

**GFWC Georgia's**

# **WOMEN OF COURAGE**

**March is Women's History Month.**

Clubs were asked to celebrate this event by submitting the name of a member who has shown exceptional courage and dedication to the club -- someone who has gone above and beyond in serving her community or has demonstrated exceptional leadership skills within the federation.

***Congratulations to the 2024  
Women of Courage!***



## Women of Courage



### **Marlene Garner**

Marlene Garner has been a loyal Buchanan Women's Club member for 45 years. She was a teacher in the Haralson County School System for 30 years and a volunteer in the preschool program for several years after retiring. She is a very proud and busy Mother, Grandmother, and Great-Grandmother.

Marlene has shown outstanding leadership in our club. She has held every office, some more than once, and assisted new officers in understanding and fulfilling their positions. She is a very dedicated member, always willing to lead or participate to accomplish the goal. First to serve and last to leave. Her heart has been to make the lives of shut-ins brighter. She has assisted in many ways in the local convalescence homes, and at the present time, she spearheads our outreach program by hosting bingo at the local facility. She also renders our monthly inspirational message and touches and challenges us each and every month.

Marlene is kind, gentle, gracious, intelligent, generous, and elegant. Every inch a beautiful Southern Lady setting an excellent example for club members to follow. She leads us well with courage and without hesitation and has been responsible for the many years of successful service we have offered our community. We are honored and blessed to have her as a club member and present her to you as an outstanding and inspirational example of a club woman.

Submitted by Sheila Long

**GFWC Buchanan Woman's Club**

## Women of Courage



### Cindy Tisdale

Our club member, Cindy Tisdale, exemplifies the spirit of heroism in her daily life by doing simple things for others. She has “Lived the Volunteer Spirit” for 45 years, joining GFWC in 1979. Resilient through her challenging roles as wife, sister, mom, and grand-mom, she is always the first to volunteer for GFWC Georgia club, district, or state projects and has served in leadership roles at every level. She leads with integrity and compassion, always lifts her fellow team members, and demonstrates the importance of courageous women supporting each other.

She stays focused and productive while still making time for self-care and encourages us to do it by conducting a quick exercise demonstration at every meeting.

With compassion and kindness to everyone, she stands up for those who can't do it for themselves. To name a few, Cindy has volunteered with our club and with outside organizations to help veterans and veteran families, children in crisis in the foster care system, individuals with intellectual disabilities, and small dog rescue. She supports MUST Ministries, helping homeless and struggling individuals, volunteers in county schools and libraries, and serves as a docent at the Georgia Governor's Mansion.

We are proud to have her as our GFWC Marietta Woman's Club member and friend.

Submitted by Joyce Broughton

**GFWC Marietta Woman's Club**

## Women of Courage



### **Genie McCook**

Genie McCook has been a GFWC Tifton Woman's Club member for 24 years.

Before moving to Tifton, Genie was a GFWC Texas and Arkansas member for over 20 years. She has served as club president, district president, and on the state board for 15 years, where she aided as Convention Co-chair (2010), member at large of the executive board (2012-2014), and various other committees. In 2021, Genie was responsible for the first GFWC Georgia-sponsored Gold Star Marker. The GS Marker was erected in Veterans Park in Tifton in cooperation with the Tifton Council of Garden Clubs, the City of Tifton, and the Garden Clubs of Georgia.

Genie's presence and influence are felt throughout the Tifton community; she is a dedicated member of Tifton First United Methodist Church, where she sings in the choir, is a member of Circle Two, and is president of Club 55; Camellia Garden Club, where she currently serves as president; Newcomer's Club, where she serves as co-president. Through her compassionate and dedicated service, she is fully committed to serving her club, the Tifton community, and extended family.

