

MARLENE DUFFY-YOUNG

BOCC COMMISSION DIST. 3
1988-2000



County Commission Chairman 1990
and 1995

Advocated for creation of the Polk
County Library Cooperative

Commissioner in 1998 when Polk
County Charter was approved by
voters

President, Girls Inc.

First Woman Mayor of Winter Haven

NOMINATION

Marlene Duffy Young (1950 - 2008) of Winter Haven, was elected to the Polk County Board of County Commissioners in 1990. Prior to her election to the county commission, Duffy-Young served on the City of Winter Haven, City Commission and as Mayor of the City of Winter Haven; the first woman to hold that title.

At the time of her election, cultural shifts in America saw women breaking new ground in politics and careers, with landmark legislation such as the Family Medical Leave Act and Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) bringing issues championed by women to the fore front. For her part, Duffy-Young had long been involved in similar programs in Polk County, organizing the county's first rape crisis center, a spousal abuse support program, and advocating the state to impose a surcharge on marriage license fees to fund domestic violence survivor programs.

During her tenure on the County Commission, Duffy-Young served as chairwoman in 1990 and 1995. She was also active in promoting local government interests at the state level, serving as president of the Florida Association of Counties in 1993 and receiving gubernatorial appointment to many statewide committees.

Marlene Duffy-Young's time in office focused on issues related to development, the environment, public health, and public roads. Among her most recognized achievements was having championed the creation of the Polk County Library Cooperative. Other significant Polk County initiatives that developed during Duffy-Young's tenure include:

- Polk County Environmental Lands Program Referendum (1994)
- Polk County County Charter (1998)
- \$.05 increase in gas tax to fund road improvements in Polk

Marlene Duffy-Young was defeated in 2000 and although she officially left office, many remembered her continued involvement, including a lasting friendship and mentorship with her successor, Jack Meyers

On May 22, 2008, Marlene Duffy-Young died as a result of injuries sustained in car crash in Winter Haven. Considered "brilliant and extremely articulate," public officials county wide lauded her achievements and lamented her loss.

"If Ted Kennedy is the lion of the Senate, she was the lioness of the County Commission." - Randy Wilkinson, County Commissioner 2008

"God blessed Polk County by giving us Marlene Young, she was the smartest person I've ever served with or worked with." Former County Commissioner, Neil Combee, 2008

"A warrior for good government... She never shied away from a tough vote." County Manager, Mike Herr, 2008

ROY P. GLADNEY

BOCC COMMISSION DIST.1
1941 - 1960



County Commission Chairman 1950-1957

Advocated for creation of county Paralytic Home

Advocated for schooling for exceptional children in Polk

Advocated for expanding Polk General Hospital and improving the Old Folks Home

Invited the Civilian Public Service to Polk County to conduct public health surveys and sanitation work aimed at controlling infectious diseases county-wide

NOMINATION

Roy Penson Gladney (1903 - 1969) of Mulberry, was elected to the Polk County Board of County Commissioners in 1941. Prior to his election to the county commission, Gladney was employed in the Phosphate industry and was a member of the Mulberry Kiwanis.

During his 22 year tenure with the Board of County Commissioners, Gladney served as chairman of the board for seven consecutive years (1950-1957), served as President of the State Association of County Commissioners, was appointed to serve on commissions of the National Association of Counties, and served on numerous Public Health advisory boards and committees, including as President of the Polk County Tuberculosis and Health Association.

The 1950s marked significant public health growth through increased funding, expanded nursing roles, rising health expenditures, and a focus on community-based care. Commissioner Gladney seemed deeply invested in community-based care, and oversaw a number of programs aimed to improve healthcare through education and access to health care, which included:

- Purchase of new equipment for County Hospital (1941)
- Invitation of the Civilian Public Service to conduct Public Health Surveys and improve sanitation practices in Polk County to curb the spread of hookworm, typhoid, tuberculosis, and malaria county-wide (1942)
- Championed the creation of the Bartow Air Base School for physically handicapped children in Polk County (1946)
- Championed the creation of the Mulberry Health Clinic, a Polk County Health Center a joint city-county-state-federal project.

Additional accomplishments under his tenure as Chairman of Board included:

- Opening of Route 27 between Haines City and Lake Wales (1957)
- Implementation of the Polk County Fire Department (1958)
- Creation of the Polk Centennial Committee (1959)
- Selected Florida's Outstanding County Commissioner by the Florida Association of County Commissioners (1959)

Upon his death on December 24, 1969, the Polk County Board of County Commissioners passed a resolution honoring him for 22 years of service, recognizing "his long, continuous and sincere interest in helping crippled children and all others unable to care for themselves highlighted his public career; and his restless insistence on progress, his ability and air of confidence contributed immeasurably to the period of the greatest growth and progress Imperial Polk County has ever known during his period in office..."