



# CANAVERAL BEACON

The official newsletter for members of the  
Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation.

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## Our Mission

*To assist the 45th Space Wing in preserving, protecting, promoting, and interpreting the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse and its historical significance to the Florida Space Coast, State of Florida, and our Nation*

**Vol. 10, No. 3**

**May 2020**

### EVENTS THAT ALTER & ILLUMINATE OUR LIVES

Born in 1925, my father had survived the Great Depression, a life threatening bout with tetanus, and the loss of his father before dropping out of high school at the age of 16 to enlist in the U.S. Coast Guard and serve in World War II. Upon returning home, he married my mother and became a city police officer in San Bernardino, CA. Each day when he would come home from work, I would ask him, "So, how was your day?" His answer was always the same, "It was a day like all days, filled with the events that alter and illuminate our lives."



The events that have altered and illuminated our community since the first lighthouse shone its beacon seaward of Cape Canaveral are remarkable and the list is long. Reflecting on darker times, our light has weathered slavery, segregation, countless wars, poverty, disease, terrorism, and now COVID-19. The list is long. Yet, Americans have kept the light shining, and despite such adversity, magnificent and incredible advances in science, medicine and technology have followed. As a nation, we've launched man into space, toured Earth's moon and put robotic rovers on Mars. Our doctors developed vaccines to rid the world of diseases such as smallpox and polio and prevent the spread of countless others. And let's not forget countless inventions that have improved our daily lives: electricity, radio, cars, airplanes, television, the microwave, the computer, smart phones...Zoom!

Today, our lighthouse and museum must remain closed to the public for COVID-19 precautions – no tours, no visitors, no gift shop sales, no special events – until further notice. Despite this impact on mission performance and budget, we are hard at work behind scenes, physically and virtually completing many projects. Like many others, Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation leaders, committee members, volunteers and sponsors are staying connected by holding virtual meetings to conduct business and get work done. Some examples include:

- (1) every ten years, our lighthouse undergoes a preservation treatment of prepping, priming and painting the entire 151-ft tall, black & white banded exterior. This work began in early April and should be completed by mid-June.;
- (2) we have identified and procured exterior lights for the Keeper's Cottage Museum which had to be approved by the US Air Force Environment Division as environmentally safe (i.e., no impact on sea turtle nesting);
- (3) we are doing a complete makeover of our website, updating it with current interactive capabilities, public and member-only sections, virtual tours and on-line gift shop sales; and saving the best news for last,
- (4) earlier this month, we received tentative approval from the US Coast Guard for the loan of a 4th Order Fresnel Lens to be exhibited in our new museum. This is a long process, but we hope to have it on display by the end of the year!

Indeed, the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse has witnessed much in its 152 years of service – always standing tall and remaining bright as no matter what may transpire, it remains "a day like all days..." *Keep safe, keep shining, Jim*

## Museum Highlights

The Museum is waiting patiently for social distances to narrow. The museum team is continuing to work virtually to provide new information and experiences once the facility is open, again. We hope you will plan to visit. In the meantime, learn below about the social life at the lighthouse a hundred years ago, and more, when physical distancing was an obstacle rather than a goal.

We can always use more docents when we reopen, so if you're interested, please contact George Eustis at [cclhdocent@gmail.com](mailto:cclhdocent@gmail.com). And with thanks to Ric and Nancy Garwood, our new welcome mat awaits you!



### Did You Know?

With so few people living in the area and no bridges from the mainland in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the lighthouse frequently served as the center of social life for special events. The Keepers often hosted church services. Mills and Mary Burnham had the only piano around. Lighthouse Balls became regular events, including celebrations such as the Burnham's 50th wedding anniversary. In 1915 the Star Advocate newspaper noted that a December 3, 1915 event at the lighthouse with dancing in the shade of the towers was considered "... the greatest social event since the erection of the tower".

The Lighthouse has been a tourist attraction for more than 130 years. In the Florida Star newspaper in 1892, there was an effort to organize daily excursions. They would leave Rockledge and land at Courtney. "There conveyances will be awaiting and the excursionists driven over to the Banana River. Another small steamer will carry the party over the Banana River and the ocean beach and lighthouse will be reached after a second delightful drive."