Submitted by Shirene Daniell

**GFWC Tifton Woman's Club**



## Women of Courage



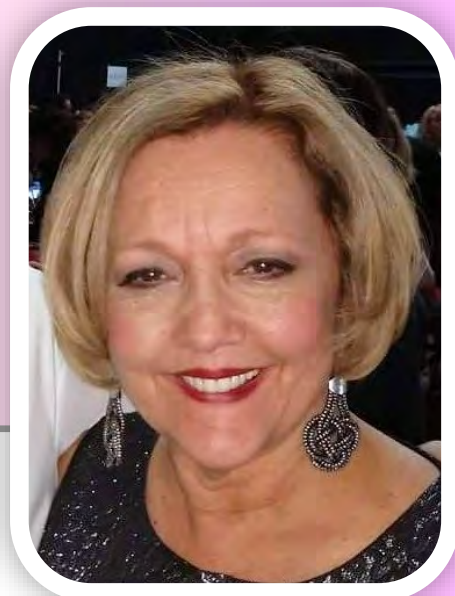
### **George Ann Hoffman**

George Ann Hoffman has been a member of the GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club for 51 years. During that time she has served the Stone Mountain club and the Central East District (formerly 4<sup>th</sup> District) in all positions except Treasurer. George Ann served GFWC Georgia as corresponding secretary under 3 State Presidents. She was Legislative Chairman for many years and co-authored "Under the Dome", a guide to the Georgia Legislature. George Ann currently serves on the GFWC Georgia Lipscomb Society committee and has held a position on the Protocol committee within the Southern Region. Not only has George Ann been active in the GFWC but also in the community. George Ann was the first Stone Mountain resident to be appointed to the Stone Mountain Memorial Association Board by Gov Joe Frank Harris and again by Gov. Zell Miller. She was one of the 7 original members of Art Station, Inc., Stone Mountain's center for the arts. George Ann and her husband, Judge Warren Hoffman are, members of Sola Fide Lutheran Church, and they have three children and three grandsons.

Submitted by Rebecca Stone

**GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club**

## Women of Courage



### **Lynda Barrs**

Augusta Junior Woman's Club's GFWC Georgia Woman of Courage is Lynda Barrs. Lynda was a club member and a Past Club President for over ten years. While working for our local Economic Opportunity Authority, Lynda embarked on a 27-year journey to serve the homeless, military, and low-income families. She spearheaded housing programs, developed critical community partnerships, and secured hundreds of millions of dollars in grants and donations. Lynda won the state's first Supportive Services for Veteran Families grant, bringing \$1 million to Augusta to house homeless veterans. Her work was also critical to Head Start Programs nurturing low-income children. She delayed her retirement when asked by the Mayor of Augusta to work on a systemic solution to better address homelessness across the county. Her contribution to our community was immense. She was fierce in her work, and many now have homes and food due to her tireless efforts. Sadly, we lost Lynda in April 2023, and our club will strive to honor her memory by supporting her projects.

Submitted by Freda Tylor

**GFWC Augusta Junior Woman's Club**

# Women of Courage



## Linda Harrelson

For 43 years, Linda Harrelson has been a vital member of the GFWC GA Morrow Civic Woman's Club (MCWC). She has been honored as a Club and District Woman of the Year and has exhibited exceptional leadership skills by serving in nearly every office and position. In a snapshot view of her service, Linda has organized a Culinary Heart Cooking Class, planted trees to Keep Clayton Clean and Beautiful, assisted in hosting annual Political Rallies, provided food at Stately Oaks Jonesboro Fall Festivals, led donation drives for local shelters, collected toys for Clayton's Operation Christmas, cooked meals for the homeless at Calvary Refuge, honored nursing home residents on Grandparents' Day, and the list goes on. Outside of the club, Linda regularly volunteered at her children's schools. In fact, she received a PTA Life Membership for her continued years of service.

Her club sisters want you to know that Linda Harrelson inspires each of us; so much so, we are humbled by her strength. During the past few years, Linda has faced unexpected and harsh challenges. She had severe health issues that resulted in a partial leg amputation. Yet, when our club secretary passed away, Linda volunteered to serve in her role. Then the unimaginable happened. Linda's daughter suddenly died. Many of us would have simply given up and said that we could no longer remain an active federation member. That is not our Linda Harrelson though, because SHE IS A TRUE GFWC GA WOMAN OF COURAGE. She shows up to meetings with a smile, engages in club work, and supports her fellow sisters with encouraging words and written notes. When asked why she continues being a MCWC member, Linda responded, "It's friendship and being a part of the community. Our club allows me to serve in so many different areas through its work." Linda Harrelson is a remarkable woman of exceptional courage who is dedicated to her club and community. Her club sisters are privileged to serve alongside her.

