

May 10, 2022

The Venice Historic Preservation Board and the City of Venice take pleasure
in presenting the

Venice Legacy Award

to

Louella Albee

in recognition of her contribution to the history of Venice.

Louella Berry Albee was born in 1876 in Williamsport, PA. She was a fifth generation member of a pioneer family. After living in Philadelphia and becoming a millinery designer, Albee took her talents to New York City. There she met Dr. Fred Albee and the two married in 1907.

During World War I, while Dr. Albee was serving as a Colonel in the U.S. Army, Mrs. Albee was a nurse for the Red Cross. Prior to their service, the Albees travelled to the Nokomis area where they purchased most of Nokomis, Venice, and Bay Point. After the war they settled in Nokomis at their home—Pont o' Palms. Mrs. Albee aided her husband on many globe-trotting trips to speak about or conduct surgeries. Together, they started the Pollyanna Inn and Venice-Nokomis Bank. They would eventually turn the Gulf Breeze Hotel into the Florida Medical Center.

Mrs. Albee was heavily involved in civic and social functions in the Venice-Nokomis area. She was founder and first president of the Venice-Nokomis Woman's Club. Started in 1926, it is one of the oldest non-profit civic organizations in the City of Venice today. Mrs. Albee also donated the building that would serve as the club's offices. She would also operate a book exchange out of the building. That book exchange would grow extensively. Mrs. Albee would later donate all the books to form the first public library in the City of Venice, which was named after her. She would also organize the first Girl Scout Troop and Camp Fire Girls in Venice. Along with her husband, Mrs. Albee donated the land for three churches in Venice: the Venice-Nokomis Methodist Church, St. Marks Episcopal Church, and the Catholic Church of the Epiphany.

After her husband passed away, Mrs. Albee became an author. She wrote about her life with Dr. Albee entitled Doctor and I. She lived out her life between Colonia, New Jersey and Sarasota Florida. A hip fracture landed her in the hospital from which she did not recover. Mrs. Albee passed away in February 1956 at the age of 80.



Jean Trammell

Venice Historic Preservation Board
[Signature]

Mayor

Venice Legacy Awards are given to individuals or organizations in recognition of their contributions to historical preservation or significant historical impact in the Venice area.