Becky Zingarelli  
Museum Director  
**Becky Zingarelli**  
**Keeper's Cottage Museum Director**

*Over 100 years later, the lighthouse is still a great place to gather...witness the group from Air Force Family Day, March 7, 2020...just days before closing for COVID 19.*



## Keeper's Closet Gift Shop Highlights

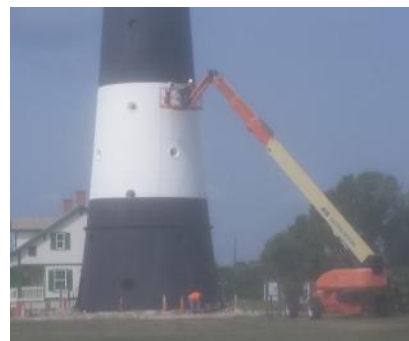
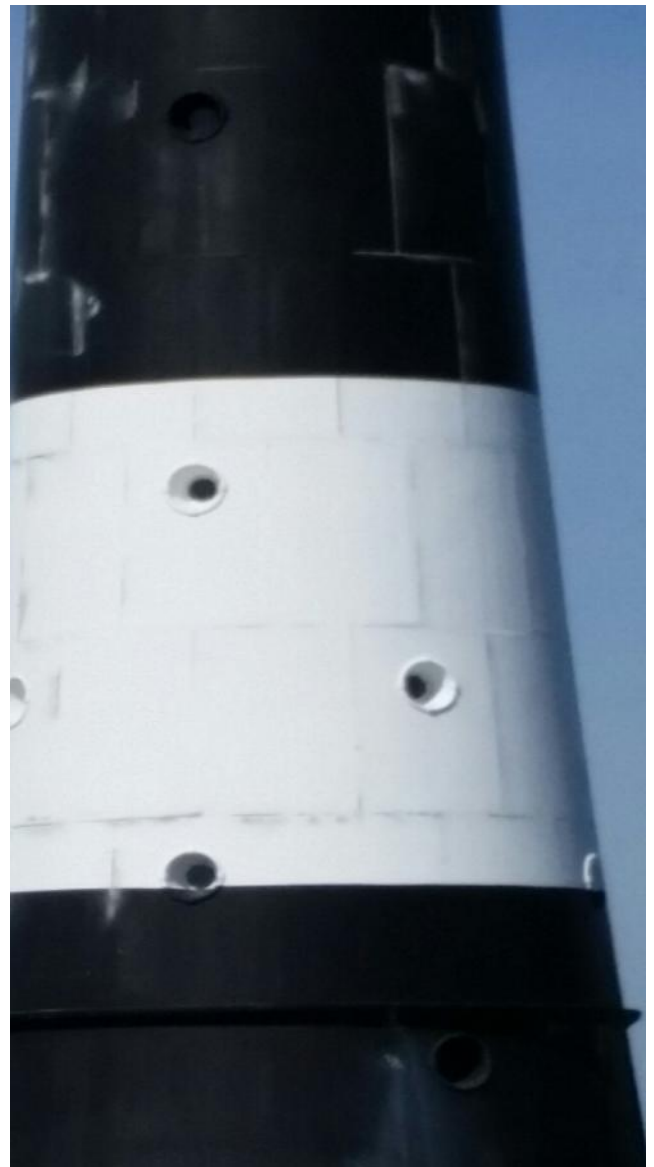
Thanks to Ken and Karen Arbuckle, our Keeper's Closet Managers, the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Museum has a first-class gift shop. Their skill in construction, knowledge of display, experience in business, and vision has resulted in an attractive and professional looking space to show our lighthouse mementoes. Volunteers that lent their skills in helping to build the gift shop were John Winkopp, Bob Kelley, and Heather Johnson.

The gift shop is visited by our tour guests, AF Newcomers, AF Family Day participants, and many others, and has been turning a profit for the first time, due to the wise merchandising of Karen. With the current COVID-19 challenges our museum and gift shop are closed for the time being. We look forward to being open again and showing all of you our beautiful gift shop.



## Painting the Lighthouse...

With the lighthouse closed to the public, what better time than the present to activate the contract to paint the exterior of the entire structure. As the lighthouse owner, the 45th Space Wing schedules the preservation of exterior surfaces every ten years. This entails removing rust, sanding and smoothing old surfaces, repairing any damaged or wasted areas, and then recoating with a fresh paint job—all 151 feet! A close examination of the below photos reveals the edges of the steel plates of our lighthouse structure as this work is in progress.



