



## **PRESS RELEASE to be released June 21, 2018**

**Rotary of Pensacola Installs New President and Officers**

**Announces Recipients of Grover III and Sandra Robinson Awards**

**Pensacola, FL – June 21, 2018**

**Rotary of Pensacola welcomed New President Betty Roberts at the recent Change of Command Ceremony held at Pensacola Yacht Club. Betty, a University of West Florida graduate has been employed with One Blood, International Paper, West Florida Hospital and Pensacola State College. She currently serves on various boards including the Pensacola Art Museum, Pensacola State College Foundation Board of Governors, Pensacola Symphony, Pensacola Opera and the Galvez Committee.**

**Betty commented that she is “honored to be elected President of Rotary of Pensacola and be a member of Rotary International, the largest volunteer organization with 1.2 million members with 33,000 clubs in 200 countries” in the world. She announced the following new Board and Officers of “Downtown Rotary”, they are: John Trawick, Ray Jones, Henry Roberts, Sally Fox, Mark Harden, Bruce Partington, Carlton Ulmer, Kaberi Samanta, Randy Ray, Ed Wonders Claudia Simmons, Tim Kane and Bryan McCall.**

**Rotary of Pensacola has the distinguished history of being established in 1915 and is the second oldest Rotary Club in the State. The Rotary Motto is “Service Above Self” and the nearly 200 members of accomplished community leaders and professionals work to improve the community and the world through various grants, scholarships, literacy programs, and building the first playground at Community Maritime Park.**

**Since June of 2000, Rotary of Pensacola began awarding the Grover III and Sandra Robinson Awards in memory of their service to Rotary and the community. Each year someone is recognized as an outstanding Rotarian from the Club and a Community Leader who exemplifies “Service Above Self”.**

**Rotarian Brigadier General Michael L. Ferguson U.S. Army Retired, was selected for the Grover Robinson III Award and is presently a counsel partner of the firm McDonald Fleming Moorhead. He obtained his Juris Doctorate from the University of Florida, College of Law. He earned a bachelor’s degree in Military Science from the United States Military Academy, a master’s degree in International Relations from American University, and a master’s degree in Business Management from Central Michigan University. He has practiced in U.S. and International Business Law, Commercial Litigation, Bankruptcy, Intellectual Property and Sports Law. Mr. Ferguson was instrumental in the formation of the af2 Arena Football League and has been a certified NFL agent, a legal consultant for the af2 League, and designated counsel**

for numerous professional sports teams. He was recognized by the Florida Senate in 1998 as an Outstanding Citizen; a Beta Gamma Sigma Honoree in 1999; selected for the Pensacola High School Hall of Fame in 2000; and has several Paul Harris Fellow awards. He preceded his practice of law with a distinguished career in the U.S. Army including tours in Germany, Vietnam, Korea and Japan where he served as Deputy Commanding General. He has received over 30 awards and decorations to include the Purple Heart and Distinguished Service Medal. General Ferguson was appointed Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army some 15 years ago. The position is a three-star ranking and Ferguson reports directly to the Secretary of the Army on all military matters in Florida. He has earned an AV® rating by Martindale-Hubbell, the highest rating possible given by his peers.

Mr. Ferguson is active in community affairs and a life member of many civic organizations to include Pensacola Downtown Rotary, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, U.S. Army Ranger Association, Military Officer Association of America, Association of the United States Army, and Gideons. Mr. Ferguson is also a Trustee Emeritus of the University of Florida College of Law; Past Chairman of the UWF College of Business Advisory Council and Adjunct Professor; a member of the University of West Florida Military Community Policy Council; and an Honorary Alumnus of the University of West Florida. General Ferguson was awarded an Honorary Doctorate Degree by UWF at the 2014 UWF Commencement where he was the speaker for the two Commencement Ceremonies

Maria Davis, Honorary Vice Consul of Spain, was chosen as the recipient of the Sandra Robinson Award. She has served as Honorary Vice Consul of Spain since 1984 and was instrumental in arranging the 2009 visit of King Juan Carlos I and Queen Sofia of Spain to celebrate the 450<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Luna Expedition of 1559 commemorating Pensacola as America's First settlement. As Vice Consul of Spain, she promotes cultural, commercial and scientific relations between Spain and Pensacola

Maria has been the moving force in organizing Galvez Day, May 8, annually in Pensacola. Each year the Mayor of Macharaviaya and a Spanish delegation arrives in Pensacola plus local and State of Florida officials to celebrate General Bernardo de Galvez who defended Pensacola against the British during the American Revolutionary War.

She was most recently honored by the Mayor of Macharaviaya Antonio Campos with a Proclamation naming her Adoptive Daughter of Macharaviaya.

Rotary of Pensacola meets each Tuesday noon at New World Landing and more information can be found on the website at [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org).

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