



Florida Recreation and Park Association, Inc. 2022 Lifetime Award

Nomination and Application

The Florida Recreation and Park Association’s Lifetime Award is intended to recognize “lifetime” service to the Florida Recreation and Park Association and the parks, recreation and leisure services profession. Individuals who are nominated for this award must have retired/left the field of parks and recreation (defined as having left the field for another field [i.e. city management, consulting, etc.] or have formally retired from the field based on agency retirement policies) at the time the award will be presented, have maintained their membership in FRPA, and must have been recently active in FRPA (defined as within five years of their nomination, the nominee must have participated in one or more of the criteria listed below).

Instructions: Before completing the application form, use this checklist to be sure the person meets the qualifications. **Do not tell the person he or she is being nominated.**

- Date of retirement or date left the field
- At least 50 years of age
- Maintains a professional image in their community, both on and off the job, and at conferences

A. FRPA Service* (30 points max in this category) [minimum cumulative total of 8 years]

- Served as an elected or appointed member of the FRPA Board of Directors
- Served as a chair of an FRPA State Committee, Section, or Task Force or Workgroup
- Served as an active member of an FRPA State Committee, Task Force

B. Professional Service (20 points max in this category)

- Speaker on city, county, state, or national program
- Writing or research on topics relative to the field of parks and recreation and published in external publication. (No agency publications.)
- Service to allied organizations such as the FRPA Foundation, NRPA, League of Cities, or other non-profit organization promoting parks, recreation, outdoor recreation and the protection of the natural environment.
- Outstanding or unusual contribution to the profession which cannot be classified in any of the above

C. Community Service (10 points max in this category)

- Rendered service outside the parks, recreation, and leisure services profession, to one’s community

*Active service will be verified.

Scoring: In addition to the points that can be earned in each category above, a maximum of 35 points may be earned based on the Nominator’s Narrative. This award will be judged with a maximum of 100 points available. A minimum score of 80 is required to be considered an award finalist. In order to maximize the number of points earned it is imperative that the nominator thoroughly completes all elements of the application. Application must include submission packaged in the format below to be considered.

Deadline: Received at FRPA no later than April 29, 2022

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Nomination Form

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE INDIVIDUAL MAKING THE NOMINATION – MUST BE AN FRPA MEMBER

(will be reviewed and scored as part of the Award submission)

Nominator Name	Julie Adams
Nominator's Address	500 3 rd St. NW
City/State/Zip	Winter Haven, FL 33881
Nominator Email Address	jadams@mywinterhaven.com
Nominator Phone	863-608-0295
Nominator Relationship to Nominee	Coworker – Subordinate
Name of Nominee	T. Michael Stavres
Nominee Address	451 3 rd St. NW
City/State/Zip	Winter Haven, FL 33881
Nominee Agency	City of Winter Haven
Nominee Email Address	mstavres@mywinterhaven.com
Nominee Job Title	Deputy City Manager
Does this nominee represent an underrepresented population?	Not sure.

Narrative #1: NOMINATOR’S NARRATIVE (35 points max): Having reviewed the criteria to be nominated for the FRPA Lifetime Award, attach no more than two pages (1.5 line spaced) detailing why you believe the individual being nominated is deserving of this recognition and what awards the nominee has received for serving FRPA and/or the profession. This is more than a cover letter. It should be thorough and specific.

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FRPA SERVICE (30 points max)

Nominator may contact the FRPA office to verify service record.

What elected or appointed position on the FRPA Board of Directors has the nominee held? (list position and years held)

Position	Dates Served
Vice President of Finance	2007-2008
Vice President of Member Resources	2012-2013
President Elect	2008-2009
President	2009-2010
Past President	2010-2011

What State Committee, Section, or Task Force did the nominee chair? (list committee and years Chaired)

State Committee, Section, Task Force, or Workgroup	Dates Served

What FRPA Committee or Task Force was the nominee an active member of? (list committee and years served)

State Committee, Section, Task Force, or Workgroup	Dates Served
Conference Committee	1997, 1998, 2010
Conference Committee – Chair	2016
Abrahams Academy Planning Team	2007-2008
Abrahams Academy Coach	Unsure of dates
Membership Dues Restructuring Task Force – Chair	2006-2007
Reorganization Task Force	2008-2009
Awards Committee - Chair	2008-2009
Foundation Board (while President of FRPA)	2009-2010
Awards Committee	2009-2010
Nominating Committee	2011-2012
Economic Impact Calculator Task Force	2018-2021
Strategic Plan Economic Impact Workgroup	2018-2021