## And Hoping to Get Rid of the Bees, Wasps and Other Pests!



Photo courtesy of our friend and colleague Mr. Jaime Draper, the Museum Director for the AF Space Museum who also offers us this...

... fanciful alternative paint scheme.



## Volunteer Spotlight on Skip & Mary Lou Coleman



Skip was born in Philadelphia, raised in South Jersey, and joined the Coast Guard as an electrician's mate where his most interesting tour was 13 months aboard the Diamond Shoals Lightship 14 miles off the coast of Cape Hatteras, NC. A lightship is a floating lighthouse, bearing a beacon and foghorns to warn passing ships of the proximate dangers. It would stay anchored out at sea through all kinds of weather. His responsibility was to attend to the light and the electrical system on the ship. After

leaving the Coast Guard, he worked as a project manager for a large electrical contracting company before opening his own electrical contracting business. Mary Lou was born and also raised in South Jersey. During her senior year in high school, she worked for a local bank, part-time. Upon graduation, she began working full time, and eventually became Vice President/Branch Manager the last 15 of her 27 1/2-year career. Her dedication to the school co/op program with the local school system assisted in the hiring and training of many school students, some are still working there to this day.

Upon turning his contracting business over to his son, Skip and Mary Lou moved to Satellite Beach FL in 2000. Skip worked for the City of Orlando as an electrical inspector, then as an inspector and Building Official for the City of West Melbourne. Mary Lou worked for the Space Coast Division of Lennar Homes and then for an electrical contractor until they both decided to retire permanently. With their desire to give back, Skip became a member of the USCG Auxiliary in which he performs boat inspections, patrols and training. He also enjoys teaching boater safety classes in the Brevard School System. He also volunteers at the Port Canaveral Coast Guard Station assisting in different capacities. Skip enjoys seeing the "Coasties" faces when he tells them about his time aboard a lightship! Mary Lou volunteered with the South Patrick Residence Association as their Treasurer for 15 years. As a notary with the State of Florida, she has officiated at several weddings. They both not only volunteer at the lighthouse but also at the King Center in Melbourne. Skip and Mary Lou have 4 children and eight grandchildren ranging in age from 21 to 8 all still residing in NJ. Mary Lou is glad she has frequent flyer miles!

Mary Lou's love of lighthouses began with the single purchase of a wooden birdhouse in the shape of a lighthouse. Her favorite NJ lighthouse is the East Point Lighthouse which hopefully can be saved from the encroaching coastal erosion. Skip and Mary Lou have traveled all over the country visiting lighthouses. Their home reflects his love of the sea and her love of lighthouses. She even designed a lighthouse mosaic for the bottom of their pool. They first visited the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse on a bus tour and have served as Docents for several years. Skip's favorite floors, the 4th & 5th while Mary Lou loves greeting the van and bus, walking them through the 1st and 2nd floors. Now that the museum has opened, they enjoy being in the museum and answering the many questions visitors ask. To be able to tell the fascinating history of this great lighthouse and to see the interest on the faces of the visitors walking through is so rewarding.

We appreciate the time and effort that Skip and Mary Lou dedicate to telling our community and visitors the historical significance of our cherished Cape Canaveral Lighthouse and thank them for being a part of our team.

## Keeping the Light Shining

### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MUSINGS

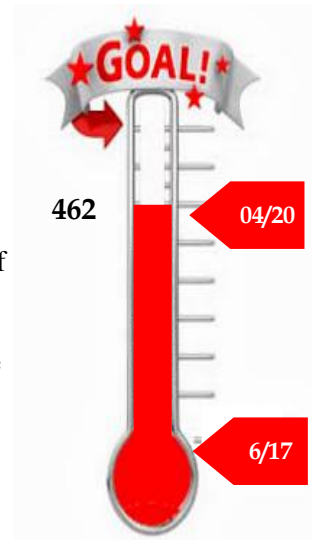
We currently have 462 active members in the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation. With a goal of 750 members we are well on our way, but need your help to achieve that goal. We try to remind our members in a timely manner, but some email and/or street addresses have changed, and you may not have received your notification. Check the upper right corner of your membership card to see if it's due for renewal and renew today using the membership application in this newsletter. Better yet, renew online and become a Sustaining Member at reduced rates, and your annual renewal will be automatic every year. Remember to let us know if you have moved or changed your email address so we can continue to keep you informed.

