



EARL AND KAREN MIDLAM

EARL MIDLAM HAS ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT A MOVING TARGET IS HARDER TO HIT. HE IS A 1970 GRADUATE OF VENICE HIGH SCHOOL. HE WAS A FIREFIGHTER WITH THE VENICE FIRE DEPT. BACK WHEN THERE WERE ONLY 2 MEN TO A SHIFT. EARL HAS ALSO SERVED ON NUMEROUS COMMUNITY BOARDS, INCLUDING THE YMCA, THE SALVATION ARMY, SUN FIESTA, AND VENICE MAINSTREET. AND THAT WAS WHILE HE WORKED AS AN ORTHOPEDIC TECH AT VENICE HOSPITAL/BON SECOURS FOR 26 YEARS AND WAS A 3-TERM VENICE CITY COUNCILMAN AND FORMER VICE-MAYOR. OVER 48 YEARS AGO HE STARTED THE VENICE HOLIDAY PARADE. IN 2015 HE RECEIVED THE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FROM THE VENICE FIRE DEPT. AND IN EARLY 2016 HE RECEIVED THE PILLAR OF THE COMMUNITY AWARD FROM THE CITY OF VENICE.

KAREN MIDLAM WAS BORN IN VENICE HOSPITAL AND RAISED IN THE BAY POINT NEIGHBORHOOD OF NOKOMIS. SHE IS A 1978 GRADUATE OF VENICE HIGH SCHOOL. KAREN HAS WORKED AS A CERTIFIED PARALEGAL FOR OVER 30. SHE IS A PAST PRESIDENT OF VENICE HERITAGE, INC.

EARL FIRST MET OLD BETSY DURING HIS SCHOOL YEARS, AND IT WAS LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT. THE TWO OF THEM APPEARED IN MANY PARADES AND EVENTS, FROM FT. MYERS TO ST. PETERSBURG. BACK IN LATE 2011, HE RAISED OVER \$31,000.00 TO GIVE OLD BETSY A MAKEOVER AND THE TRUCK TOOK A TRIP TO THE EAST COAST OF FLORIDA WHEREIN SHE WAS STRIPPED DOWN TO BARE METAL AND WAS REBORN. SHE HAS ENJOYED BEING AN AMBASSADOR FOR THE CITY OF VENICE, APPEARING IN LOCAL PARADES AND EVENTS. THIS BUILDING IS THE REALIZATION OF A SUGGESTION BROUGHT BEFORE VENICE CITY COUNCIL THAT SHE NEEDED A HOME.

AND A SPECIAL THANKS TO OLD BETSY'S HELPERS

BART BARTHOLOMEW PETE BATTERTON GAYLORD GEORGE HARRY KLINKHAMER DOROTHY KORWEK LINDA LEWIS
KATHY SAWDO DENNIS TAYLOR VENICE WRECKER VENICE HERITAGE GARY YOUNGBERG