



**CITY OF BROOKSVILLE  
GREAT BROOKSVILLIAN SCREENING COMMITTEE**

Joseph E. Johnston, III Council Chambers  
201 Howell Avenue Brooksville, FL 34601

**Agenda**

**July 17, 2025**

**5:00 P.M.**

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**A. Call to Order**

**B. Approval of Minutes**

1. June 20, 2025

**C. 2025 Great Brooksvillian Nomination Presentation (*in random order*):  
5 Minutes Time Limit for Presentation**

1. Mabel Sims
2. Arthur LeRoy Snow, Jr.
3. Martha Maner
4. Sandra Knox
5. Roy Link

**D. New Business**

**E. Citizen Input - (Discussion will be limited to 2 minutes for each speaker)**

**F. Adjourn**

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons with disabilities needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the ADA Coordinator, no later than 48 hours in advance of the meeting at (352) 540-3810. Meeting agendas and supporting documentation are available from the City Clerk's office and online at [www.cityofbrooksville.us](http://www.cityofbrooksville.us).

Any person desiring to appeal any decision with respect to any matter considered at this meeting may need a record of the proceedings including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based and therefore must arrange for a court reporter to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made.



**CITY OF BROOKSVILLE  
GREAT BROOKSVILLIAN SCREENING COMMITTEE**

Joseph E. Johnston, III Council Chambers 201  
Howell Avenue Brooksville, FL 34601

**Minutes**

**June 19, 2025**

**5:00 P.M.**

**A. Call to Order** – Chair Samples called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm.

Present: Chair Skip Samples, Vice Chair Rick Carlton, Board Member Jan Knowles, , and Board Member Debbie Daniel.

Absent: Board Member Gerard Lyons.

**B. Approval of Minutes**

1. March 20, 2025 – Motion made by Vice Chair Carlton, Seconded by Board Member Knowles to approve the minutes of March 20, 2025.

Vote: 4 – 0

**C. 2025 Great Brooksvillian Nomination Review:**

1. Mabel Sims
2. Arthur LeRoy Snow, Jr.
3. Martha Maner

**D. Past Top Three for consideration**

- a. Sandra Knox
- b. Roy Link

Board Members discussed the inclusion of Sandra Knox and Roy Link for consideration as Great Brooksvillian.

Motion made by Vice Chair Carlton, Seconded by Board Member Daniel to include Sandra Know and Roy Link for consideration for the 2025 Great Brooksvillian.

**E. New Business** –

Deputy Clerk Morris requested that the application be changed to an format that would not require adjustment annually.

Board was in consensus to allow the changes and requested that verbiage be added to the application that all applications received after the deadline would be automatically added to the next year for consideration.

Discussion ensued related to the allotted time for presentations at the next Board Meeting. It was noted that presenters have 5 minutes to make their presentation.

**F. Citizen Input - (Discussion will be limited to 2 minutes for each**

**speaker)** – There was none.

**G. Adjourn** – There being no further business before the Board the meeting adjourned at 5:31 pm.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Skip Samples, Chair

**Attest:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Lisa Morris, Recording Clerk

# "Great Brooksvillian"

Someone that has made The City of Brooksville Community a Better Place to Live.

## NOMINATION FORM

(Please type or print clearly in black ink)

Date of Submission: JUNE 13, 2025

1. Name of Nominee -

MABLE LEE HOLLOWAY SIMS

Name of Nominee

Contact information for the person that is nominating the Great Brooksvillian:

Name JAN KNOWLES Address 26287 SOUTH RD

Telephone/Cell No. 352-279-5182 Fax No: NONE BROOKSVILLE FL  
34601

Email address (If available): JANKNOWLESFL@GMAIL.COM

Photo Included? Yes  No  (Optional)

2. What positive contributions have been made to the history, cultural and/or economy of our community? Please include dates if known. Please attach one additional page if necessary. I HAVE KNOWN MRS SIMS SINCE 1993 IN BROOKSVILLE AND ACCOMPANIED

HER ON MANY OF HER TALKS ALL OVER FLA. + ENJOYED + LISTENED + WAS  
AWED ON THE AMOUNT OF KNOWLEDGE ON HERLAND CO HISTORY  
ON THE BLACK COMMUNITY. ALSO HER COLLECTION OF ARTIFACTS FROM THE  
1800'S IS EXTENSIVE TO BE SHARED BY ALL. SHE PASSED AWAY UNEXPECTEDLY  
IN FEB 2023. IF SHE IS RECALLED ON AS 2025 G.O. - HER HISTORY WILL CONTINUE

3. Did the contributions of this nominee also benefit outside the City of Brooksville?

If so, how?

DEFINITELY - SOME OF HER HISTORY IS ON PASCO CIRCUIT SURROUNDING COASTAL  
HER TALKS INVOLVED UNIVERSITIES - HISTORIC EVENTS - ANY GROUPS  
THAT ASKED HER TO TALK SHARE HER KNOWLEDGE. SHE WOULD ALSO BRING  
HER OVER 2000 - HISTORIC ARTIFACTS. SHE ALSO HAD 2 CRACKER HOMES

If you have questions, please contact, The Office of the City Clerk, Lisa Morris, Deputy

City Clerk 352-540-3893 or email: [COB-INFO@cityofbrooksville.us](mailto:COB-INFO@cityofbrooksville.us)

Return this form to:

City of Brooksville

Attn: Deputy City Clerk

201 Howell Avenue, Brooksville, FL 34601

MABLE LEE HOLLOWAY  
JULY 16, 1946 - FEBRUARY 26, 2023

# MY NOMINATION OF MABLE SIMS FOR THE 2025 GREAT BROOKSVILLIAN AWARD

By Jan Knowles

I first met Mable Sims in 1993 at an event that we had when I was involved at a function at the May-Stringer Heritage Museum in Brooksville, Fl. We were celebrating Hernando County's birthday, and she brought many, many African American artifacts collected from her family homestead "Twin Lakes" property on Cardwell Street, in Eastern Brooksville. She and her husband were in native dress and had tables full of artifacts that she shared with everyone including the history of African Americans in Hernando County. I learned that her mission statement was "To inform and educate the public about the rich heritage of the O'Neal-St. Clair lineage and their accomplishments". Her accumulation of history she shared she called "HISTORY On WHEELS".

Knowing her for as long as I have, I could not think of a better candidate for the City's honorary title of Great Brooksvillian more than Mable Sims.

She has been sharing her "History on Wheels" since 1993 and still continues to do so, as well as her history of their "Twin Lakes" area and her two-family Cracker Homes she is applying to put on the National Registry of Historic Places in Hernando County.

Her accomplishments just to name a few are as follows:

- a) She was a teacher for many years for the Head Start Program she would share her knowledge of history with grades from Kindergarten to High School.
- b) She went to Johannesburg, South Africa as an ambassador for black history in 1998
- c) She also shares her 6<sup>th</sup>. Generation family whose great-great grandfather was a slave
- d) She has shared her histories with speeches at Florida Universities over the years
- e) She spoke Oct. 8 thur 13, 2002 at the 56<sup>th</sup>. National Preservation Conference and was named "2002 Emerging Preservation Leader".
- f) Her Great-Great Uncle Lem St. Clair was 2007 Great Brooksvillian for his contributions and is on our 2008 LIVERY STABLE MURAL. She furnished all of the history to help make that happen.
- g) Locally she has done first person impressions of Aunt Lizzie at Chinsegut Hill 1845 Manor House for many years.
- h) She has participated in many discussions with classes at Pasco Hernando Community College and Pasco Hernando State Colleges.

March 2019 Mable Sims on behalf of the African American Heritage Society of east Pasco County was selected as one of their 2019 National Woman's History Month honorees of five, as their valiant Community servants. The ceremony took place March 7, 2020.

Her list of accomplishments for Hernando and Brooksville are many and her knowledge of the area concerning the African American Heritage is priceless.

She also received in 2022 Historic Hernando Preservation Society annual award "Lee Anne Shoeman Award of Preservation Excellence.

She continued on until her death Feb. 26, 2023 updating her history of her family and of course of her Hernando heritage.

