

MEDIA RELEASE

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Leadership Florida
7/1/2020

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Leadership Florida® Presents Dick Batchelor with the 2020 Distinguished Member Award

TALLAHASSEE — Each year, Leadership Florida recognizes one member whose continued leadership activities, outside of their professional responsibilities, have exemplified the highest standards of the organization and whose activities achieved results or set an example of statewide influence. Leadership Florida is proud to announce that the winner of the 2020 Distinguished Member Award is Dick Batchelor, a graduate of Executive Class 8. The Award was announced on June 18th to the hundreds of members attending Leadership Florida's Annual Business Meeting on a video conference.



Dick Batchelor is president of Dick Batchelor Management Group, a consulting firm that specializes in business development, strategic governmental affairs, and public policy issues. He has been featured numerous times as one of the 50 Most Powerful People in Orlando.

Dick served in the US Marine Corps where he was deployed to Vietnam from 1967-68 and stationed in Da Nang during the Tet Offensive. He credits his military experience with learning to work alongside people of diverse backgrounds, ethnicities, and religions to pursue a common goal effectively.

Batchelor was one of the youngest individuals ever to serve in the Florida House of Representatives. In 1974, at age 26, he won a seat with more than two-thirds of the vote. During his eight years of service, five years were in leadership roles, including the chair of the Auditing Committee, the Health and Rehabilitative Services Committee, and the House Energy Committee, in addition to chair of four subcommittees. Dick has received more than fifty awards for his elected service.

In 2002, he was named "Central Floridian of the Year" by the Orlando Sentinel for his efforts to generate more than \$2 billion worth of funding for Orange County Public Schools. After six prior referendum efforts had failed to generate some level of taxation to support the district's dire construction challenges, Dick organized the Change 4 Kids campaign.

In addition to his annual 5K Run for the Children, Batchelor is an advocate to several children's causes, locally and nationally. He is chair of the Florida Hospital for Children Board, chair to the Children's Leadership Alliance, an advisory board to the Federation of Families of Central Florida, board member of Florida's Children First, and actively involved with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida.

Leadership Florida is proud to recognize Dick Batchelor, Executive Class 8, with the 2020 Distinguished Member Award.

About Leadership Florida

For thirty-eight years, Leadership Florida has developed a reputation as a builder of a stronger, diverse statewide sense of community. As a respected non-partisan convener of committed individuals, Leadership Florida enhances the knowledge and leadership abilities of Florida's leaders through educational programs and by encouraging collaborative work for the betterment of our state. These programs include the Cornerstone Class Program for leaders age 40 and over and the Connect Class Program for young leaders age 25-39. In addition, Leadership Florida conducts the Education Class Program for individuals invested in Florida's educational system and the Executive Class Program for C-suite level executives that are new to Florida. The organization also provides Floridians essential information and a meaningful forum for their opinions and creates opportunities for shared experiences that are inviting, inspiring, and of lasting value. For more information, visit www.leadershipflorida.org. Leadership Florida is a federally registered trademark.

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