Benefits of membership are discounts at the Keeper's Closet, 10% off brick purchases, advance notification of planned events prior to being offered to the general public, receipt of our newsletter *The Canaveral Beacon*, and member-only activities.

Among the member-only activities are periodic convoys to the lighthouse at no cost to our members. Unfortunately the 18 April convoy had to be cancelled due to the coronavirus, but will be rescheduled as soon as possible. Once rescheduled, our members and brick owners will see a "new" lighthouse as our beautiful historic tower is getting a new coat of paint while we are all practicing self-isolation and social distancing. Just think, you'll get to see a freshly painted lighthouse and new museum when we reopen and begin our Member/Brick Owner tours again.

Fortunately through technology your Membership Committee can still meet via Zoom to discuss future plans. Is there something you would like to see us do? Drop an email at [cclfmbrship1@aol.com](mailto:cclfmbrship1@aol.com) or call 321.591.5593. Help us to spread the word about our wonderful lighthouse and new museum; renew, and encourage your friends and family to join via the application in this newsletter or at [www.canaveralight.org](http://www.canaveralight.org). We need you!

We are looking forward to another great year!



**Please join us in welcoming the newest members of our  
Cape Canaveral Lighthouse  
Foundation family!**

**Assistant Keeper (\$35 = 1 Member)**

B. Michelle Amicarelli

**Lighthouse Keeper (\$50 = 2 Members)**

Canaveral Pilots – (Ben Borgie)  
Johan & Dee Neve

**Head Lighthouse Keeper (\$100 = 2 Members)**

Jerry & Judy Allender

As of April 17, 2020

## And Celebrate the Recent Renewals of Our Supporting Members

### Membership Renewals through April 17, 2020

#### Assistant Keeper (\$35 = 1 Member)

Peggy Arme  
Jonathan Barber  
Sheila Cootes  
Cynthia Grey  
Christopher Gillard  
Carla Ledford  
Anni Kennedy MacDonald  
Elsie Andreen-Mauer  
Dennis Thompson  
Jeanes B. Tornabene

#### Lighthouse Keeper (\$50 = 2 Members)

Bill & Jan Bancroft  
George & Mary Lou Coleman  
Preston Creech  
George & Phyllis Eustis  
Karen & Marvin Kantor  
Ed & Marilyn Lipsey  
Barbara & Enoch Moser  
Steve & Nadine Peacock  
Harry & Jean Pettit  
Ken & Dede Smith  
Anne Sullivan  
Lee & Al Vicidomini

#### Head Lighthouse Keeper (\$100 = 2 Members)

Randy & Linda May  
Jack Purdy & Sharon Simcox  
Greg & Mary Weldon

### Congratulations!

Congratulations to Ron and Chris Ecker! At the January meeting of the Florida Lighthouse Association, the 2019 President's Award for that organization was given to Ron and Chris for the many years of services to the FLA Board as Meetings Chair and Membership Chair, respectively. Both are on our Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation Board, and currently serving as Governance Committee Chair and Membership Chair, respectively. Ron also continues to serve FLA as their District 1 Commissioner. Kudos and thanks for keeping the Lights Shining!!!

**\* \* \* CCLF Membership Application Form \* \* \***

**SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY & JOIN CCLF TODAY!**

Completed forms should be submitted along with payment to:  
CCLF | P.O. Box 1978 | Cape Canaveral, FL 32920

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **Yes, please contact me regarding volunteer opportunities.**

Please select a membership level from the categories below:

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS**

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Head Lighthouse Keeper                   | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lighthouse Keeper (Family)               | \$50  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assistant Lighthouse Keeper (Individual) | \$35  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student Lighthouse Keeper                | \$15  |

**LIFE MEMBERSHIPS**

- |  |         |
|--|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership (Family-2 member) | \$1,500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership (Single)          | \$1,000 |

**TOTAL AMOUNT DUE:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

**Chris Ecker, CCLF Membership**

Phone: (321) 591-9844

Email: [cclfmbrship1@aol.com](mailto:cclfmbrship1@aol.com)

**Bev Merrilees, CCLF Volunteers**

**To pay your membership dues online via PayPal, visit [CanaveralLight.org](http://CanaveralLight.org)**

**CCLF Member Benefits**

- Admittance to annual membership appreciation meeting held at the lighthouse;
- Subscription to *The Canaveral Beacon*, CCLF's bi-monthly newsletter;
- Discounts at the Keeper's Closet Gift Shop, including 10% off commemorative brick orders;
- Volunteer opportunities to support & promote the lighthouse in its historical context; and, most importantly,
- Supporting CCLF's efforts to restore the lighthouse grounds and resurrect history!