Her death in 2023 has left a great void . She died with dignity and grace and left behind a wonderful devoted family who will carry on her passion for history and of her love of expressing that at every opportunity she could.

Her work will carry on thanks in part to the City of Brooksville like their GREAT BROOKSVILLIAN COMMITTEE. If she were to receive this award it will help to continue to educate residents and others of the heritage of the African American History of Hernando and Citrus and Pasco surrounding counties.

Submitted to the City of Brooksville June 13, 2025 Jan Knowles – Historian in Hernando Co.

# 2024 Great Brooksvillian

## RECOGNIZING INDIVIDUALS WITH OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS

The City of Brooksville would like to recognize outstanding men and women who have made significant positive contributions to the history, culture and/or economy of our community.

Each year the Brooksville City Council asks for nominations for this prestigious award.

Do you know someone that should be recognized for their community contributions?

Submit your nomination for this prestigious award by  
City of Brooksville.

Deadline for Nominations: Tuesday, June 11, 2024 5:00PM.

For More information & to download a Nomination form,

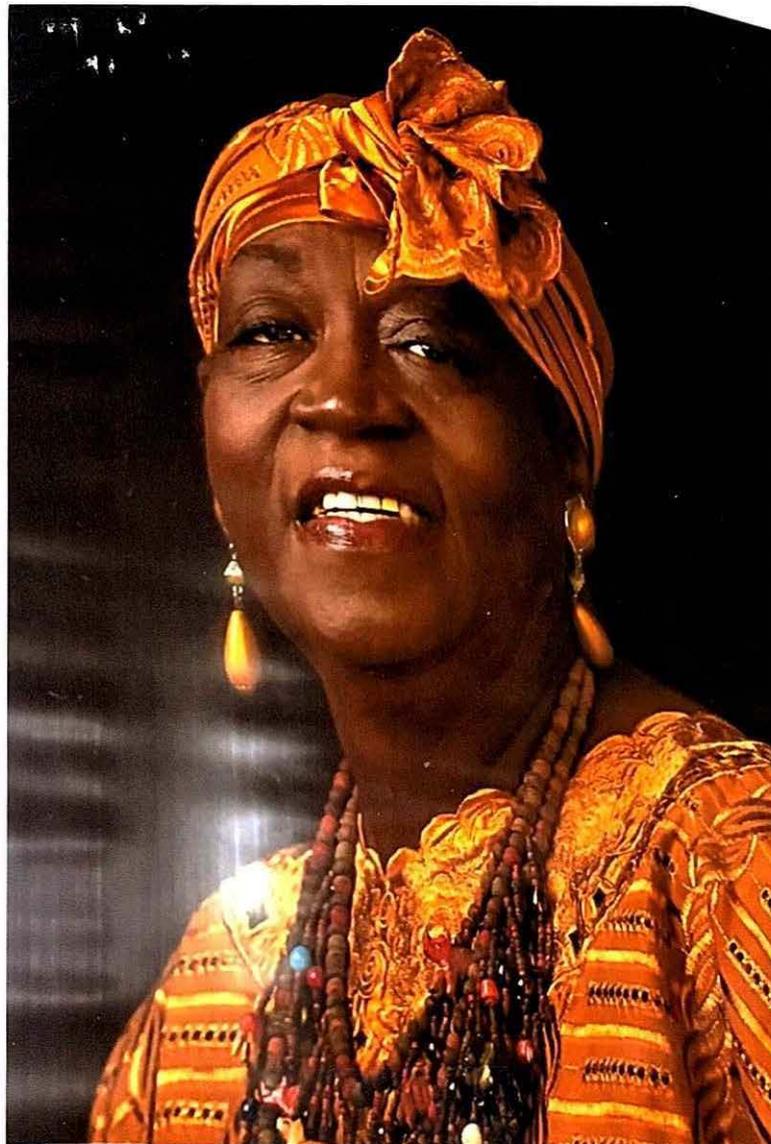
Visit the City of Brooksville Website at:

[www.cityofbrooksville.us](http://www.cityofbrooksville.us)

Email: [COB-INFORMATION@cityofbrooksville.us](mailto:COB-INFORMATION@cityofbrooksville.us)

Or pick up a printed copy at:

201 Howell Avenue, Brooksville FL



Mable Sims

July 16, 1946 -  
Feb. 26, 2023

PLEASE  
RETURN  
PHOTO  
Thank you

\*The Dash represents all of her accomplishments. She attended an all Black "Melanated School in Hernando County from "the first grade through the twelfth grade" at Moton High School in Brooksville, Florida.

After graduating from High School in 1963, she moved to Saint Petersburg, Florida to further her education in cosmetology along with that she got her CNA license as a certified nurse assistant, she work vary job's in that field from 1972-1978.

After moving back to Brooksville Florida, a small rural county community called Twin Lakes Florida in the summer of 1978. While getting settled in, she started as a volunteer parent at Head Start. Soon she was promoted to teacher aide/bus driver from there she became a Head Start Teacher. Mable wore many titles throughout her life such as a teacher in Sumter County, AA/AS at PHCC. Mable personality was a great benefit to the parents and staff.

After leaving (Head Start), she continued, her family's long rich legacy, in History/ Cultural, including display presentation that is her 'generation's of art's, books, pictures and other items like many of her memorabilia she also portray the character of Aunt Lizzie Washington at Chinsegut Hill, north of Hernando Co. for many years, also " History on Wheels " by going to many elementary, middle, high school, throughout the county.

She leaves a legacy of memories to her (4) Children- Lisa D Mobley, Robert Henry Huggins (Tomeka), Furlishus M. Mobley (Robin), Michael James Huggins (Tawana), One Step-Son, Demetrius Marcella Sims; Her sibling (5) Sisters-- Precious M. Avant, Helen O. Hall (deceased), Valerie R. Tucker (deceased), Willie Mae Birdsong, Ruby Martin (Sammie) all in St. Petersburg, FL (3) Brothers- John W. Morris (Demerita), Dade City FL, Nathaniel J. Morris, St. Petersburg, FL, Willie Morris (Daisy) Tampa, FL; (2) Uncles- Pastor Carl Norton O'Neal (Sarah) Brooksville, FL, Isaac North O'Neal, Dade City, FL (1) Aunt- Willie Viola Norton O'Neal, Brooksville, FL; 13 Grandchildren & 17 Great- Grandchildren;

As well as a host of Great nieces/ nephews, cousins, special relatives, friends co-workers, event planners, City/ County officials and individual who worked at Higher Learning Institutions

To send flowers (</obituary/Mable-Holloway/sympathy-landing>) to the family or plant a tree (</obituary/Mable-Holloway/1071513/memorial-tree>) in memory of Mable Lee Holloway, please visit our floral store. (</obituary/Mable-Holloway/sympathy-landing>)

*SM 11-20  
prop  
Cherry*

## Services

**WAKE**  
Friday  
March 10, 2023  
5:00 PM

Greater Love Outreach Ministry  
20053 Yontz Road  
Brooksville, FL 34601

(</obituary/Mable-Holloway/sympathy-landing>)

 Directions

([https://maps.google.com/?](https://maps.google.com/?q=20053+Yontz+Road,+Brooksville,+FL+34601)

[q=20053+Yontz+Road,+Brooksville,+FL+34601](https://maps.google.com/?q=20053+Yontz+Road,+Brooksville,+FL+34601))

 Text Details

 Email Details

(</obituary/Mable-Holloway/1071513/memorial-tree>)

## "Great Brooksvillian"

Someone that has made The City of Brooksville Community a Better Place to Live.

