

This nomination is for the following award: **Lifetime Achievement Award**

First Name **Barbara**

Last Name **Stites**

Library Affiliation (if applicable) **Florida Gulf Coast University Library**

Title (if applicable) **Associate Dean**

Street Address **10501 FGCU Blvd. S.**

City, State, ZIP **Fort Myers, FL 33965-6501**

Telephone Number **239-410-0081**

E-mail Address bstites@fgcu.edu

Are you nominating an individual or a group/organization for this award? **Individual**

First Name **Susan**

Last Name **Dillinger**

Library Affiliation (if applicable) **New Port Richey Public Library**

Title (if applicable) **Library Director**

Street Address **3611 Richboro Drive**

City, State, ZIP **Holiday, FL 34691**

Telephone Number **(727) 417-6599**

E-mail Address dillins@gmail.com

For how many years total has the nominee been employed as a professional librarian? **41**

Will you be submitting any supporting documentation? **Yes**

If you would like us to review web pages in consideration of this application (including videos or other supporting materials that are stored online), please enter the Uniform Resource Locators (URLs) below.

http://www.sptimes.com/2006/04/21/Pasco/New_Port_Richey_libra.shtml

<http://www.tbo.com/su/list/news-pasco/director-named-florida-librarian-of-the-year-20140530/>

<http://dos.myflorida.com/library-archives/services-for-libraries/florida-libraries-as/mental-nourishment/npr/seed/> <http://dos.myflorida.com/library-archives/services-for-libraries/florida-libraries-as/community-memory/new-port-richey/>

Essay I am pleased to nominate Ms. Susan Dillinger for the Florida Library Association Lifetime Achievement Award. Susan has had a long and distinguished career touching many different aspects of librarianship and public service beginning in 1975 as an Assistant University Librarian at the University of South Florida in Tampa. After 15 years working with USF she became the Library Director of the New Port Richey Public Library, working tirelessly to provide quality library services to this West Central Florida community. In addition to her library work, she was also chosen to serve as the Interim City Manager of New Port Richey from 2012 to 2014. She held both positions simultaneously and worked indefatigably, managing an impossible schedule with her usual determination and willingness to help. Susan has taken on both formal and informal leadership positions in the Association, at her workplace and library organizations such as the American Library Association,

Richey Suncoast Theatre, Rotary Club, Beacon Square Civic Association, Tampa Bay Library Consortium and many others. Susan's service to FLA, her commitment to the profession and her personal focus on continuous improvement make her a strong choice for this award. She is a longtime member of FLA who has provided a great deal of hard work and quality service to the organization. In fact, Susan has served in numerous leadership roles for the Association over the years, including Treasurer and Chair/Vice-Chair of both the Public Library Outcomes & Standards Committee and the Legislative Committee. She has been a member of the Board of Directors from 2001-2003 as well as serving from 2010-2013, and actively participated on the Public Library Standards, Citations & Awards, Continuing Education and Intellectual Freedom Committees. Susan has long been dedicated to service to the profession and her contributions to the Association are significant. While I was FLA's President and President-Elect, Susan was a trusted colleague who provided strong support and mentorship, which she has done for countless others over the years. She is also a longtime active member of the Women in Net-Working and the Pasco County Public Library Cooperative Board, lending her vibrant personality and encouraging nature to a whole new generation of librarians and other professionals. Susan has long been known for being an innovative early adopter, not just of technology but of creative approaches to providing services to her community. Her library was one of the first in the state to move from card catalog to an online system and implement public access to the Internet. Susan's work as Library Director and her recent administrative work for the City, has provided her with a perfect venue for lasting impact. She played an integral part as New Port Richey Library was engaged in establishing new and exciting programs such as the museum/theatre pass program, seed lending library, farmers market, Reading for Life Literacy and Books by Mail. She was instrumental in developing the library new collections of exercise weights, playaways and MP3books. Susan has made many outstanding contributions to the advancement of the stature of libraries within the State of Florida through risk taking over the course of their career. She frequently met with legislators, not only to advocate for funding but also to help legislators understand the critical role public libraries play in education and economic development. A publication, "A Librarian's Choice: The High Road of Social Responsibility and Ethics or Personal Expediency When Faced by a Devious Government.", authored with Dr. Kathleen McCook for the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association is just one example of her keen ardor for change. Susan has also been an active scholar. She has presented a number of workshop and conference sessions, participated on panels and posts about libraries on social media sites. She has long been an articulate leader with a wide range of excellent communication and listening skills and an innovator who stimulates effective change and inspires a shared vision. Of particular note, is that in 2012 Dillinger was appointed as the Interim City Manager for New Port Richey. In honor of her service in this role for almost two years, an art exhibition wall in City Hall was named the Susan Dillinger Art Gallery and in 2014 the West Pasco Chamber of Commerce named her Public Servant of the Year. More recently, under Susan's leadership, the library was honored as the recipient of the Florida Library Association's 2016 "Library of the Year" award and "Librarian of the Year" award in 2014. In addition, Library Journal gave the New Port Richey Public Library a rating of 4 out of 5 stars in 2013 and was the only Florida library to earn a rating that year. In 2016, the library again received top-rank rating and was one of only three Florida libraries so honored. Susan Dillinger's career has spanned more than four decades and she has truly had a major impact on library services in Florida and lives of Floridians. Her willingness to take risks, be innovative and embrace change have provided her community with an extraordinary library and served as a model for others. I can think of no one more deserving of the Florida Library

