



# **City of Florence, Alabama**

## **WALK OF HONOR**

### **River Heritage Park**

## **HISTORY**

In the summer of 2006, former Mayor Bobby Irons was encouraged to find a way to publically recognize residents of Florence and Lauderdale County who have achieved national or international fame. Several ideas on how to give notable recognition to these individuals were considered. Then, with the support and approval of the Florence City Council, a Selection Committee was appointed and commissioned to design and establish a Walk of Honor. These individuals took this task to heart and spent many hours researching and devising a workable and expandable program. Their services were invaluable in establishing the criteria, formulating the process for nominations, and designing the monuments. The initial committee included:

Billy Ray Warren, Chairman  
Betty Champion  
Ronnie Flippo  
Lee Freeman  
Kevin Jangaard  
Shirley Douglass  
Thelma Robinson  
Shaler Roberts III  
Ed Yeilding  
Robert Steen  
Andy Betterton, Mayor

[Current Committee List](#)

The Walk of Honor is designed to bring recognition to residents of Florence and Lauderdale County who have excelled at the national or international levels in various fields of endeavor. These fields include, but are not limited to:

- Agriculture
- Art
- Athletics
- Business
- Education
- Government
- Humanities
- Literature
- Medical
- Military
- Music
- Public Service
- Religion
- Science & Technology

Initially, in 2007, there were sixteen inductees selected by the Committee to ensure a good cross section of the categories. The plaques for this first group were placed in May of 2008 when the River Heritage Park opened. From that point forward, the public has been invited to participate in the nomination process. More inductees have been added each year.

What a tremendous legacy has been left for this community through the achievements of these individuals! It is with deepest gratitude that we bestow our highest honor and recognition to them.

In looking for a site for the Walk of Honor, there was really no question that it be placed in the beautiful, state-of-the-art River Heritage Park. It adjoins the magnificent Marriott Shoals Hotel, Spa, and Conference Center Complex—a featured destination point of the South.



We encourage you to visit the Walk of Honor and share in the prestigious achievements of these individuals. More information is available on each inductee at the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library-Genealogy Room. Questions regarding the nomination process can be answered through the Mayor's Office at 256-760-6400 or via email at [ehenley@florencel.org](mailto:ehenley@florencel.org).