

This year's volunteer of the year was born on September 14<sup>th</sup>, 1935 in Minneapolis Minnesota to Arvida and Donald Houle. She has one younger sister, named Judi, who was born in 1942. She grew up in Minnesota, where she spent most of her adult life working and raising her family.



This year's Volunteer of the Year is...  
Donnette Hilton!



Here is Donnette pictured with her four daughters- Vicki, Jennie, Cindy and Donna



Growing up, Donnette was a star student. She received great grades and was very involved in her community. She was a majorette and can still do her baton routine. She excelled in spelling and grammar, and her family still calls her the “grammar police”. She even still serves as a chairperson for high school reunions. While in high school, she worked as a carhop at Porky’s and then in retail at Kresge dime store, where she sold candy and cleaned cages for the small animal pets they sold.



In 1953, Donnette married Richard Noggle where she shortly after had her first daughter Vicki followed by Jennie, Cindy and Donna.



The majority of her daughters' early childhood Donnie spent as a single mother. She worked hard to provide for her girls and to be successful in her career. Working and raising 4 young girls on her own, she somehow stayed sane by "managing" her household. She mentored not only her 4 girls, but was a mentor to all of their friends as well.



Donnie met Mike Hilton in the late 60's through mutual friends. They married in 1976. A real love story. This man was an angel straight from heaven, marrying into a family with 4 teenage girls. He brought love and support to the entire family.



Becoming more involved in politics, Donnie was elected the state vice chairwoman of the republican party in Minnesota. She worked on many campaigns – involving marketing efforts and speaking engagements endorsing party’s candidates. Although a registered Republican she openly encouraged all of her girls to embrace politics. It didn’t matter which party, in fact she proudly stated that her oldest daughter Vicki worked as a volunteer for the Kennedy campaign.

This is also when she became a notary public, was president of the Legal Secretary’s association, became a Roberts Rules Parliatarium (teacher of Roberts rules of order) and spent her free time volunteering at pet shelters and the American Red Cross. She loves her kitties (2 rescue cats) but also loves dogs. She has always had rescue pets.





In the 1990s Donnie got a job working for senator Rudy Boschwitz and later Minnesota governor Carlson. She met a lot of important people during this time of her life.



Even after having a successful career in politics, she still pursued many business opportunities. Such as purchasing Eastside Grill with her daughter Vicki, in Bloomington MN. In 2007, Donnie and Mike moved to Florida and purchased a lot at The Great Outdoors. In her first year a resident, she ran for and was elected as condo president, and chairman of the policy committee! She also volunteers her time teaching Roberts Rules of Order to various committees, such as ARC, and serving as a notary for the community. Even during retirement, Donnette volunteers her time to do good in her community. She volunteered as a Brevard County Citizens Observer Patrol officer, where she did community watch, and helped locate missing people who suffer from Alzheimer's. Most recently, Donnie works as a courtesy patrol officer here in TGO. She works hard to keep TGO a safe place to live for herself and her neighbors.



Lastly, Donnette volunteers EVERY year to put together the volunteer of the year presentation. Due to COVID-19 Donnie decided against holding a ceremony this year. There was no better time to honor such a great leader in our community. **Congratulations Donnette Hilton on being selected as the 2020-2021 Volunteer of the Year!**