



# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Council on Aging announces Rat Pack 2018**

*Year of "Fly Me to the Moon" includes Troy Rafferty, Valerie Russenberger, Bob Tyler and Justin Witkin*

PENSACOLA, Fla. (September 24, 2018) – The eighth annual Rat Pack Reunion fundraiser, hosted by Council on Aging of West Florida to raise money and awareness for senior programs in the area, will take place Oct. 19, 2018 at 5:30 pm at Skopelos at New World. At the event, four local leaders will be roasted and toasted for their service to the community. They are:

### **Troy Rafferty**

Troy has litigated mass tort, pharmaceutical, and major personal injury cases at Levin Papantonio for almost 25 years. He has been recognized as one of the top trial lawyers in the country. Troy works closely with the Southern Youth Sports Association and sponsors the *Pensacola News Journal's* All-Sports Awards Banquet where he awards annual scholarships to exceptional high school senior athletes.

### **Valerie Russenberger**

Valerie has been on stage since childhood and now calls the Pensacola Little Theatre home. A believer that, "The arts will feed someone's soul, and places like Council on Aging will feed their bellies," Valerie sits on the theatre's board and has served on the Arc Foundation Board, the Symphony board, and the Baptist Foundation board, and has chaired the American Cancer Society's Cattle Baron Ball. Valerie and her husband own the Oar House.

### **Bob Tyler**

Bob owns and operates one of the leading car dealerships in the region, Bob Tyler Toyota. Bob Tyler Toyota works closely with the Pensacola Humane Society by funding low-cost pet adoptions. A United States Army Veteran, Bob supports many military and first responder groups through partnerships and sponsorships and is proud to offer an American flag to anyone who stops by and asks.

### **Justin Witkin**

As a founding partner of the law firm of Aylstock, Witkin, Kreis & Overholtz, Justin is dedicated to bringing justice through both law and community engagement. Outside of his legal practice, he has created several other businesses, including aDoor Development. Justin works with the Aylstock, Witkin, Kreis & Overholtz Justice Foundation to advocate for and support children in Pensacola and volunteers with the University of West Florida men's soccer team.

Now in its eighth year, the Rat Pack Reunion recreates glamorous Hollywood styles and atmosphere of yesteryear by honoring Pensacola's own Rat Pack of celebrities with a gentle roast, dancing, dinner, free cocktails and more. The men will be wearing their black-tie best as women show off their most dazzling gowns, and hundreds of the area's leaders will gather to raise funds and awareness for Council on Aging of West Florida. To date, the event has raised more than a million dollars for services like Meals on Wheels, The Retreat Adult Day Health Care Center and more programs that aging adults in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties depend upon.

Sponsors for this event include aDoor Properties, Ballinger Publishing, Baptist Health Care, Bob Tyler Toyota, Carlette Howell, Cat Country 98.7, Charlie & Fran Switzer, Covenant Care, Ed Turner, Edward Jones - John Peacock, Emerald Coast Hospice, Escambia County Sherriff's Office, Fabadashery, Flack & Kathleen Logan, Gulf Power Company, Hancock Whitney Bank, Home Instead Senior Care, Humana, Jewelers Trade Shop, Jim & Ann Neal, Joe Durant, John B. Clark, Larry Morris, Levin Papantonio Personal Injury Lawyers, Levin Rinke Resort Realty, McMahon-Hadder Insurance, Nels Offerdahl, Pete Moore Chevrolet, Ray & Valerie Russenberger, Riesberg Institute, Roger Webb, Sammy's Management, Skopelos at New World, Spencer Law, Synovus Bank, The AKWO Justice Foundation Inc., The Oar House, The Studer Foundation, Valley Services Inc., and WEAR-ABC3.

To purchase tickets, sponsor Rat Pack Reunion, or for information on the event, visit [ratpackreunion.com](http://ratpackreunion.com).

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*Council on Aging of West Florida is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that has served seniors and their families since 1972. Council on Aging of West Florida helps seniors in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties live healthy, safe and independent lives in their own familiar surroundings by providing community-based, in-home programs and services such as Meals on Wheels and Alzheimer's respite care.*