

***Betty Jo Tompkins***  
***Post Office Box 888 \* Brandon, Florida 33509***

**Agricultural Background**

***Avid beekeeper since youth, raising bees for honey and pollination. Selected as Florida Honey Queen and traveled representing the apiary and honey industries. Maintained hives until destroyed in hurricane Milton. Current multi-year member of Tampa Bay Beekeepers Association, as well as former member of the Florida Beekeepers Association.***

**Previous owner (with family) of forestry land in Santa Rosa county. Florida;**

**Previous owner/operator of organic certification business, certifying agricultural lands throughout Florida for purposes of organic crop production. Closed business (which had been registered with FDACS), when federal government changed rules to require certifiers to operate in all states, rather than a single state. This change resulted in about 85+ percent of these businesses closing nationally.**

**Previous owner/operator of business providing heirloom citrus for fundraising to schools in multiple states. Closed business after previous hurricane destroyed groves.**

**Previous Executive Director of Hillsborough County Farm Bureau. At the time the youngest Executive Director in the state and the only female Executive Director of a county Farm Bureau in Florida.**

- ***Member of Florida Farm Bureau and Hillsborough County Farm Bureau since the 1970's with "active agriculture" classification.***

**Previous Chairperson, Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District**

- ***Multi-year elected Supervisor of Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District.***
- ***Involved with Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District over forty years, as my husband was Supervisor and Chair, and my son also held both positions.***

- *Served as President of the State Auxiliary of previous state conservation association, as well as active in Association of Florida Conservation Districts.*
- *Director of the newly formed state association of conservation districts.*

**Previous Executive Director of Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District**

- *Previous President of Florida Conservation Districts Employees Association.*

**National Association of Conservation Districts**

- *Named to the SE NACD Conservation Hall of Fame.*
- *Lifetime Member of "Friends of NACD".*
- *Presenter at multiple NACD national conventions.*

**Florida Conservation Coalition, Inc. – "Advocating, Educating and Facilitating Conservation Programs for Youth and Adults".**

- *Current Association President. Programs include sponsorship of countywide mini-grant conservation scholarships for programs, projects and activities by inner-city, urban, suburban and rural youth groups.*

**Hillsborough County Fair**

- *Past President and current Executive Board member.*
- *Coordinator of annual fair Plant Auction, display areas, youth horticulture show, rain barrel decorating contest and agricultural art area.*
- *Recipient of Lifetime Achievement Harvest Award & current co-chair.*
- *Coordinator of agriculturally related areas at "Catch the Spirit & Celebrate America" County Fair 4<sup>th</sup> of July event.*

**Other Fairs & Ag Related Events**

- *Having involvement with activities (exhibits, etc.) related to Florida State Fair, Florida Strawberry Festival, Greater Gainesville Fair, North Florida Fair (Tallahassee) and Dade County Youth Fair.*
- *Multi-year exhibitor at EPC Clean Air Fair and the Florida Ag Expo.*

- ***National Scholarship winner and participant in first Urban Ag Expo in Detroit, Michigan - 2024.***

### **Other Related Activities**

#### **4-H Program**

- ***Lifelong member of 4-H as a youth (state winner of National 4-H Congress, National 4-H Conference and State officer).***
- ***One of six selected nationally to work for the National 4-H Foundation.***
- ***Multi-year 4-H leader, as well as leader/coordinator of 4-H Exchange Club that traveled during different summers to rural communities in Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Arizona and Colorado.***
- ***President and current Board member of Hillsborough County 4-H Foundation.***
- ***Creator (and continued participant) of the annual 4-H Strawberry U=Pick at Fancy Farms that has been the largest single local 4-H funding source for almost twenty consecutive years.***
- ***Past President, Florida 4-H Foundation.***
- ***Named to the Florida 4-H Hall of Fame and named state Lifetime Achievement award recipient from UF IFAS/Extension for 4-H work.***

#### **Rotary**

- ***District Governor 2001-2002 for Rotary International District 6890. At the time one of less than ten females serving as a Governor out of approximately 530 Governors worldwide.***
- ***Have held offices, including President, of my current club for almost thirty years.***
- ***Former team leader to India with Rotary International.***
- ***Also involved in ESRA (Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group), as well as Operation Pollination Ambassadors international group.***
- ***Named multiple Paul Harris Fellow, Rotary Benefactor and other awards and recognitions.***

### **Center Place Fine Arts and Civic Association**

- ***President of the Board of Directors – Center dedicated to the arts and education of youth and adults, including special needs programming.***

### **Timberly Trust**

- ***Secretary and Trustee for the Julia Moseley Homestead in Brandon, Florida which was originally built at its current site in the mid 1800's.***

### **Greater Brandon Action Network**

- ***Vice-President of Association responsible for presenting Brandon's annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade, now in its 68<sup>th</sup> year.***

### **Other**

- ***Hillsborough County Republican Executive Committee; "Preserving Brandon" organization and Brandon Community Roundtable***

### **Education**

- ***University of Florida – Major: Public Relations; Minors: Agriculture and Sociology***
- ***Notre Dame – Graduate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Academy***
- ***University of Georgia – Graduate of the U.S. Chamber Institutes***

### **Other Major Recognitions**

- ***Brandon's Key Citizen***
- ***Riverview Citizen of the Year***

### **Other Career Activities**

- ***Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce – Executive Director & Directory Publisher***

***May 2025***

***Betty Jo Tompkins***