**MEMBERS SAVINGS AT  
KEEPER'S CLOSET**

Be sure to stop by the Keeper's Closet gift shop during your next visit to the lighthouse. There, you can

## Community Outreach

Need a Speaker for your  
organization, group or club?



Contact the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation  
for a PowerPoint presentation of ongoing as well as future plans  
for our unique historical treasure, the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse!

Sharon Crockett (321) 537-5797  
skcrockett43@earthlink.net

Visit us @ [CanaveralLight.org](http://CanaveralLight.org)

## Paving the Way & Building a Legacy

### BRICK WALKWAY NEWS

Buy an engraved paver for your friend, colleague or family member to commemorate life's milestones and support Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation's (CCLF) Brick Program. CCLF's Brick Program is one of our major funding sources helping to rebuild the keeper's cottages and restore Cape Canaveral Lighthouse grounds. Soon, the first of three cottages will be finished and we will begin paving the walkways to link it to the lighthouse, keeping with the historical accuracy of the restoration project.



You can purchase a 4" by 8" brick for \$150. Includes engraving of three (3) rows, up to 12 characters per line. Insignias and art designs, such as a lighthouse or heart, are available for an additional \$20. CCLF members will receive a 10 percent discount on all brick orders. All donations are tax deductible. For additional information, please contact Ann Bolton, CLF's Brick Project Coordinator, at [annbolton@cfl.rr.com](mailto:annbolton@cfl.rr.com).



**Restore a Part of Florida's Space Coast History Today!  
CCLF Members Receive a 10% Discount on All Bricks**

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### \*\*\* BRICK ORDER FORM \*\*\*

To purchase a 4" X 8" brick paver, complete this form and return along with payment to:  
Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation, P.O. Box 1978; Cape Canaveral, FL 32920

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Member      ☐ Non-Member

Engraving Instructions: Each line is limited to 12 characters, including punctuation and spaces.  
*CCLF retains the right of final approval of copy.*

Line 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Line 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Line 3 \_\_\_\_\_

## Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Volunteer Program

Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation could not accomplish all that we do without the talented, enthusiastic, and dedicated volunteers that serve in many capacities. From Docents at the lighthouse and now the museum; Keeper's Closet managers, salespeople, inventory assistants; Community event coordinators and assistants; School Program coordinators; Museum Working Team; Foundation Board Members; Committee Chairs and Advisors – you are invaluable.

As you know, we have had a disruption in our tours and other visitors to our Museum and Lighthouse as well as being unable to participate in community outreach events. In preparation for our future needs, once we are up and running again, we have developed a new Procedure for Recruiting and Selecting Volunteers. This is an effort to assure that we select volunteers according to their interests and abilities and that the volunteer experience is a pleasant and fulfilling one.

In the future, individuals who have expressed an interest in volunteering will be contacted and asked to complete a CCLF Volunteer Information Form; and then send it to one of the Volunteer Coordinators - George Eustis at [cclfdocent@gmail.com](mailto:cclfdocent@gmail.com) for Docents; or Bev Merrilees at [BMerrilees@cfl.r.com](mailto:BMerrilees@cfl.r.com) for all other volunteer opportunities.

After receipt of the volunteer's information, the individual will be contacted and interviewed either by phone or in person. In the likely event, we have a fit, the volunteer will be met and taken to the lighthouse for further discussion about the job they will be asked to do and what the expectations are as far as the job and the time commitment. Training is required for most volunteer positions. Once the training and initial break-in (two volunteer events) has been completed, the new volunteer will receive an access badge, as well as a distinctive volunteer shirt and name tag.