Submitted by Lois Wolfe

**GFWC Morrow Civic Woman's Club**

## Women of Courage



### Pat Swan

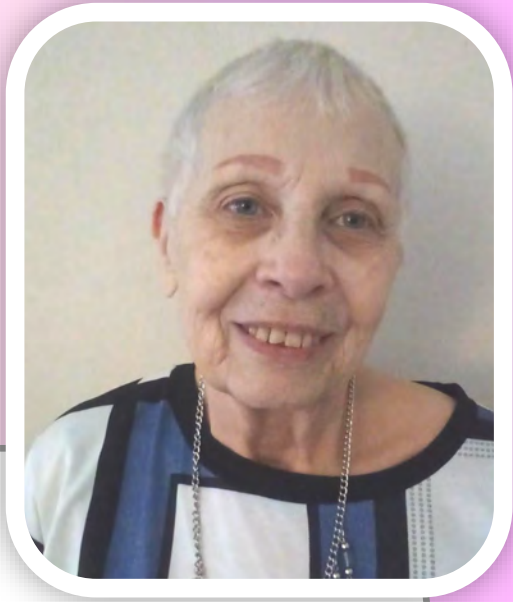
Pat Besson Swan is a Woman of Courage. As a nurse, she saw the toll that the lack of maternal care, prenatal and postnatal, takes on mothers and babies. In the 70's, she inspired her junior club to begin a program in DeKalb called Continuum. In 1974, it became the statewide, nonpartisan, non-profit organization called Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Georgia, which is still the strongest statewide voice to improve the health of Georgia's mothers and babies. Her junior club project in DeKalb County assisted with taking blood pressures and monthly weigh-ins at a health clinic. If the prospective mother came as scheduled, then when she delivered, she was given a basket of baby items furnished by the club and a local church. Pat was and continues to be involved in legislative issues for funding for this issue. During her service as Director of Junior Clubs and as State President, she encouraged clubs to hold baby showers to provide maternal support. During her State Presidency, the state raised over \$40,000 to help build a house for pregnant women seeking to be drug free. This year, Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies will celebrate 50 years of service toward improving the health of mothers and babies. Pat continues to call legislators to lobby to fund this work, as our job is not finished.

Submitted by Jenny Nall

**GFWC Lilburn Woman's Club**



## Women of Courage



### **Sandi Quattlebaum**

Sandi has been a member of GFWC GA Woodbine Woman's Club since 1985. She has been a chairman of every CSP and many Special committees, and has held every office. She volunteered and participated with many club projects and fundraisers. Sandi has been active in her community by being chairman of Organizing Committee of Relay for Life Luminaria Committee for 20 years, on Board of directors of Habitat and chairman of Family Selection Committee for 6 years, and volunteering in the office, on the board of directors and chairman of Board for Southeast Georgia Housing Authority for 5 years, Board of Directors of Camden County Children's Coalition and treasurer. Sandi has served the 8th and South East District by being chairman of all CSPs and many Special committees. She has held all offices of the Districts, and was 8th District President from 2004-2006. She served on the Board of Trustees for Tallulah Falls School from 2004-2006. Sandi has been Co-Chairman of Home Life CSP for 6 years and Education for 2 years. She has served on the Ella F. White Board of trustees for 5 years and was Chairman of the Board for 4 years. She also was co-chairman of 2 state conventions.

Submitted by Barbara Scott

**GFWC Woodbine Woman's Club**

## Women of Courage



### Pat Griffin

The West Georgia Woman's Club would like to recognize and honor our clubwoman, Pat Griffin. Pat has been a West Georgia Woman's Club charter member since 2021. After the loss of the President of our Club, Gail H. Cantrell, Pat stepped in with her leadership talent. Even though she had just recently completed cancer treatment, it was a labor of love to take on the enormous responsibility of restructuring our club. After such a significant loss, Pat ensured our club did not miss a step or fall behind in serving our community. Pat has also been a member of the Bremen Junior Woman's Club since 2006 and serves on several community committees near and dear to her heart. She is passionate about serving, especially for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, where she and her sorority host a yearly dinner/auction to benefit St. Jude Research. Pat is also involved with the House of Cherith, a place where women were previously engaged in sex trafficking. There is so much more we could say about Pat. She makes us strive to be "better." Pat is a treasure for our club and the community, and the West Georgia Woman's Club wants to thank her for always putting others first and going beyond in everything she does.

