



JUANITA MARTIN BRYANT

Juanita Bryant of Boonville and Raleigh NC is active in numerous cultural, civic and political organizations, and believes that service to others is the highest form of leadership. Her greatest achievements include serving as International President of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, as State President of GFWC-NC, as Executive Director of the North Carolina Council for Women, as Development Director of the YWCA of Wake County, and raising her family on the farm in Boonville in Yadkin County.

At 88 years old, Juanita is currently a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs and GFWC- NC Board of Directors. She is a member of The Woman's Club of Raleigh, the Boonville Woman's Club, Women's Forum of North Carolina, Democratic Women of Wake County and North Carolina, and the N.C. Women's Foundation.

As an activist, Juanita has been a lifelong advocate for women's issues and led the effort that culminated in the Salute to the Flag of North Carolina being adopted in 2007 by the NC General Assembly as North Carolina's Official Salute.

GFWC

Mrs. Bryant served 1982 to 1984 as the International President of the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC). During this time, there were more than 10 million members in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and 46 other countries. As President, she resided in the organization's international headquarters in Washington, DC, which is a stipulation of the organization's bylaws. During her administration, she established the GFWC Women's History and Resource Center and served on a multitude of boards including CARE, Keep America Beautiful, Outstanding Young Women of America, the National Petroleum Council, National Farm City Council, Year of the Ocean Foundation, and the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped.

While State President for the North Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs from 1968-1970, Mrs. Bryant focused on public affairs and created the Juanita Bryant Citizenship Award that has since been given annually at the club, district and statewide levels. She was instrumental in lobbying the North Carolina General Assembly to establish the N.C. Youth Council and the State Youth Advocacy Agency in the N.C. Department of Administration. For many years, she joined other statewide leaders in crafting the annual legislative agenda for the North Carolina Council of Women's Organizations and worked tirelessly to seek passage of the Equal Rights Amendment. As a member of the Boonville Woman's Club, she served as District VI President from 1961-1963.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

Governor James B. Hunt, Jr. appointed her Executive Director of the North Carolina Council for Women saying "Mrs. Bryant is one of North Carolina's most knowledgeable citizens in the area of women's issues." She directed the Council from 1993 until retirement in 2000, heading up programs for women including displaced homemakers, domestic violence, sexual assault, women in the military, women in business, Leadership Connections for at-risk youth, and the annual recognition of the Distinguished Women of North Carolina.

At Governor Hunt's request, she led the North Carolina delegation of 48 women to the UN Conference on Women to Beijing, China in 1995, and later was selected to lead a delegation to China as part of the U.S. Ambassador's Program - People to People.

From 1978-1982, before moving to Washington, DC, she served as the Executive Director of the Council for Women's Leadership Development Program and provided leadership tools and resources to more than 15,000 women at conferences held in all 100 counties, regionally and statewide.

Mrs. Bryant was the first woman in North Carolina to be appointed by a Governor to chair a state board or commission, having been appointed by Governor Bob Scott to chair the State Youth Advisory Board. Governor Terry Sanford appointed her to serve on the Roanoke Island Historical Foundation and the board of the NC School of the Arts in Winston-Salem. Governor Dan K. Moore appointed her to a committee of the Education Commission, and Governor James B. Hunt, Jr. appointed her to serve on the Domestic Violence Commission. She also served on the NC Center on Crime and Punishment, the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences, and the N.C. Consumer Council.

A lifelong Democrat, she has worked for many candidates, first serving as campaign chair for Margaret Harper's 1972 campaign for Lieutenant Governor. For ten years, she served as Parliamentarian for the Democratic Women of North Carolina and the Wake County Democratic Women.

YWCA

As Development Director of the YWCA of Wake County from 1985 until 1993, Mrs. Bryant coordinated the Academy of Women program to recognize local leaders in professional and volunteer efforts, in addition to other fund raising activities to support the programs for youth and families.



AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

ORDER OF THE LONG LEAF PINE FROM GOVERNOR HUNT | 2000
"TAR HEEL OF THE WEEK" BY THE RALEIGH NEWS AND OBSERVER
WOMAN OF DISTINCTION, WOMEN'S FORUM OF NORTH CAROLINA | 2013
MABEL CLAIRE MADDREY AWARD, WAKE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC WOMEN | 2012
DEMOCRATIC WOMAN OF THE YEAR, NC DEMOCRATIC WOMEN | 2012
WOMAN OF EMPOWERMENT, GFWC | 2007
WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARD, GFWC-NC | 2002
DISTINGUISHED WOMAN OF NC AWARD, NC COUNCIL FOR WOMEN | 2001
NC DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE | 2000
WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARD, GFWC | 2000
NC EQUITY'S CARPATHIAN AWARD FOR SERVICE | 2000
WAKE COUNTY WOMAN IN GOVERNMENT AWARD, YWCA | 1999
PACESETTER, STENNIS CENTER FOR SOUTHERN WOMEN IN PUBLIC SERVICE | 1998
DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN OF NORTH CAROLINA AWARD | 1982

PLANNING COMMITTEE

STEPHANIE WALLACE, *Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club, Tribute Chair*