### NOMINATION FORM

(Please type or print clearly in black ink)

Date of Submission: June 5, 2025

1. Name of Nominee -

ARTHUR LeRoy "Roy" Snow, Sr.  
Name of Nominee

Contact information for the person that is nominating the Great Brooksvillian:

Robert Bruce Snow

Name

Address

Telephone/Cell No. (352) 796-1441 Fax No: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address (if available): bsnow@rbsnowlaw.com

Photo Included? Yes  No  (Optional)

2. What positive contributions have been made to the history, cultural and/or economy of our community? Please include dates if known. Please attach one additional page if necessary. See Attached

3. Did the contributions of this nominee also benefit outside the City of Brooksville? If so, how? See Attached

**If you have questions, please contact, The Office of the City Clerk, Lisa Morris, Deputy City Clerk 352-540-3893 or email: [COB-INFO@cityofbrooksville.us](mailto:COB-INFO@cityofbrooksville.us)**

*Return this form to:*

*City of Brooksville*

*Attn: Deputy City Clerk*

*201 Howell Avenue, Brooksville, FL 34601*

**ARTHUR LEROY “ROY” SNOW, SR.**  
**(April 15, 1919 – September 7, 2003)**

ARTHUR LEROY “ROY” SNOW, SR., was born on April 15, 1919 on Snow Hill (now known as Chinsegut Hill) – a descendent of the pioneer Snow and Ederington families.

A 1937 graduate of Hernando High School, Roy was destined to become one of Brooksville’s most decorated war heroes. Following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, Roy was among the throngs of patriotic Americans who enlisted into the United States Armed Forces. Roy’s leadership talents led him to Officer Candidate School where he was commissioned as an Army Lieutenant.

Roy trained with his assigned Infantry Unit – the famed and highly decorated 30<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division known as “*Old Hickory*”. Upon completion of his States-side training, he was shipped with his unit to England on February 12, 1944 to prepare for the Allies’ invasion of Normandy. The D-Day Invasion of Normandy in June of 1944 witnessed Roy and the 30<sup>th</sup> Division storming the shores of Omaha Beach.

The 30th Infantry Division immediately engaged in fierce combat against elite units of the German Army. First on the beaches; then in the “hedge-row” breakout at St. Lo; followed by the Battle of Mortain where *Old Hickory* engaged in hand-to-hand combat to defeat the famed German 1<sup>st</sup> SS Division. So preeminent and successful in battle was *Old Hickory*, American political and military leaders referred to the unit as the “Workhorse of the Western Front”, while the German high command referred to it as “Roosevelt’s SS Troops”. Yet the 30<sup>th</sup> Division’s work in Europe was not done; during the winter of 1944-45, the 30<sup>th</sup> Division fought and defeated elite German forces during the “Battle of the Bulge”. During all of these battles, Lt. Snow was on the front line; leading his troops; suffering the hardships of war; and, facing the tragedies suffered by brave men.

Roy enjoyed a short sabbatical from the Army after the end of the war. However, he was again called to duty by his country in the early 1950’s and was sent to serve with the U. S. occupational forces in Japan. While stationed in Japan, the Korean War broke out and Captain Snow was among the first American troops sent to fight the North Koreans and then the Chinese on the Korean peninsula.

Roy again saw extensive combat against a ferocious enemy. His combined front-line combat experience in World War II and the Korean War placed him in

the upper echelon of soldiers in terms of days in combat. After serving an additional year in combat, Roy returned home.

However, he had one final hazardous duty as an American Soldier. He was sent to participate in America's nuclear weapons testing program in Nevada. He commanded units that were eye witnesses to the atmospheric nuclear explosions; and, he led his army units to "ground zero" hours after the detonation. Due to his exposure to nuclear radiation, he was later designated as an American Nuclear Veteran.

Captain Snow's bravery and courage has been recognized by a grateful nation. As a highly decorated officer, he was awarded the Silver Star and three Bronze Stars for valor, and five Purple Hearts for wounds suffered in combat.

After his military service, Roy returned to his beloved home in Brooksville where he continued to build a legacy as an outstanding citizen of Brooksville. He and his wife, Marie nee Carrick, whom he had met and married while in Tennessee during military maneuvers prior to being shipped to England, founded Snow's Insurance Agency, now Snow & Bell Insurance Agency (Established 1952). The Agency is one of Brooksville's oldest family-owned and operated businesses now approaching its 75<sup>th</sup> year of operation.

His leadership skills and desire to serve his fellow citizens were also in full display when he was appointed by Governor Fuller Warren in 1952 to become a Hernando County Commissioner, a position to which he was subsequently elected to three successive terms of office. He served as an admired and trusted public servant until 1966.

His service to his country and to his countrymen being manifest by a life well lived, his proudest service was as a man of great faith who served as an elder of the Brooksville Church of Christ for many years.

A proud yet humble Brooksvillian, whose acts of heroism, patriotism, and public service were not spoken by himself; but by those who knew him. He was a man whose life was an example of acts of patriotism, courage, generosity, kindness, love and faith.

## **GRANDDAD WAS OUR HERO. WE LOVED HIM.**

Born on Chinsegut Hill in Hernando County, Florida, on April 13, 1918, his wonderful and rich life was one of which books are written and movies made. He was a proud – yet humble man.

As one of eighteen children born into one of Hernando County's pioneer families, he enjoyed a childhood in the days when life was simpler. He loved to take leisurely sunset swims in Lake Lindsey with his sisters: Helen, Midge, Mimi, and Jo-Re. Being a red-blooded, all-American boy reaching manhood in the rural South of the early 1900's, hunting for deer, squirrels, rabbits, and possums was a right of passage. Fishing for bass at McKethan Lake, not only helped keep the family fed – but also was one of the many pleasures that he shared with his older brother, Gene and his younger brother, Bruce.

He learned the quality of a quiet dignity and the gift of generosity from his beloved "Papa", Ernest Snow. Kindness and a loving spirit were acquired by sitting at the feet of his mother, Cora. Older brothers, Jim and Ed, together with older sisters, Ann, Teeny,

and Juanita were a constant link to the heritage of which he was so proud.

Like many of his generation, he grew up during the depression. Yet his family did not suffer. They lived off the land, the smokehouse was full of meat and the garden was abundant with vegetables. They were rich in the comfort of a close-knit family consisting of many uncles, aunts, cousins – Ederingtons, McKeowns, Hedicks to name a few. Some of our most cherished memories are of sitting in Granddad's lap while he told us stories of those times.

Life in a peaceful and serene America changed in 1941, when World War II started. Granddad enlisted in the Army in 1942 and was commissioned a lieutenant. While training to be a soldier in the Cumberland mountains of Tennessee, granddad's life took on a story-book quality. While on leave, he drove his army jeep down the winding road of Dunlap mountain into the valley below to attend the county fair. There, as though by fate, he met our Aunt Evelyn and Uncle R. T., who introduced him to their sister, the faire-  
maiden, Anna Marie Carrick. Grandmother says he was the most handsome man to ever set foot in Sparta, Tennessee. After a whirl-

wind courtship, they were married on July 14, 1943. We know that their courtship was very short; and when we have pressed grandmother on how long they knew each other before they got married, all she will say is: "it's a military secret". In his typical under-stated fashion, he wrote a letter home to his mother and father and closed the letter by saying: "P. S. By the way, I am getting married".

Granddad and Grandmother loved each other for a lifetime; they celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on July 14<sup>th</sup> of this year.

In February of 1944, Granddad was shipped to England where he joined the U. S. forces preparing for the invasion of Europe.

He landed on the beaches of Normandy in June of 1944, and along with many other young Americans, fought for freedom's cause. It was his duty. A duty of which he was proud. He was then, and for his entire life, a great patriot who loved his country.

He seldom spoke of his combat experiences; and, he did not consider himself a hero. Instead, he said he only did that which any other soldier would do. Many of his friends died in combat, and he often lamented that he too could have just as easily been a

war casualty. It is undoubtedly for that reason, that he considered the balance of his life to be blessed. He had the courage to march into battle; but he also had the courage to live a life of conviction and faith. Having faced death as a soldier, he did not fear death as a soldier of Christ.

We learned that he was a war hero, not from his own lips, but from those of others. In his later life, some of his favorite activities consisted of attending reunions of the Thirtieth Infantry Division – Old Hickory. He cherished meeting with his old war buddies, to reminisce, laugh and joke, and honor fallen comrades. I have seen my mother's eyes swell with prideful tears when many of his friends told her that he was the bravest soldier they had ever seen. His calmness in the face of danger was legendary.

His contributions to military tactics have been chronicled in the Infantry Journal. In France, our granddad designed a military tactic that greatly enhanced the effectiveness and accuracy of how infantry units deployed 81 mm mortars. It was this feat of which he was perhaps most proud – not for himself – but because of its significant contributions to a successful war effort.