Submitted by Lisa Rooks

**GFWC West Georgia Woman's Club**

# Women of Courage



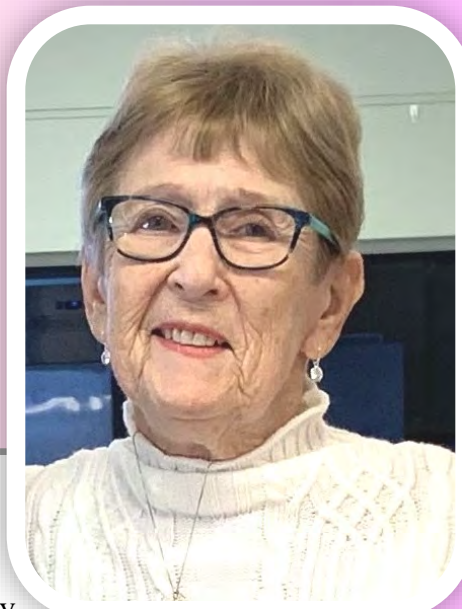
## Myra Carmon

Myra Carmon has been such a positive force in The Atlanta Woman's Club since joining in 2000. She served one term as President and four terms as the Board of Trustee Chair. She served as the 5th District President (now NW District) and participated in setting up state conventions. As a trained nurse and instructor, Myra administered flu shots to AWC Members every October for several years. The Atlanta Woman's Club is honored to have Myra Carmon as an active and valuable member.

Submitted by Peggy Pruett

**The Atlanta Woman's Club**

## Women of Courage



### **Penny Smith**

Volunteerism has been a way of life for Penny Smith, a native of Jacksonville, Florida, for as long as she can remember. A member of the GFWC Brunswick Woman's Club since 2007, Penny does not let her health-related obstacles impede her service to her community.

As President of the Club twice (2010-2012 and 2014-2016), Penny was instrumental in changing the club's name to reflect membership in the federation and as a non-profit organization. She saw a need and helped organize a fundraiser to support the local high school band directors with instrument refurbishment, and as a result, the club has donated over \$13,000 to the local bands. A staunch supporter of TFS, Penny organized a Service to Community Learning Day for the school's eighth-grade class's annual trip to the Golden Isles, plans club trips to visit TFS, and arranges for Jimmy Franklin to speak to the club each year.

Penny has served in numerous club and district officer positions, currently serving as the Parliamentary Advisor and TFS Chairman for the club and as the GFWC Georgia South East District Second Vice President. She is active in the community, active in her church, a member of the Board of Directors for Manna House, and a volunteer the local library and the Southeast Georgia Health System. She supports other polio victims as a care leader with the Coastal Empire Polio Survivors Association.

Submitted by Hilda Hagarty

**GFWC Brunswick Woman's Club**



## Women of Courage



### **JoAnne Garmany**

JoAnne Garmany joined the LaFayette Woman's Club in 1977 and has been an active member of the Club, serving in many local, district, and state positions.

She attended many district meetings and state conventions over the years. JoAnne was the Club's corresponding secretary. She never wavered in her duty to ensure important correspondence was communicated in our community, and she served as the district's corresponding secretary for many years.

JoAnne was awarded the LaFayette Woman's Club's highest honor of Club Appreciation Award Winner in 2018. Her years of service to the Club, the District, and the State are why she was awarded the GFWC Georgia LaFayette Woman's Club Life Member Award recently.

Submitted by Renee Griffin

**GFWC LaFayette Woman's Club**

## Women of Courage



### **Brenda Martin**

Brenda Martin, a member of the GFWC Gainesville Women's Club, joined in 1980, is past president of the club, a life director of GFWCGA, and a breast cancer survivor twice.

In 2009, a friend told her that women with breast cancer were not always able to afford the items like wigs and bras that they needed during treatment. Brenda contacted the For Her Glory Foundation to see what the club could offer. Brenda asked the woman's club to sponsor a luncheon to benefit the charity with members selling tickets to friends and decorating the tables. So, in August of 2009, the club hosted a luncheon with a guest speaker, and with the sale of tickets and raffle items, the club raised over \$800.00. Since that first luncheon, sponsors have been found, and auction items have been added. The luncheon raised more every year for For Her Glory, and in 2023, it raised \$14,500 for the charity and \$6,400 for the club, for a total of \$20,900. This project was Brenda's state project when she was GFWCGA State President. All the club members worked hard for this event, and even some former members will help. Brenda is still the driving force for this project.