In an effort to support our standard hours of coverage at the lighthouse, the museum, and the gift shop, volunteers will be expected to commit, ahead of time, to cover a particular time every week, every 2 weeks or once a month according to their availability. Volunteers will be scheduled by the Coordinators. If you have a little time or a lot of time to volunteer, we have a job for you. Thanks to all our current volunteers and we hope others will consider helping us as we go forward.. *Bev Merrilees, Volunteer Coordinator.*

## 2020 Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation Board of Directors & Advisors

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Mr. Larry Ostarly, 1st Vice President  
Mr. Shane Smith, 2nd Vice President  
Mr. Brendan McMillin, Treasurer  
Mrs. Cheryl Bennett, Secretary  
Mr. Rocky Johnson, Past President

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Mrs. Ginny Davis, Director  
Mrs. Chris Ecker, Membership Chair  
Mr. Ron Ecker, FLA Liaison & Governance Chair  
Mr. George Eustis, Jr., Docents Coordinator  
Mrs. Nancy Garwood, Archivist  
Mr. Todd McDowell, Director  
Mrs. Jeanna Merrifield, Events Chair  
Mrs. Bev Merrilees, Volunteer Coordinator  
Mr. R. Norman Moody, Public Relations/Media  
Ms. Mary Anne Moore, Tours Chair  
Mrs. Dixie Sansom, Legislative Advisor  
Ms. Becky Zingarelli, Museum Director, *Ex Officio*

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Mr. Ken Arbuckle, Keeper's Closet Co-Leader  
Ms. Ann Bolton, Brick Project Leader  
Mr. Chris Broome, Esq., Legal Advisor  
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Dr. Al Koller, Advisor  
Ms. Patricia Lautner, Community Outreach  
RADM Bob Merrilees, President Emeritus  
Mr. Ciro Morales, Social Media Guru  
Ms. Barbara Moser, Museums of Brevard Advisor  
Mr. Hal Row, Museum Construction PM  
Mr. Ray Valley, Webmaster  
Mrs. Kristi Blanchard, Education Co-Chair  
Ms. Laura Kelly, Education Co-Chair  
Mr. Jim Roche, Security Liaison  
Mrs. Yvonne Thornton, Director, Emeritus

### 45TH SPACE WING REPRESENTATIVES

Lt. Col. Brian Shimek CCAFS Det1/CC AF Advisor  
Dr. Sonny Witt, AF Liaison  
Mr. Tom Penders, AF Archeologist

## Luminaries That Matter—Thank You!

### Our Annual Foundation Sponsors for 2020

## Sailor's Beacon Sponsor



## Brass Sponsors



## Wick Sponsors



## Friends Sponsors



**Malcomb "Mac" McLouth \* Christy Galzerano \***

## Florida Lighthouse Association

The Florida Lighthouse Association (FLA) mission is to protect, preserve, restore, and defend Florida's Lighthouse towers, along with their material culture, buildings, artifacts, and records to assure that the magic of Florida's lighthouses and lighthouse keepers will be available for the enjoyment and understanding of future generations.



### PRESERVING FLORIDA'S HISTORY, ONE LIGHTHOUSE AT A TIME

FLA is a nonprofit membership organization whose members play a critical role preserving, restoring and protecting Florida's remaining 29 historic lighthouses and educating the public. Individual, family and corporate annual membership packages are available.

Member benefits include:

- Actively working to preserve an important part of Florida history.
- Receive FLASH, the FLA newsletter published three times annually.
- Receive up-to-the-minute news via e-newsletter.
- Priority invitations to FLA Educational Meetings, vents and Lighthouse Tours.
- Free admission to 6 Florida lighthouses: St. Augustine, Ponce Inlet, Jupiter Inlet, Crooked River, Cape St. George and Pensacola.
- Voting Privileges.

For additional information about FLA membership, or to join, go to [FloridaLighthouses.org](http://FloridaLighthouses.org).

### PRESERVING FLORIDA'S LIGHTHOUSES IS AS EASY AS DRIVING A CAR

Florida residents can show their love of lighthouses while driving when they purchase a "Visit Our Lights" license plate for their vehicle. The design features Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse and 90 percent of the proceeds from plate sales help support the Florida Lighthouse Association's mission to protect, preserve and restore the Sunshine State's remaining lighthouses. For further information on how to get a "Visit Our Lights" tag, visit FLA's website at [FloridaLighthouses.org](http://FloridaLighthouses.org).



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