



City of Brooksville

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 5, 2018

The “Great Brooksvillian of the Year” is an award program established by the City of Brooksville, Florida in 2002, whereby distinguished individuals are nominated by citizens to be recognized and honored for their significant contributions to the history, culture and/or economy of our community or have had connections and/or ties to our community.

This year, Joseph E. Johnston, III, was chosen from many nominations and the voting process was completed by the Brooksville City Council on Monday, August 20, 2018. The “*Great Brooksvillian of the Year*” award ceremony and reception in the recipient’s honor is held each year. This year’s ceremony will be on Wednesday, October 17th at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall, 201 Howell Avenue, Brooksville, Florida. It will be held in the “Joseph E. Johnston, III, Council Chambers” which was named in his honor in 2016.

Here is a little information you may or may not have known about Joseph E. Johnston, III....

Joseph E Johnston, III, was born in 1952 and was a lifelong Brooksville resident. He was a family man dedicated to his wife Diana, their three daughters, Rena, Renee and Leah, and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He also was a devoted brother to Kevin and Darryl Johnston.

Joe is remembered as unusually intelligent with a rich life of various interests. Joe was the editor of the newspaper at Hernando High School, acted in plays and performed as a member of a popular band.

Joe worked for many years as a paralegal in the Johnston and Sasser Brooksville law firm that was founded by his father, former state lawmaker and City Attorney, Joseph E. Johnston, Jr. The law firm is currently run by brother Darryl Johnston and high school friend, David Sasser. While at the law firm, he was active in many organizations such as the Hernando County Chamber of Commerce and the Children and Youth Advisory Board.

Joe had a devotion and love for the greater community. He followed his father's footsteps and became involved with local government; first while serving on the City's Zoning Adjustment and Appeals Board. He then was elected to Brooksville's City Council and was sworn in office in 1993. He served over 20 years on City Council and had several terms as Mayor. While in office he served many years on the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority, the Metropolitan Planning Organization, the Tourist Development Council and many others.

As a member of City Council, Joe has been described as compassionate and caring. He was always able to come up with a compromise and articulate a position that allowed the Council to move forward. He was calm with a steady hand, even if there was a contentious issue. Sure to be attested to by all fellow Council Members, Joe never did anything that was just about himself. His decisions were always about what was best for the City.

Although his service on City Council is how he is most remembered by the community, his family and friends knew him as having a rich life outside of office. For several years in the 1990s, Joe owned a store that sold beer-brewing kits, hosted beer tastings and served as the local headquarters for the then-new movement to restore flavor and variety to American brews. He also traveled the state as a master judge for the Florida BBQ Association.

Joe understood that true appreciation in life comes from experiences and memories and he embraced it with his all. He served his community as a City Council Member right up to the time of his passing on July 5, 2015. Please join us for the reception on October 17th to remember a leader, to celebrate his life and honor Joseph E. Johnston, III, as the 2018 Great Brooksvillian.

If you would like additional information, please contact Sandra Kirby at (352) 540-3810 or via email at skirby@cityofbrooksville.us