For gallantry, Granddad was awarded the Silver Star and several Bronze Stars. It was only in recent years that we learned of the details of his valor that led to these decorations. It was not his nature to speak of his accomplishments. He would much rather speak of his pride in his children and his grandchildren. Bert's winning a little league baseball game brought him greater joy than being awarded a medal. Brittany's athletic prowess at Hernando High School and the University of Pittsburgh thrilled him more than winning a battle. Brook's being crowned homecoming queen and Miss Hernando County, and in so doing following her mother's footsteps, was more important than General Hobb's citations for valor; and my being elected as class president was far more important than him being elected to the County Commission.

Just as his shouted commands to his soldiers on the battlefield engendered admiration and respect, so did his whispered soft words of comfort and encouragement into the ears of his three children, Roy, Jr., Bruce, and Sharon. He was proud of them, and it was through the influence of both his and grandmother's example that their lives, values, and faith have been molded. His wisdom,

steady presence, and calming influence have been a hall-mark of the legacy that he left to his family and all that knew him.

Following the end of World War II, Granddad was ordered back into the army. This time he was sent to fight in Korea. As an experienced combat officer, Captain Snow was called upon to lead some of the first American troops into battle. So hasty was the call to arms in Korea, Granddad arrived in Korea without even a weapon. He was not dismayed. He knew that he would be provided for when he got there. Indeed, he was armed with the rifle of one of the United States' first casualties of the war. His well-known traits of patience and faith again served the day. Those traits remained with him until he died.

In both wars, my mother's "daddy" received five purple hearts for wounds suffered in combat. It was not necessary for him to talk about his injuries, we could see the scars. None-the-less, Granddaddy said they were not serious, after all he said: "they missed the heart".

After fighting in two wars and serving his country in the army for nine years, granddad and grandmother returned with their three children to Hernando County. There, like generations of ancestors

before him, he made his home with his beautiful bride from the hills of Tennessee.

Together, granddad and grandmother founded Snow's Insurance Agency, now Snow & Bell, Inc., a business they proudly built from scratch through long hours and hard work. A strong work ethic is but another value that granddad regularly stressed to all of his family as we set around the dinner table. During such sessions, granddad would often lecture with lessons from his own "economic theory". We all knew to order a "cup of soup" rather than a "bowl of soup" since you got the same quantity for a smaller price. Ordering a "seafood platter" was unheard of since the platter would consist mostly of inexpensive pieces of fish for twice the price. Yet his own "economic theory" inevitably yielded to the greater demands of his innate kindness. A kindness that was often displayed in untold acts of generosity helping family, friends and even strangers in need.

It was only natural that a person who loved people as much as did our granddad, would turn to politics. In 1953, he was appointed by Governor Fuller Warren to serve on the Hernando County Board of County Commissioners. His tenure on the County

Commission, which ran through 1966, was the second longest in the history of Hernando County. Through this public service, he was able to continue his contributions to the people of the county he loved. His fondness of debate and discussions of political affairs was founded upon a keen appreciation of their role in a free society. After all he had fought for freedom and he had seen men die in that fight. Even after he had retired, he felt it his civic duty to sit around the table at the do-nut shop, drink coffee, and solve the world's problems with his friends. I'm not so sure but that the solutions proffered at such forum would be far better than those spoken by today's politicians. After all, our granddad was a man of great wisdom.

For all his great accomplishments, granddad was not without his vices. He had a passion for golf. In golf, as in war, he battled the challenges set before him, he strove to reach the objective, and he enjoyed the comradeship of his sojourners. He also enjoyed a good cigar.

Granddad had a lifetime of great accomplishments. He was honored for his courage, respected for his wisdom, and admired for his convictions. However, it was not his achievements that made

him the great man we loved. It was the fact that he was a man of faith.

He believed that a life was meaningless without faith in God. He believed in living the life of a Christian. The most meaningful thing in his life was the love of God, his son, and the Church. He was an elder at the church of Christ in Brooksville because it was his duty – a duty he somberly yet gladly accepted.

It is in matters of faith that our granddad has set life's greatest example. There is no greater heritage that one could leave.

By Blake Bell

**HEADQUARTERS 30<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION**  
**OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL**  
**"OLD HICKORY"**

**AWARD OF SILVER STAR MEDAL CITATION**

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Arthur L. Snow 01306490, 120<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, United States Army, is awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action on 9 July 1944, in France. When a determined enemy counterattack forced rifle elements of his unit to fall back from their positions, Lt. Snow courageously exposed himself to heavy fire in order to calm the shaken men and direct them back to their positions. He then returned and directed the fire of his own and another mortar platoon on the advancing enemy. Lt. Snow's gallant actions contributed much to the stemming of the enemy counter attack. Entered military service from Florida.

L. S. Hobbs  
Major General U. S. Army  
Commanding

## **LEROY SNOW**

I first met Leroy Snow in the spring of 1943 at Camp Blanding, Florida when we were in the same company - Service Company, 120th Infantry Regiment, 30th Infantry Division. While in this company, Roy's performance was well above the average of the other officers in the unit.

After a few months Roy was reassigned to M Company of the same regiment. This company is a heavy weapons company where Roy was a leader of an 81 MM mortar platoon. Again his performance of duty was above the average.

After further training and maneuvers, the division sailed for England in February 1944. With additional training our unit landed in Normandy, France invasion D-Day + 5 and 6. Roy was assigned to a front line combat unit. Again his performance of duty was outstanding. While in combat Roy and another officer devised a new procedure that improved the accuracy and range of the 81 MM mortars in the weapons platoon which he commanded. Fortunately Roy made it safely through World War II.

I next ran into Roy in Yokohama, Japan in the spring of 1950 upon his arrival in the country. A few months later the Korean War broke out and here again Roy was assigned to a front line combat unit. His performance of duty was again superior. Again Roy made it safely through the Korean War.

After the Korean War Roy and I went our separate ways until we started attending our 30th Infantry Division Reunions. We have been in contact for the past 25-30 years.

In my 33+ years in the United States Army, I have met only a few officers with the devotion to duty, love of country and performance of duty equal to that of Roy Snow. Only a few officers have had the days in frontline combat that Roy was exposed to.

In closing, the world has lost an outstanding patriot, soldier, officer and gentleman, and a dear friend of mine.

Layton C. Tyner  
Colonel, US Army Retired

--- Joe Tyner  
--- [joetyner@ix.netcom.com](mailto:joetyner@ix.netcom.com)

CONTACT US  
OUT NEWS:  
phone: 754-6101  
fax: 754-6133;  
e-mail: hernando@sptimes.com

# HERNANDO TIMES

AN EDITION OF THE  
St. Petersburg Times

TUESDAY ■ SEPTEMBER 9, 2003

## Living historian Snow passes into memory



Arthur L. "Roy" Snow lived his entire life of 85 years, except for several years in military service, in Hernando County, where he became its unofficial historian.

Called the best link to Hernando's past, Arthur L. "Roy" Snow died Sunday at 85. He made history as a war hero and county commissioner.

By DAN DeWITT  
Times Staff Writer

BROOKSVILLE — Arthur L. "Roy" Snow, a former county commissioner and one of the last remaining county leaders from the post-World War II era, died Sunday at age 85.

"He is probably the best link to our past, as far as Hernando history is concerned, because he actually lived it," said Bob Martinez, publisher of *Old Brooksville in Photos and Stories*. "He was

one of the last great storytellers linking the past generation to the current generation."

Mr. Snow founded Snow & Bell Insurance Co. with his wife, Marie, in 1955. He had one of the longest runs on the Hernando County Commission, serving from 1953 until he was defeated in the Democratic primary in 1966.

Even before his appointment, though, Mr. Snow was well known as a war hero, said his son, Bruce, who served for many years as the county's attorney.

As a lieutenant in World War II, he landed in Normandy and fought in the Battle of the Bulge. He then served a one-year tour in Korea, rising to the rank of captain. He was awarded the Silver Star and Bronze Star for bravery, and four Purple Hearts for combat wounds.