Association Lifetime Achievement Award.

Summary Susan Dillinger's long and distinguished career has spanned more than four decades and has had a major impact on library services in Florida and lives of Floridians. After 15 years as an Assistant University Librarian at the University of South Florida in Tampa she became the Library Director of the New Port Richey Public Library, working tirelessly to provide quality library service to this west central Florida community. In addition to her library work, she was also chosen to serve as the Interim City Manager of New Port Richey from 2012 to 2014. Her willingness to take risks, be innovative and embrace change have provided her community with an extraordinary library and served as a model for countless others.

This nomination is for the following award: **Lifetime Achievement Award**

First Name **Ann**

Last Name **Scott**

Library Affiliation (if applicable) **New Port Richey Public Library**

Title (if applicable) **Assistant Director**

Street Address **5939 Main Street**

City, State, ZIP **New Port Richey**

Telephone Number **7278531265**

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Are you nominating an individual or a group/organization for this award? **Individual**

First Name **Susan**

Last Name **Dillinger**

Library Affiliation (if applicable) **NPR Public Library**

Title (if applicable) **Director**

Street Address **5939 Main Street**

City, State, ZIP **New Port Richey**

Telephone Number **7278531262**

E-mail Address libdir@nprlibrary.org

For how many years total has the nominee been employed as a professional librarian? **35**

Will you be submitting any supporting documentation? **Yes**

If you would like us to review web pages in consideration of this application (including videos or other supporting materials that are stored online), please enter the Uniform Resource Locators (URLs) below.

Essay **Susan Dillinger's leadership of the New Port Richey Public Library for over 25 years, a portion of which she also served as acting City Manager, has led her to be the longest tenured Library Director in our community. She forged a new mission for the library to empower the community. With over 25% of our community living in poverty, Susan has led the way to help families displaced from their jobs. She has spearheaded a job lab where members may apply for jobs and assistance. Susan directs projects that lift up the roughly 51.9% of our city population that is female. She has inspired and supported her librarians to create educational opportunities, such as a five county wide literacy project, partnerships across the community that benefit all age levels, and a farmers market that provides incentives for EBT shoppers to learn how to keep their families healthier. Susan has always served as a role model, a powerful, intelligent woman who creates positive change. INITIATIVE: Susan's contributions to her community center around education. She strives to serve on boards and support local industry that help women achieve greatness. A longtime member of NOW and an advocate for equality for women, she has worked with educators, politicians and business owners in organizations such as Rotary, PACE Center for Girls in our local community. She also serves on many professional boards and recently helped pass new standards for libraries that further benefit our**

communities. Her many alliances led to our nomination for and receipt of FLA's First Library of the Year Award. **INSPIRATION:** Susan inspires with her passion. Even during bleak budget years, she never relents in her belief that we can make a change in the world. Her innovative ideas coupled with a high level of enthusiasm have kept our librarians focused on the future. She also has faith in what we can accomplish, and that is key to our success. Her love for libraries and what they mean to our community is contagious. Whenever she sees potential in someone, she tries to create work that will be meaningful for her. And she has inspired several of our non-librarians to go back to school to receive their Masters. She even developed a scholarship program through our Friends organization that pays for the first semester! **INVOLVMENT:** Susan earned her Master's in Library and Information Science from USF in 1981 and has been viewed by her peers as a leader in the field throughout Florida. In 2014, the Florida Library Association named her "Librarian of the Year" for her intrepid spirit, which served her well as she was both Library Director and acting City Manager of New Port Richey for over a year. Susan maintains close ties with instructors within the Library and Information Sciences program at USF and has made them proud to call her a USF Bull. Susan has hired many USF graduates, and her staff continues to bring innovative ideas that are currently being executed in New Port Richey back into the fold at USF.

Summary Susan Dillinger has been a stalwart of best practices in the public library community. She ardently believes in the power of public libraries to foster democracy, inspire innovation and empower the disenfranchised. Her optimism and willingness to stand up for library ethics has made her a champion within the library community. As she announces her retirement, effective Apr.1, our celebration of her gritty determination is also an acknowledgement of the library standards that she defends.