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE (20 points max)

List any city, county, state, or national program at which the nominee was a speaker promoting the field of parks and recreation

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Program/Event Topic	Year
Repeat speaker at FRPA Conferences	2000 - present
Emerging Leaders Institute	2017 – present
Abrahams Academy	2015 – present
ICMA Conferences, on behalf of FRPA	

List any published article(s) in newspapers, pamphlets, or periodicals relative to the field of parks and recreation.

Name of Publication	Topic	Year

List any research or survey(s) the published/completed relative to the recreation.

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nominee has field of parks and

Name of Book	Topic	Year

List any books relative to parks and recreation that the nominee has authored or co-authored.

Name of Book	Topic	Year

List any opportunities in which the nominee has served as a consultant relative to the field of recreation, parks or leisure services

Name of Program	Topic	Year

List any outstanding or unusual contributions the nominee has made relative to the field of parks and recreation that cannot be placed in a category above.

FRPA Foundation:
- Active Donor
- Established Proctor Stavres Scholarship Fund to assist professionals in attaining higher education
Achievement Award - 2013
FRPA Member – Since 1990

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Narrative #2: COMMUNITY SERVICE (10 points max): Attach no more than one typed page (1.5 spaced) providing a narrative which demonstrates the nominee's community involvement. Please list, in order of importance to nominee, community, civic, professional, religious, social, athletic and other organizations in which the nominee has been a member during the past three years.

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The application and submission will be reviewed by a panel. The panel will score the application and submission based not only on the completeness of the application, but also for how creative and thorough you are in your submission and narrative descriptions. This application is not just a checklist. It is an opportunity for you to demonstrate the qualifications of the individual you are nominating, and it should serve as a model for other parks and recreation professionals.

SUBMISSION FORMAT: All Award Nominations must be submitted electronically. Please follow the steps below to make your submission:

1. Complete the nomination form (page two) by typing directly onto this document. This must be included in your final submission.
2. Type your responses to the Narrative sections.
3. Your submission should be in this order:
 - a. Nomination Form
 - b. Narrative #1
 - c. Service/Contributions Record (pages 3 & 4)
 - d. Narrative #2
 - e. Supplementary Material
4. If you need direction about creating a pdf from multiple documents, [click here](#).

All applications MUST BE TYPED. NO HANDWRITTEN SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Complete the Nomination Form in its entirety and send as ONE pdf file to eleonor@frpa.org.

To be eligible, nominations must be received via email no later than April 29, 2022. You will receive a confirmation email that the nomination has been received.

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Narrative #1 – Nominator’s Narrative

A consummate professional, caring philanthropist and an overall amazing human; I am proud to nominate T. Michael Stavres for the 2022 Lifetime Award. The list of his participation and accolades within the Florida Recreation and Park Association is stunning alone – not to mention that he fulfilled a highly demanding role within his own agency, all while sharing his vision, partnership and leadership with those of us in his realm.

T. Michael has been an active member of FRPA since 1990. In that time, he has served on numerous committees, boards and workgroups, all in an effort to better the field of Parks and Recreation and serve his colleagues within the association, helping better equip us all to serve the Citizens in our communities. During this time, he has encouraged, mentored and coached countless young and seasoned professionals, alike, as they pursue excellence in the Parks, Recreation and Leisure Services profession.

Additionally, T. Michael is a light for those on the path to professional growth – poignantly modeling the highest standards for integrity, intention and humility. Countless times, he served as the go-to for guidance, mentorship and a very healthy dose of comic relief; a must for staying sane in public service. T. Michael always finds a way to minimize challenges and find a path to “yes”, keeping customer service and the human connection factor at the forefront of his concerns.

T. Michael’s history of engaged participation within the organization speaks for itself, however, to highlight some of his work that may seem trivial to some, a look back at his involvement tells otherwise. From serving on and Chairing Conference Committees to serving as FRPA President, T. Michael’s fingerprints are all over the story of FRPA’s progress. He is known throughout the organization as someone who can be counted on to contribute, to lead and get things done.

