

48th Annual South County 4th of July Parade "Saluting the Past. Celebrating the Future"

Community Celebrity Parade Judges

Lieutenant General Steven Hummer



Born on 1 July 1952 in Pennsylvania as the son of a US Marine World War II veteran, Lieutenant General Hummer retired from the US Marine Corps on 1 Aug 2015 after 41 years of active service. After enlisting in the Marine Corps in 1970, and an honorable discharge as a sergeant in 1973, Lieutenant General Hummer was commissioned following graduation from Albright College, PA, in 1977 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Psycho-Biology.



His assignments in the operating forces included: Rifle Platoon Commander, Company Commander, Battalion Commander and Regimental Commander within 1st Marine Division; Chief of Staff, Joint Special Operations Command; Director of Operations, US Forces-Iraq; and Deputy to the Commander for Military Operations, US Africa Command. Lieutenant General Hummer participated in combat operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Supporting establishment duties included: Ceremonial Company Commander, Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C; Commanding General, Marine Corps Base Hawaii; Deputy Commander, Marine Forces Pacific; Chief of Staff, US Special Operations Command; and Commander, Marine Corps Forces Reserve and Marine Corps Forces North.

Lieutenant General Hummer is a graduate of several schools within the Marine Corps University; and earned a master's degree in International Security Studies from the Air War College.

His decorations include: Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit with Combat "V", Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal, and other personal awards and decorations.

Lieutenant General Hummer currently volunteers to support veteran service organizations and mentors veterans. He recently completed seminary achieving a master's degree in Chaplaincy. He currently provides chaplain services to the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office and to the Conservatory, an independent living facility in Alden Bridge, The Woodlands. He and his wife, Sheri, support fund raisers in support of veterans and their families. They both love to share the message of Jesus!

Lieutenant General Hummer and Sheri reside in The Woodlands, Texas. Lieutenant General Hummer and his wife, Sheri, have a son, David, daughter-in-law, Stephanie, grandson Jaxson, and granddaughter, Isla.



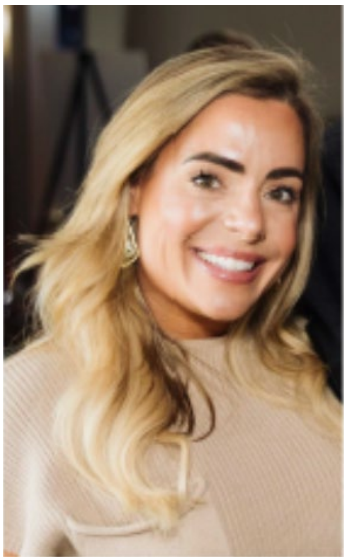


**Mayor John Escoto
City of Shenandoah**

The Honorable John Escoto

John Escoto was re-elected to his second term as Mayor this year. Mayor Escoto is an 11-year resident of Shenandoah and served on the Planning & Zoning Commission before being elected to Council.

He is a veteran who served 26 years on active duty and as a reserve and is a retired career law enforcement official having served in local, state and federal law enforcement. He continued his career in multiple roles with the Department of Homeland Security.



**Nicole Preston
General Manger
Community Impact –
The Woodlands**

Nicole Preston has adored The Woodlands from the time she moved to the community with her family almost 30 years ago. Nicole is a graduate of The Woodlands High School, Go Highlanders! She began her business career in banking as a bank teller where she quickly rose through the ranks working for Amegy Bank, BBVA Compass Bank, Edward Jones, and later became Assistant Vice President Branch Manager of Icon Bank.

Nicole exited the finance sector in 2015 to pursue a career with Community Impact Newspaper and launched the company's 8th edition in Houston for the Conroe/Montgomery community. With her knowledge and passion for The Woodlands community Nicole was promoted to General Manager of The Woodlands edition of Community Impact Newspaper in 2019 and was recently named 2023 General Manager of Year for the second time.

Nicole serves on the board for Leadership Montgomery County and Interfaith of the Woodlands. Nicole enjoys volunteering her time to causes that are near and dear to her heart such as Memorial Hermann's In the Pink of Health, United Way's Women Who Rock, Interfaith toy drive, and her church, The Woodlands Methodist Church.



Erik Secrest is a 15-year firefighter/paramedic with The Woodlands Fire Department. Prior to coming to work for The Woodlands Fire Department he served with the City of Kerrville Fire/EMS for 8 years. He currently serves as the President of The Woodlands Professional Fire Fighters Association, Chairman of The Woodlands Firefighters Foundation (a 501c3 non-profit that benefits all First Responders serving in The Woodlands and throughout Montgomery County and their families), Chairman of The United Firefighters of The Woodlands PAC, and a co-chair of the Montgomery County Behavioral Health and Suicide Prevention Task Force for First Responders. He is married to his beautiful wife Amber, has 2 sons Nicklaus and Anthony and has 2 Great Danes Jake and Jasper. Erik and Amber are residents of the Village of Alden Bridge since 2008.



Bruce Tough is proud and honored to have earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Houston, BS 1976 and to be selected as a top ten student. He also received his Doctor of Jurisprudence from the University of Houston Law Center in 1980. Bruce Tough is the founder of Tough Law Firm, PLLC, voted as the 2010 Small Business of the Year Award by the Lone Star College System, Montgomery College, located in The Woodlands area. Bruce has been honored as a Hometown Hero in 2004 and Citizen of the Year in 2006. Bruce has served his community in numerous elected offices including Chairman of The Woodlands Township and Trustee of the Conroe Independent School District. Bruce Tough resides with his wife, Diana, and four daughters, Madison, Tara, Abby, and Sydney, in The Woodlands, Texas.



Angela Branch serves as the Director of Human Resources for The Woodlands Township. In this position, Angela provides leadership and oversight of the Township's Human Resources policies and operations. Angela partners with the Township Board of Directors and Executive Management Team to identify and implement talent management strategies aligned with the Township's vision and goals.

Prior to joining the Township staff in 2022, Angela was Executive Director at The Woodlands Methodist Church and served in multiple Human Resources management roles at Exxon Mobil Corporation.

Angela earned her Bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of Illinois and Master's degree in Human Resources Management and Industrial Relations from the University of Minnesota. Angela and her family have enjoyed living in The Woodlands for over 10 years.