Submitted by Kitty Wise

**GFWC Gainesville Phoenix Woman's Club**

## Women of Courage



### **Carolyn Friedlander**

The Moultrie Federated Guild has had numerous ladies who served in many capacities at the local, district, and state levels. In addition to being local community leaders, one of the three remarkable Guild women to serve as the GFWC Georgia President was Carolyn Marie Williams Friedlander.

Mrs. Friedlander was an active member in her community, having become a Federated Club member at age 22. She was the past president of both the Moultrie Jr. Woman's Club and the Moultrie Federated Guild. Indicative of her outstanding leadership and excellent peer respect, she was selected as the Clubwoman of the Year in both organizations. She also served as the Former District President, State 3rd, 2nd, and 1st Vice-President, and served a two-year term as the President of the Georgia Federation of Women's Clubs. She was a Life Directors' Club member. She was the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Tallulah Falls School and was granted lifetime honorary board membership. She was also a former member of the Moultrie Service League and a recipient of that organization's service bowl. In addition, she was a former member of the Board of Directors of the Moultrie YMCA and recipient of its "Member of the Year" award. She was active in service organizations and served as a Jury Commissioner for seven years. She was a faithful First United Methodist Church of Moultrie member and liked attending the early service at Funston United Methodist Church. She was also a great mentor to many women as they became members of the Moultrie Federated Guild. Sadly, she passed away on September 12, 2021.

Submitted by Suzanne Mashburn

**GFWC Moultrie Federated Guild**

# Women of Courage



## Debby Vanderbunt

The GFWC Heartland Woman's Club would like to recognize Deborah Vanderbunt. Debby has been a GFWC Federation of Women's Club member for 35 years. During that time, she started as a Covington Junior Woman's Club member, serving in different offices and as the president. She then went on to the nighttime group of the Covington Woman's Club, where she served as president for several years. Fourteen years ago, she helped form the GFWC Heartland Woman's Club, where she has been President for more than one term. She has served as a District President and various positions on the state level. She founded the annual charity croquet tournament and chaired it for 30 years. Debby is always there, ready to support and help others in the community. We feel like she goes above and beyond!

Submitted by GFWC Heartland Woman's Club

**GFWC Heartland Woman's Club**



## Women of Courage



### **Kay Cleveland**

Founded in 1974, Kay Cleveland is a GFWC Hartwell Service League Charter Member and the only member to serve as President of the Club two times, 1980-1982 and 1998- 2000. She won many District Art awards for her paintings.

Kay also served as Charter President of the Jaycettes 1968-1969, the Women's Auxiliary group for the Hartwell Jaycees. She was included in the 1969 Jaycees magazine as one of the Outstanding Young Women of America.

Kay was the first to receive the Hartwell Rotary Club's Jean Harris Award in March 2002. Named in honor of the wife of Rotary founder Paul Harris, this award honors her memory. It is presented to a non-Rotarian who exemplifies Service about Self volunteerism in the community.

Kay is a Master Gardener and has served as President of the Madora Garden Club in Hartwell four times. She is the current President of the group.

She was involved in her Church, serving as a Sunday School teacher and the first woman to serve on the Building Committee.

Kay was also the Charter President of the Hartwell Friendship Force.

Submitted by April Garner

**GFWC Heartland Service League**

## Women of Courage



### **Avernell Rogers**

GFWC Azalea City Woman's Club would like to honor Avernell Rogers for 55 years of service. Avernell is the club Organizer and a Charter Member of the Azalea City Woman's Club which was established in 1969. She has served the community, local club, district, and state through leadership and commitment to service.

At First Baptist Church of Valdosta, Avernell is on the Garden and Grounds Committee, the New Member Committee called "Breaking Bread for Life", and the Benevolent Ministry. She was a past Sunday School teacher for a 10-12-year-old class.

Avernell has gone up the leadership tiers from local club: Camellia Garden Club, to District: Camellia District, to State President for The Garden Club of Georgia Inc.

She is a past GFWC Georgia president (2002-2004). She is currently on the By-Laws and Resolutions Committee for GFWC Georgia and the Parliamentary Advisor for the Azalea City Woman's Club.

Avernell truly embodies the General Federation of Woman's Club motto: "Living the Volunteer Spirit."

Submitted by Justin Jacobs

**GFWC Azalea City Woman's Club**