



Pat Collier Frank

A Distinguished Career in Florida Public Service

Pat Collier Frank was born on November 21, 1929, in Ohio and moved to Florida in 1935. She has had a distinguished career spanning over five decades in Florida public service, marking her as one of the most accomplished political figures in Hillsborough County and the state of Florida.

Education

She attended the University of Florida and Georgetown University School of Law, where she was among the first class of women admitted to this prestigious institution. While at Georgetown, she met her future husband, the late Judge Richard Harlan Frank of the Second District Court of Appeals, in a contracts class. They later joked that they decided "to make one of their own."

Political and Public Service Career

1972: First elected to the Hillsborough County School Board, beginning a remarkable journey in public service during a time when there were fewer women in elected office.

1976–1978: Served in the Florida House of Representatives.

1979–1988: Served in the Florida State Senate (23rd district) as a member of the Democratic Party.

1998: Elected to the Hillsborough County Commission, serving six years.

2004–2020: Elected as Clerk of the Circuit Court in Hillsborough County for four terms, a position she held with distinction until her retirement at age 91.

Professional Background

A trained business economist, Frank has resided in Tampa since 1961, becoming deeply embedded in the fabric of the community and dedicating her professional life to public service.

Legacy and Recognition

Frank retired in late 2020 after 16 years as Hillsborough's court clerk, capping a career that spanned nearly 50 years of continuous public service. In 2021, in recognition of her five decades of dedication to Hillsborough County, the County Commission voted unanimously to rename a downtown courthouse building in her honor.

Her career represents a remarkable period of service to Hillsborough County and the state of Florida, particularly as a pioneering woman in Florida politics and law. She has been a role model for generations of public servants and a testament to the power of dedication, intelligence, and unwavering commitment to the community.