"Roy Snow the war hero," said Brooksville

lawyer Joe Mason. "That was something you knew about and something that engendered a high degree of respect. It wasn't something that you would talk about. It was just part of the persona, and it served as a fulcrum for his influence on the community."

The job of county commissioner during Mr. Snow's era was both less demanding and more demanding than it is now, Bruce Snow said.

Commissioners met only once a month, usually for half a day. But they were directly responsible for supervising governmental functions, including, for example, public works.

"Being involved in the day-to-day operation of the county was part of the job description," Bruce Snow said.

"It was more hands-on and, because the community was so much smaller, the county

commissioners had more of direct connection with the residents."

Bruce Snow said he remembers accompanying his father to campaign rallies in Spring Lake and Masaryktown.

The rallies were generally well attended because, in the era before television advertising, they offered both a rare chance to hear the candidates and, usually, free food — fried fish, chicken and rice, or boiled peanuts.

The primary medium for reporting results was the big glass window of a downtown car dealership, where results were written with grease pencil.

"All the townspeople would gather uptown on election night," Bruce Snow said.

Please see **SNOW** Page 6

## Snow from Page 1

So would opposing candidates, who were often friends or neighbors.

Jack Underwood, for example, who eventually defeated Mr. Snow, "lived three doors down from us," Bruce Snow said.

"He served on a commission during what was a time of transition from a small, rural Southern community to the more eclectic, larger, suburban community that we have today," his son said.

Actually, that transition didn't come until Roy Snow and his contemporaries were replaced, said Chuck Smith, who was elected to the commission the year Snow was defeated.

"Roy was a good man and a good citizen of the community," Smith said. "But there were no individual members on (the commission) the way there are today. Whatever came out, all five usually supported it."

Public input was limited, Smith

said. The real decisions were made by powerful business leaders, including banker Alfred McKethan and John Law Ayers, a rancher and longtime commission chairman.

Under their power, Smith said, they neglected to enforce a state fence law that had passed nearly 20 years earlier; cows, wandering the highway, represented a safety hazard and an impediment to development in Hernando County.

Yes, these men had influence, Mason said, but long-serving and well-regarded commissioners such as Mr. Snow certainly acted independently or swayed the group decision.

McKethan and Ayers "didn't tell them what to do," Mason said. "They couldn't."

Mr. Snow, who was a member of one of the county's oldest families, settled into another important role in his retirement — that of an unofficial historian.

Born in the area that is now called Chinsegut Hill, and was then known as Snow Hill, he lived in the county for all of his life other

than during his military career.

He sometimes seemed to remember every minute, his son said.

Though he had been in failing health for several months because of progressive heart disease, "even in the past few days, he was still telling me about things that happened in the 1930s, things I didn't know about," Bruce Snow said.

"I have probably contacted him dozens of times," Martinez said, "usually to find out where a building used to be or who lived there and who owned it.

"He always seemed to be able to tell me. He was a real authority on local history and just a real nice, charming man."

Surviving Mr. Snow, in addition to Bruce Snow, are his wife, Marie, of Brooksville; a son, Arthur Leroy Jr. of Brooksville; a daughter, Sharon Bell of Brooksville; a sister, Joyce Agliano of Tampa; and four grandchildren.

Merritt Funeral Home of Brooksville is in charge of arrangements.

# 30th Inf. Div. Award's Medals Bronze, Air Medals Given to Officers and Men

WITH THE 30TH INF. DIVISION, France, Aug. 31.—The awards of Bronze Stars and Air Medals to officers and men of this division was announced yesterday by Maj. Gen. Leland S. Hobbs, commander.

Bronze Stars have been presented to Col. Richard W. Stephens, of Pierre, S. D.; Col. Otto Blinn, of Lawrence, Kan.; Lt. Col. John W. Daudridge, of Monroe, N. C.; Lt. Col. Stewart L. Hall, of Newark, N. J.; Lt. Col. Harold E. Hunsentz, of Sconto, Wis.; Lt. Col. Walter L. Frankland, of Jackson, Tenn.; Lt. Col. Thomas P. Van Noppen, of Madison, N. C.; Lt. Col. Alfred J. Trehanne, of Birmingham, Ala.; Lt. Col. George D. Patterson, of Leaksville, D. C.; Lt. Col. Earle M. Stevens, of Belleville, N. J.; Lt. Col. Peter O. Ward, of Lynchburg, Va.; Lt. Col. Frederick C. Shepard, of Goldsboro, N. C.; Maj. Leland L. Lamb, of Charlotte, N. C.; Maj. Jesse J. Parrish, Jr., of Titusville, Fla.; Maj. John W. Craig, of Charlotte, N. C.; Capt. Donald Bannerman, of Walkkill, N. Y.; Capt. Reynold E. Erickson, of Miles, Ill.; Capt. Eric Gasell, of Rayside, L. I.; Capt. Ezekial L. Glazer, of Palm Beach, Fla.; Capt. Gordon I. Coffin, of San Francisco; Lt. Arthur L. Snow, of Brooksville, Fla.; Lt. Robert J. Kline, of Mount Pleasant, Mich.; Lt. Martin F. Caulfield, of Alhambra, N. J.; Lt. Edwin J. Franklin, of Savannah, Ga.; Lt. Myron Wood, of Duncan, Okla.; WO/JG Robert L. Jerome of Stamford, N. C.; M/Sgt. Robert E. Simon, of Lincoln, Neb.; T/Sgt. Robert C. Bondurant, of Reidsville, N. C.; T/Sgt. Joe T. Wall, of Winston-Salem, N. C.; T/Sgt. Lewis M. Boyd, of Winchester, Va.; S/Sgt. Victor C. Walcott, of Venice, Cal.; S/Sgt. Henry K. Comanche, of Honolulu, T. H.; S/Sgt. Lee R. Kirby, of Tobaccoville, N. C.; S/Sgt. Robert...

S/Sgt. ... of Blackville, S. C.; S/Sgt. Robert O. Britton, of Jonesville, Me.; Sgt. James E. Rigan, of Oxford, N. C.; Sgt. Charles E. Hanecek, of Terrace, Pa.; Sgt. William Stephenson, of Hollywood, Cal.; Sgt. Oliver Traubman, of Los Angeles; T/4 Hymal Swidler, of Chicago; T/4 Delaware M. Powell, of Abbeville, Ala.; Cpl. Vincent N. Maggio, of Bayonne, N. J.; Cpl. Jack C. Watkins, of Denver; Cpl. Lloyd F. Farret, of New Orleans; Cpl. Joseph B. Knight, of Savannah, Ga.; Cpl. Hugh J. Garland, of New Haven, Conn.; T/5 Darrell H. Dooley, of Ramona, S. D.; T/5 Clinton M. Johnson, of Meichen, N. J.; T/5 Daniel R. Poutas, of Newton Upper Falls, Mass.; T/5 Jesse Parker, of Kansas City, Mo.; T/5 John J. Maginnis, of Folsom, Pa.; T/5 Maurice I. Poland, of Belfast, Me.; T/5 Oscar M. Cain, of Bay Springs, W. Va.; Pfc Maylon D. Curbing Jr., of Baltimore, Md.; Pfc George L. Engelbrecht, of Union City, N. J.; Pfc Vernon L. Lamb, of Hightower, Tex.; Pfc Kenneth W. Gerboth, of Blackwell, Okla.; Pfc Hubert N. Racette, of Rome, N. Y.; Pfc Carmon J. Thomas, of Youngstown, Ohio; Pfc Rolf Laenzl, of Merrick, L. I., N. Y.; Pfc William Lutenby, of Blythe, Cal.; Pfc Albert J. Hathorn, of Louisville, Ky.; Pfc Edward G. Martin, of East Berkshire, Vt.; Pfc Newell A. Lawley, of Clatskanie, Ore.; Pfc Lloyd A. Davis, of Parkman, Mo.; Pfc Roy V. Whitner, of Eureka, Ill.; Pfc Willie M. True Jr., of Birmingham, Ala.; Pfc Elbert M. Freeze, of Lauder, N. C.; Pfc Cosmo L. Biazal, of Athens, N. Y.; and Pfc Paul J. Fontaine, of Central Falls, R. I.

