of four. She enjoys reading and traveling.



Atmospheres  
2121 W. Fairbanks Ave.  
321.972.2976