T. Michael, by nature, is a strategic leader, so it comes as no surprise that he was a part of some of the most strategic initiatives in the recent history of the association. He worked diligently with the team that developed the Economic Impact Calculator, a tool that continues to help agencies across the state more specifically communicate their value in dollars and cents. In a world where money talks, T. Michael helped provide the tools to start the conversation.

For his commitment to this association, T. Michael was recognized with the 2013 Achievement Award, acknowledging special or unusual service to the Association, for his outstanding service to the recreation and

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parks profession and the members of FRPA.

From a personal perspective, I have witnessed T. Michael's absolute selfless behavior through the years. He is always willing to provide guidance, help overcome challenges, find a way to make things happen and stand up for what is right. He took the opportunity to mentor me from my early years in the Parks and Recreation profession – taking the time to coach me through difficulties, to help me see things from a neutral perspective and to teach me that it is always about a way to get to “yes”. When I faced what I felt were insurmountable challenges, T. Michael was there to help me believe in myself and more importantly, my potential. As time has passed, he has become not only a mentor and a coach, but a respected colleague and friend. And finally, after many years of dreaming of being a Director – I get to serve alongside him in the City of Winter Haven.

“Act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with your God.” is a quote that T. Michael holds near and dear; a constant reminder of this sits on his desk, a permanent reminder is with him always...on his left forearm. His humility and constant commitment to doing what is right is what defines him. He is ever so deserving of the 2022 Lifetime Achievement Award.

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Services/Contributions Record

Member of FRPA since 1990

Committees:

Abrahams Academy Coach

Abrahams Academy Planning Team – 2007-2008

Awards Committee – member 2009-2010, Chair 2008-2009

Board of Directors –

Vice President of Finance – 2007-2008

Vice President of Member Resources – 2012-2013

President Elect – 2008-2009

President – 2009-2010

Past President – 2010-2011

Conference Committees – 1997, 1998, 2010, 2016 - Chaired

Nominating Committee – 2011-2012

Foundation Board – 2009-2010 while President of FRPA

Strategic Plan Economic Impact Workgroup – 2018-2021

Membership Dues Restructuring Task Force – 2006-2007 – Chair

Economic Impact Calculator Task Force – 2018-2021

Reorganization Task Force- 2008-2009

Awards

Achievement Award – 2013

Foundation

Active Donor

Established Proctor Stavres Scholarship Fund to assist professionals in attaining higher education

Speaker

Repeat speaker at FRPA Conferences – since early 2000

Emerging Leaders Institute – 2017-Present

Abrahams Academy- 2015-Present

Spoken at ICMA Conferences on behalf of FRPA

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Narrative #2 – Community Service

T. Michael Stavres leads with a servant heart. His first priorities are always his beautiful wife Charlie and his daughter Delanie, but T. Michael exists to help others. This is most evident by his service to people and organizations outside of his workplace.

Church: T. Michael is very active within his church, maintaining close relationships with other members and his pastor. Additionally, T. Michael attends churches of other denominations in and around our community, showing support for congregations outside of his own.

Coastal Acoustic Barefoot Music: T. is a very talented musician, and is a member of a two-man band, Coastal Acoustic Barefoot Music, sharing his talents both vocally and on the guitar. T. Michael and his bandmate, Duke, donate all of their tips received during gigs to local school music programs, generating thousands of dollars for these programs over the years.

Pursuing a second Master's Degree in Public Administration: In addition to serving as the City of Winter Haven's Deputy City Manager, T. Michael is also pursuing a second Master's Degree in Public Administration through the University of South Florida.

Credentialed Manager – International City/County Management Association: T. Michael recently received the Credentialed Manager designation from ICMA. There are only around 1,300 credentialed local government professionals internationally, with T. Michael being the only manager/deputy manager in Polk County with the ICMA-CM credential.

Community Events: Even with the demands of being a Deputy City Manager in a town exploding with growth and all that comes with it, T. Michael finds the time to dedicate what free time he does have to Community Events and endeavors. The relationships he has developed and nourished over the years have helped so many in the community from his network and connections that all started with a simple introduction and a handshake. It is not uncommon for him to know most everyone in a room wherever he goes in town – more common is that everyone gravitates to T. Michael. He's known as the go-to person when there is a need for a solution. He delivers, and if he can't, he will be the connection to who can.