Air Medals were presented to Capt. David G. Ferguson, of Greenville, S. C.; Lt. Odell Williamson (with Oak Leaf Cluster), of Wilmington, N. C.; Lt. James Beard Jr., of Fenwick, Pa.; Lt. Robert E. Trapp, of Tarkenton, Tex.; Lt. Paul E. Griffin, of Manhattan, Kan.; Lt. Elmer G. Rosenbaker, of Ambrose, Pa.; Lt. Robert M. Snieck, of Renton, Wash.; Lt. Taylor Buck, of Morristown, N. J.; Lt. Warren C. Sawyer, of Cincinnati, Ohio; and Lt. ... of Hamburg.



ARTHUR L. SNOW

U. S. Army Captain Arthur L. Snow, former Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission Wildlife Officer, was recently awarded the Bronze Star for extraordinary heroism on the Korean front at Taejon July 20, 1950. He also received the Purple Heart with one Oak Leaf Cluster.

Snow, who served with the Commission during 1947-48; was also awarded the Silver Star, three Bronze Stars, and the Purple

Heart with two Oak Leaf Clusters while serving in France during World War II.

The most recent decoration was awarded for Snow's heroic action when his company was attacked by a superior enemy force and subjected to heavy crossfire of small arms and mortar fire. Volunteering to contact the battalion command post, 1,000 yards behind, Snow exposed himself to enemy fire during the trip. Although the post was evacuated, and Snow was wounded, he returned to his company with information as to enemy dispositions which aided the company in its withdrawal to safety.

In World War II, he received decorations for rallying American troops, even though he was seriously wounded, and leading them into battle against enemy mortar fire.

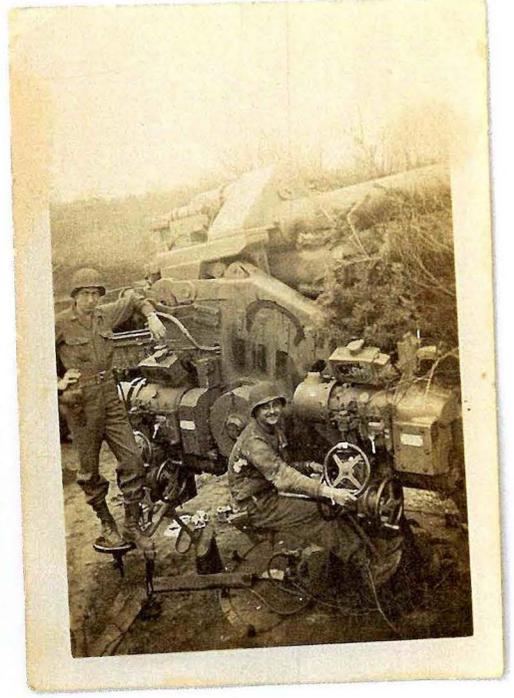
Capt. Snow is the son of Ernest Snow, of Brooksville, and is the husband of Mrs. Marie Snow, also of Brooksville.

Although generally unpopular as a game or food animal in Florida, the opossum will make a delicious meal when properly prepared.

### FOR SALE

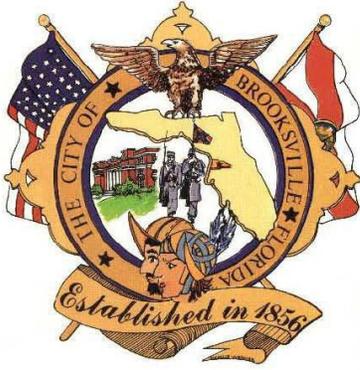
An ideal marketing space for those having outdoor sports equipment, material and services for sale. Display advertisements in FLORIDA WILDLIFE are effective selling aids. Write: Advertising Dept., Florida Wildlife, Tallahassee, Fla., for advertising rates, spaces and other information.

A SIMPLE WAY TO DO









# City of Brooksville



## Great Brooksvillian

The City of Brooksville would like to recognize outstanding men and women who have made significant positive contributions to the history, culture and/or economy of our community. Each year the Brooksville City Council will determine the number of recipients and select from the nominees.

**Website Address:** [Visit the City of Brooksville Website](#)

### 2024 Committee Members

Skip Samples  
Jan Knowles

Richard Carlton  
Elizabeth A. Witherell

Debbie Daniel

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING A NOMINATION FORM

- 1 Please type or clearly print in black ink.
- 2 Please be sure your nomination form:
  - 1 One (1) original completed Nomination Form
  - 2 -If available, a photograph or electronic image reproduction of the nominee
- 3 Nominations will be accepted through **5:00 p.m. on Friday June 13, 2024**. No application postmarked after this date will be accepted. *Early submissions are encouraged.* Please
- 4 plan to attend the committee meeting on July 18, 2024, at 5:00 pm.
- 5 Mail nominations forms with an optional photo to:

City of Brooksville

Attn: Deputy City Clerk

201 Howell Avenue

Brooksville, Florida 34601

Or Email: [COB-INFO@cityofbrooksville.us](mailto:COB-INFO@cityofbrooksville.us)

**Questions** - contact: The Office of the City Clerk, Lisa Morris, Deputy City Clerk 352-540-3893, or email: [COB-INFO@cityofbrooksville.us](mailto:COB-INFO@cityofbrooksville.us)

Great Brooksvillian Screening Committee Meetings are announced on the City's Website Calendar and are open to the public. You can also find them on the City's Calendar Page.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Any materials submitted with a "Great Brooksvillian" nomination become the property of the City of Brooksville, Florida, and are public records. *Therefore, please do not send anything that must be returned or original pictures and are subject to public records laws.*



## **CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBILITY**

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- Consideration should be given to the historical perspective of nominees.
- Individuals can be nominated by anyone in the community and a standard nomination form will be used by City Council annually during the nomination period.
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- Self-nominations will not be accepted.

Please send the original nomination form and one (1) recent photo. (Photo Optional) A cumulative plaque will be maintained in Brooksville City Hall to commemorate and memorialize the annual honoree(s) and an individual plaque will be presented to the honoree and his/her family at a ceremony.

*The nominator is requested to attend the Committee meeting on July 18, 2024, at 5:00 pm to present information on the candidate. The committee meeting is held at City Hall, Joseph E. Johnston III Council Chambers located at 201 Howell Avenue, Brooksville Florida.*



# ***“Great Brooksvillian”***

Someone that has made The City of Brooksville Community a Better Place to Live.

## **NOMINATION FORM**

(Please type or print clearly in black ink)

Date of Submission: June 12, 2024

1. Name of Nominee – Martha Maner

Contact information for the person that is co-nominating the Great Brooksvillian:

Name: Nina Mattei

Name: Maureen Cavallaro

Address: 20 Pine Street, B-ville, FL 34601

Address: 24 Pine Street, B-ville, FL 34601

Telephone/Cell: 352-422-2608

Telephone/Cell: 352-799-1004

Email: ninamattei@comcast.net

Email: mrsc 623@yahoo.com

Photo Included? Yes  No  (Optional)

2. What positive contributions have been made to the history, cultural and/or economy of our community? Please include dates if known. Please attach one additional page if necessary.

If you are a child or an adult, a resident of Brooksville or a visitor to Hernando County, a parent or a student, a worker or a co-worker or a business owner, a relative or a friend or a stranger; you may not know it but, Martha Maner has enriched your life.

Martha is a Brooksville native and a lifelong member of Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church. Her work ethic and commitment to her community were shaped by her maternal grandmother and maternal aunts, the women of the dietary department at the Lykes / Brooksville / Spring Hill Regional / Tampa General hospitals, and her schoolteacher and mentor. Blending those life lessons and human connections along with her intelligence and wit, Martha rose to management positions and continues to spread her volunteerism across the community. Martha worked for more than 40 years at the local hospitals, rising to manager of food services. Along the way her work strengthened hospital patients and she was instrumental in helping her co-workers understand and participate in all the benefits offered to employees, thus enriching the health and lives of current and future generations. In her role as the Nutrition Supervisor for Mid Florida Community Service Head Start USDA, Martha cared for the nutritional needs of preschoolers and the sick for respectively over 50 plus years. In that time, Martha coordinated and collaborated with agencies and organizations across the community to improve education and enrichment activities for preschoolers and their parents, insuring the best start possible for young families. In her more than 30 years of service to Improved Benevolent Protective Order of Elks of World (IBPOEW), Martha's leadership and vision have led to roles as Exalted Ruler and Daughter Ruler of Frederick Kelly Elks Lodge #1270 and Kelley's Temple #1004. Martha is also the

President of the Florida Women Deputies of Elk in Florida, a member of Emma V. Kelly Council #61, a member of the National President Council of Elks, is State President of the woman auxiliary of the IBPOEW.

