



# POLK COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

## Legacies in Polk Government Leadership

Adopted March 7, 2024

The purpose of the Legacies in Polk Government Leadership program is to recognize and honor Polk County elected or appointed officials whose distinct backgrounds or achievements mark a turning point in the history of the Board of County Commissioners. The Legacy program provides a dedicated and recognizable location for the collective stories of Polk County's leadership in government. It is established to enhance preservation efforts to include recognition of people important to county government history and provides a thoughtful, equitable process to recognize Polk County Government leaders.

### 1. **History**

In 1937, the State of Florida created the Polk County Historical Commission. The Commission serves as a volunteer advisory commission to the Polk County Board of County Commissioners and to the staff of the Polk County History Center. It is the duty of the Commission to collect, arrange, record, and preserve historical material and data.

### 2. **Eligibility:**

- a. Polk County elected officials
- b. Polk County appointed advisory, lay board members

### 3. **Criteria: Nominations may be submitted by organizations or individuals. The criterion for nomination is**

- a. Measurable contributions that brought about a turning point in government history
- b. Nominee has been deceased for at least five (5) years

### 4. **Recognition:**

- a. Legacies in Polk Government Leadership will be displayed in a dedicated, long-term exhibit gallery at the Polk County History Center to showcase the unique perspective on Polk County government history. Individuals who have contributed to the county's government history will be the feature of the exhibition.
- b. The legacy honoree applications will be added to the permanent collection of the History Center to be further explored demonstrating how these individuals are integral to understanding Polk County's broader historical narrative.

### 5. **Policies**

- a. The final approval of all nominations is made by the Historical Commission, based on the evaluation of an application and a recommendation made by a Legacy Committee appointed by the Historical Commission.

- b. The Polk County History Center acts as agent for the Historical Commission handling all administrative details relating to the Legacies in Polk Government Leadership program. These duties will include being the designated recipient of nomination applications and bringing them to the official meetings of the Historical Commission. Because the Polk County History Center has the ultimate responsibility to preserve historical accuracy and promote interpretative content based on appropriate research, the staff of the Polk County History Center is tasked with the curation, fabrication and installation of the public exhibit and creating the permanent record of the legacy historical content to be accessioned into the collection.

## **6. Application**

- a. The Historical Commission has the authority to accept or reject applications. The Polk County History Center has final editorial control over the text for the public exhibition and the content of the permanent record. The applicant is responsible for providing research and history of the individual to demonstrate that the nominee meets the criteria for this designation, and for filling out the application and submitting it with supporting documentation to the History Center.
- b. The nomination applicant must establish the required criteria through a documented narrative history about the individual and how they influenced, effected, or impacted the course of Polk County government history. Age alone does not establish criteria for the nomination. Applicants must fully answer such questions as:  
  
How did the candidate contribute innovation, originality, and creativity during their tenure with Polk County Government and what is the importance of the candidates' contributions/achievements. The application must include information about the contributions/achievements in one or more of the following areas: governance, economic development, quality of life, environmental, cultural, or other positive impact on county government. What other events were taking place at the same time (locally, regionally, or nationally) that may have had a bearing on how or why the candidate's contribution was important?
- c. All applications and supporting documents must be typed, with correct punctuation, etc., when submitted to the History Center office.