In addition to her formal roles, Martha helped create and coordinate the Frederick Kelly Lodge's weekend breakfast program which held strong during the COVID Pandemic to keep the lodge financially stable. During that time, she also served dinner from the lodge every evening to help feed families amid the global lockdown. Martha's Annual Thanksgiving dinner continues to nourish the community and grow in numbers each year. These acts among others have made Martha a crown mother in the community: a wise, respectful, generous, and nurturing woman who others can depend on. For example, she provides support for young mother's baby showers, funeral repasts, wedding receptions, birthday parties, South Brooksville Tax Redevelopment Advisory Committee, CRA, and the Togetherhood Program of YMCA. She is the Ambassador of South Brooksville and engages in all needed services to improve the community.

3. Did the contributions of this nominee also benefit outside the City of Brooksville? If so, how?

Martha's experience in helping build community strength aids in solving problems across the city and county. In one instance, when the South Brooksville Tax Redevelopment Advisory Committee (TRAC) surveyed residents in 2022 about their needs, the face-to-face interviews generated insight into the difficulty residents have arranging affordable transportation, especially for those who don't drive or own a car. The community's input led to funding from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), and coordination between the City of Brooksville and Hernando County. The collaboration resulted in a bus stop on the purple route being added at the corner of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., and Muhammed Ali Way. Martha noted, there used to be a bus stop in the neighborhood, and it was moved to another location. The residents and the government agencies worked through the challenges to ensure the bus stop was safe for riders, logistically feasible for bus drivers, and didn't impinge on private property. The route enables residents to travel beyond the community to access services, shopping, education, entertainment, and to expand their sense of community.

As the Grand Marshall to the 2024 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade "Live the Dream, a Declaration of Unity," Martha's motto: "Show and give love to all" capped her many years of service to all, with a hand to anyone who needs it. Lastly, Martha and her husband JoJo (Joseph) raised three successful daughters, Jacqueline, Jowatha, and JoSandra and although JoJo passed in 2023, their five grandchildren and two great grandchildren are witnesses to 52 years of happy marriage.

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**If you have questions, please contact, The Office of the City Clerk, Lisa Morris, Deputy City Clerk 352-540-3893, or email: [COB-INFO@cityofbrooksville.us](mailto:COB-INFO@cityofbrooksville.us)**

*Return this form to: City of Brooksville Attn: Deputy City Clerk  
201 Howell Avenue, Brooksville, FL 34601*



# "Great Brooksvillian"

Someone that has made The City of Brooksville Community a Better Place to Live.

Clerk,  
rec'd  
6-9-23

## NOMINATION FORM

(Please type or print clearly in black ink)

Date of Submission: June 8, 2023

1. Name of Nominee -

Sandra Knox

Name of Nominee

Contact information for the person that is nominating the Great Brooksvillian:

Cindy Mahon Gandy

Name

Address

Telephone/Cell No. 352-238-1327 Fax No: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address (If available): amethyst6923@gmail.com

Photo Included? Yes \_\_\_ No  (Optional) can get one

2. What positive contributions have been made to the history, cultural and/or economy of our community? Please include dates if known. Please attach one additional page if necessary.

Sandra has always given back to community  
She does Christmas with we care every year for  
over 100 children. She has helped Veterans and single  
parent with food, clothing, for school, electric, appliances  
and so much more for many years 5-2000-2023

3. Did the contributions of this nominee also benefit outside the City of Brooksville?  
If so, how?

yes she does in the entire Hernando  
County Community

If you have questions, please contact, The Office of the City Clerk, Lisa Morris, Deputy City Clerk 352-540-3893 or email:

Return this form to:

City of Brooksville

Attn: Deputy City Clerk

201 Howell Avenue, Brooksville, FL 34601

Clerks office  
rec'd 2/27/23



# City of Brooksville



## Great Brooksvillian

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**Website Address:** [Visit the City of Brooksville Website](#)

### 2022 Committee Members

Robert Draper  
Jan Knowles

Richard Carlton

Cynthia Sutton  
Skip Samples

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING A NOMINATION FORM

- 1 Please type or clearly print in black ink.
- 2 Please be sure your nomination form :
  - 1 One (1) original completed Nomination Form
  - 2 -If available, a photograph or electronic image reproduction of the nominee
- 3 Nominations will be accepted through **5:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 9, 2022**. No application postmarked after this date will be accepted. *Early submissions are encouraged.*
- 4 Please plan to attend the committee meeting on July 14, 2022, at 5:00 pm.
- 5 Mail nominations forms with an optional photo to:

City of Brooksville  
Attn: Deputy City Clerk  
201 Howell Avenue  
Brooksville, Florida 34601  
Or Email: [COB-INFO@cityofbrooksville.us](mailto:COB-INFO@cityofbrooksville.us)

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- Self-nominations will not be accepted.

Please send the original nomination form and one (1) recent photo. (Photo Optional )A cumulative plaque will be maintained in Brooksville City Hall to commemorate and memorialize the annual honoree(s) and an individual plaque will be presented to the honoree and his/her family at a ceremony.

*The nominator is requested to attend the Committee meeting on July 14, 2020, at 5:00 pm to present information on the candidate. The committee meeting is held at City Hall, Joseph E. Johnston III Council Chambers located at 201 Howell Avenue, Brooksville Florida.*



# "Great Brooksvillian"

Someone that has made The City of Brooksville Community a Better Place to Live.

## NOMINATION FORM

(Please type or print clearly)

Date of Submission: FEB 28, 2023

1. Name of Nominee: ROY LINK

Contact information for the person that is nominating the Great Brooksvillian:

Name: RON LAWSON

Address: 9 CROSBY ST  
BROOKVILLE FL 34601

Telephone/Cell No.: 352-799-0513 Fax No: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address (If available): 352-232-6643  
MRON154@YAHOO.COM

Photo Included? Yes  No  (Optional)

2. What positive contributions have been made to the history, cultural and/or economy of our community? Please include dates if known. Please attach one additional page if necessary.

MR LINK IS A FORMER UNITED STATES  
MARINE AND WAS A SUPERVISOR FOR  
HERNANDO Co. PARKS PRIOR TO RETIREMENT  
TODAY, HE JOINED 100<sup>S</sup> OF OTHER RESIDENTS  
IN SEARCHING FOR A LOST 2 YEAR OLD BOY.  
HE LOCATED THE BOY IN THE WOODS TO THE DELIGHT  
OF BROOKVILLE AND HERNANDO COUNTY. HE TRULY  
IS A HERO

3. Did the contributions of this nominee also benefit outside the City of Brooksville?

If so, how?

YES, IT BENEFITED THE ENTIRE  
COMMUNITY - SEE ATTACHED NEWSPAPER  
ARTICLE.

4. List any additional resources or documentation available for background information. (Up to three pages.)

I WOULD REFER TO THE  
HERNAUDO COUNTY SHERIFF

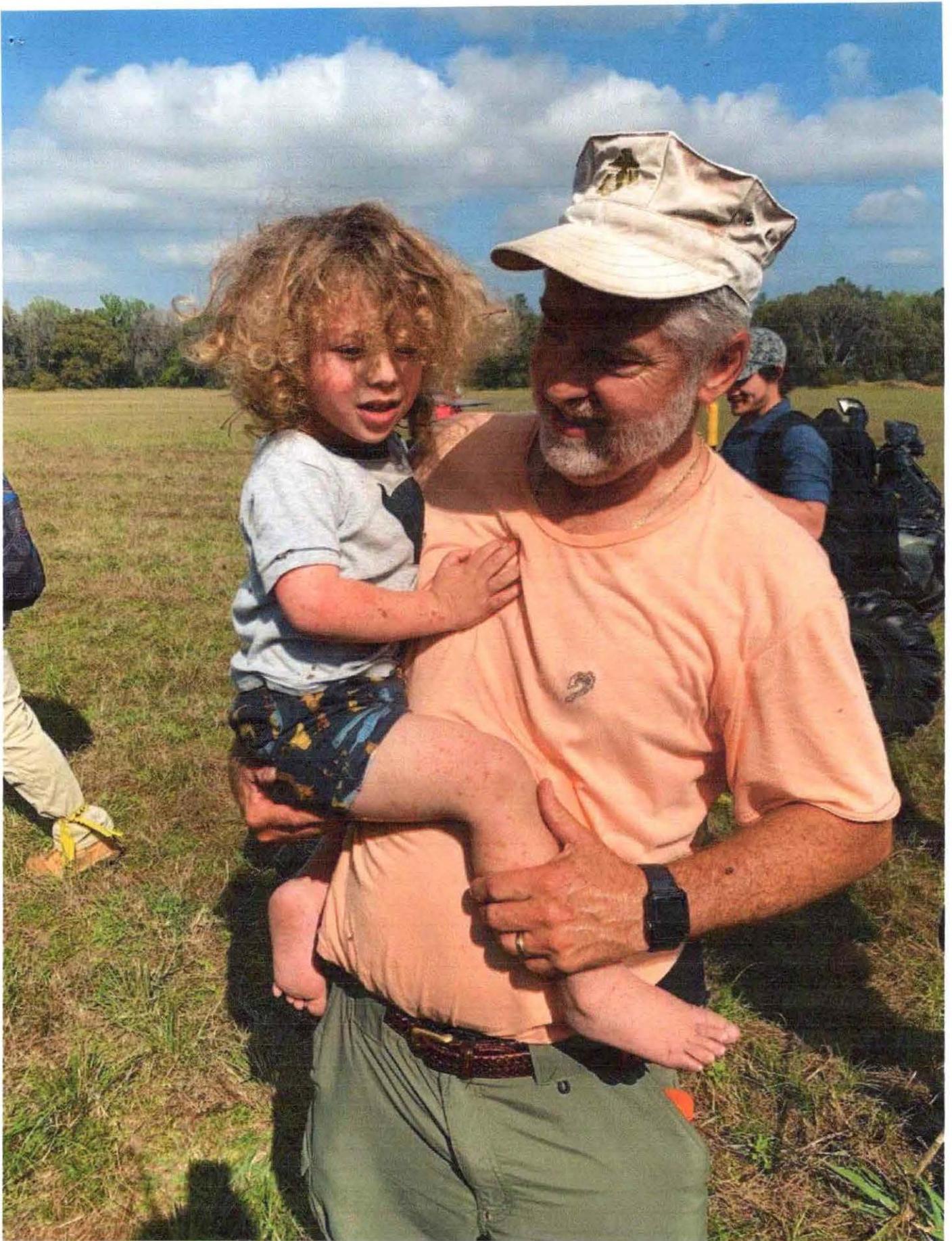
If you have questions, please contact, The Office of the City Clerk, Lisa Morris, Deputy City Clerk  
352-540-3893 or email: [COB-INFO@cityofbrooksville.us](mailto:COB-INFO@cityofbrooksville.us)

*Return this form to:*

*City of Brooksville*

*Attn: Deputy City Clerk*

*201 Howell Avenue, Brooksville, FL 34601*



Hernando County Sheriff's Office  
Joshua "JJ" Rowland was found alive after nearly 24 hours missing in  
Hernando County. The boy was found by volunteer searcher Roy Link,  
shown holding JJ, just south of D.S. Parrott Middle School.

## Hernando 2-year-old is found alive

A volunteer recounts the moment he located JJ Rowland alone and barefoot in the woods.

BY MICHAELA MULLIGAN  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Nearly an hour had passed since Roy Link made the decision to start searching on his own. His pink T-shirt was slick on his back with sweat. He could hear the helicopters buzzing overhead — searching, so far, fruitlessly.

The 62-year-old came to an open field and was met with a choice — two wooded areas with a small clearing in between. Link, an ex-Marine and former supervisor for Hernando County parks, said he decided on intuition alone. He would go to the woods on his left.

He had barely stepped a foot into the forest when he heard the first whimper. And then another, a little louder. Link said the cries broke through his daze, and the realization dawned on him: JJ.

“JJ,” Link called out. And the whimpering grew louder.

And then he saw him, just 100 feet away: A 2-year-old boy, standing in the woods, barefoot among the briars — his wild, golden hair a bush of brambles and curls on his head. That’s him, Link thought, that’s JJ.

The man was cautious but friendly. The boy had spent the last nearly 24 hours alone in the elements.

“Hey, buddy,” Link said. JJ lit up. “You ready to get out of here?” Link said. The boy threw up his arms in response.

The boy was sturdy in his arms, Link recalled, as heavy as a bag of feed.

“Mama, Mama,” the boy said, latching onto Link. We’re going to Mama, Link said.

After nearly a day of looking for 2-year-old Joshua “JJ” Rowland, the search ended when Link found the boy safe and alive Friday morning. The boy was discovered north of his home, just south of D.S. Parrott Middle School, 19220 Youth Drive in Brooksville.

Sheriff’s officials said they believe JJ left his home in the area of Cheever and Yontz roads while his parent was asleep Thursday morning. The last time anybody saw the boy was around 10:40 a.m. Thursday.

LAW ENFORCEMENT FROM ACROSS THE STATE, INCLUDING THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF Law Enforcement, the Florida Department of Corrections and local police, searched for the boy for about 24 hours.

“That long period — everybody starts thinking the worst, and it’s hard not to. It’s like how can all these people and all these deputies searched all this and not find a clue?” Link told the Tampa Bay Times in a phone interview. “You know all that bad stuff starts going through your mind, but then finding him healthy and alive, it’s just ... wow.”

Link, a humble man, is a bit overwhelmed by the attention he’s received since finding the boy Friday morning. A father and a grandfather, he said he is the third generation of his family to live in Brooksville.

The man had planned on fishing Friday morning, but that changed when his wife, Kimberly, told him the Hernando County Sheriff’s Office was looking for volunteers to search for JJ.

“How could you not?” Link said.

Crowds of people gathered early Friday to search for JJ. During a news conference with Hernando County Sheriff Al Nienhuis after the 2-year-old was found, Nienhuis said more people showed up to help than the agency had jobs for.

People came out in droves, Link said. Anyone could have stumbled on JJ, he said. In a video posted to the Sheriff’s Office’s Facebook page, Nienhuis called Link the “man of the year.”

“So I give all them people and the sheriff and everybody that showed up a whole lot credit for their time they spent out there,” Link said.

About 15 minutes before finding JJ, Link said he prayed to God the boy would be found. Not necessarily by him, but that someone would find the boy alive.

When Link stepped back out of the woods holding JJ and on the phone with 911, he saw other people across the pasture. They came running over and one person offered to take JJ, but the boy clung to Link.

In a 911 call released by the Sheriff’s Office, JJ can be heard asking for his mom. On the audio recording, people can be heard giving the boy food and water.

“Good job, buddy — way to make it,” Link said on the 911 call. “Such a big guy you are.”

Soon, the crowd grew bigger with emergency responders and volunteers. Link could sense JJ becoming frightened, and the boy held onto him tight. The 2-year-old wouldn’t even go into the ambulance without Link.

HE HAD SCRATCHES ALL OVER HIS ARMS AND LEGS, BUT HE REALLY LOOKED IN GOOD health.” Link said. “He did not look like a 2-year-old that’s been out in the woods for ever-how-many hours.”

JJ’s mother quickly met them at the ambulance, and a few minutes later, his father showed up. Everyone was laughing and crying, Link said. Watching JJ, Link thought he would make a good hiking partner when he got older.

After an eventful morning, Link got home and began pulling the spurs from his clothes. His wife took one whiff of him and said he had to do something about that. He had, after all, been carrying a toddler who’d been wearing a diaper for nearly a day.

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