BIO FOR HONOREE

FOR

JAN ENGEL

“How far that little candle throws its beams! So shines a good deed in…. the world.”

-William Shakespeare

ALTERNATIVE QUOTE (**If you want to begin with one**)

“The purpose of life is not to be happy-but to matter, to be productive, to be useful, to have it make some difference that you have lived at all.”

-Leo Rosten

Our 2015 Junior Auxiliary Queen has been a light to many in this community and beyond. Born in Valdosta, Georgia, to the late Mr. and Mrs. Edward Palmer Stone, she was the youngest of four children and grew up in southeast Georgia where she graduated with honors from Valdosta High School. She moved on to study at the University of Georgia where her distinguished academic career was enhanced with her prowess as a twirler for the UGA Redcoat Marching Band while also an active member of Alpha Chi Omega Sorority, where she served on the executive board. In her senior she year received the Alpha Chi Omega Service Award on State Day. With those distinctions, her destiny was sealed and her commitment to serving her community became evident. Having graduated with honors and a Bachelor of Science degree in merchandising and a minor in marketing from the University of Georgia, our honoree then attended Graduate School at the University of Georgia where her focus was on business administration.

With a strong foundation in business and a “passion for fashion,” along with an inspirational enthusiasm, her foray into the professional world led her to her first job for the Lady Wrangler division of Blue Bell Inc. The job set precedents on various levels as she found herself traveling to places like Greensboro NC and to New York City where she was named Merchandise Manager. Demonstrating her leadership capabilities, our queen truly contributed to “Breaking the glass ceiling” by being the first woman to be hired for this position. When she settled in our fair state, she also made her mark as she continued to demonstrate her skills in management and merchandising as the fine leather goods and handbag buyer for McCrae’s Department Stores. Her tenure involved extensive travel to the fashion Mecca’s of both the US and Europe, and with visits to Los Angeles, New York, and continental capitals like Milan and Florence, our honoree’s experiences informed her work and her commitment to others.

While living in Jackson, this year’s queen was a communicant of St. Andrews Episcopal Cathedral as well as a member of its Family Choir. Never one to allow any “grass to grow under her,” she was also a volunteer with the Mississippi Museum of Art Auxiliary, the Jackson Symphony League and served on the Jackson Chi Omega Alumnae Board of Directors. (**If you want to maintain** **a little levity you can say**) And somehow, in her “spare time” Jackson, she met Dr. Lee Mitchell whom she married in 1984. Since their marriage, Dr. and Mrs. Mitchell have made Fulton their home, raising two lovely daughters. Savannah Smith Mitchell currently resides in New York and Alexandra Lillian Mitchell lives in Jackson, MS.

As the owner of Panache at Hafter’s, she held the first Chamber of Commerce’s Business After Hours during Panache’s opening in 1985 and she also served on the marketing committee of the Chamber. Since 1999, she has had a retail web-based business – Panache Skin Basics – a skin care line.

Our queen always finds time to give back to our community. In Fulton, she has served as president of the Little Fulton Garden Club, president of the Junior Fulton Garden Club, president of the Council of Fulton Garden Clubs, as board member of the Fulton Garden Club and she has also served as the leader of the “Dirt Daubers Garden Club” for local 4th & 5th graders. Her selfless dedication has seen her become a Life Member of Junior Auxiliary as well as treasurer chairman of many projects, including “Vaccination Awareness” – a project that was highlighted by a visit to our city from President and Mrs. Jimmy Carter who made childhood vaccinations a primary focus during their administration.

As vice president of the Junior Woman’s Club, this year’s queen served as chairman of the first fundraiser to save the Armitage Herschel Carousel housed today at E. E. Bass. She also served as secretary of the Fulton Symphony Board and president of the Fulton Symphony League.

Her father used to remind her that there were two things he could give to her that no one could ever take away: his love and an education. His sentiment has stayed with her and inspired her throughout her life and has fueled her respect and support for education and the importance of excellence in all that one does. Her commitment to her father’s words led her to volunteer in the academic arena: twice as president of the St. James Day School Board, president of the Washington School Parent-Teacher Organization and as a founding member and twice president of the of the Washington School Board of Trustees which oversees a multi-million dollar foundation securing Washington School’s tradition of excellence in academics.

Her faith has also led her to numerous activities and responsibilities within the church. As a communicant of St. James’ Episcopal Church, she has served as chairman of the St. James’ Bazaar; she was a Sunday School Teacher for 12 years, a St. James’ choir member, and as an Episcopal Young Churchmen leader for 5 years. In addition, she coordinated the first joint Vacation Bible School with three churches – St. James, Trinity Methodist and First Presbyterian. With her tireless spirit and enthusiasm, she also managed to serve as president of the Delta Children’s Choir, and as a member of the Audience Development Board for the Bologna Performing Arts Center, as a member of the board of the Washington County Alpha Chi Omega Sorority Alumnae Chapter, and has served as the Special Gifts Division chair for three years for the United Way Campaign.

A founding member of the Washington County Community Foundation, she is presently serving as a board member and also serves on the Foundation’s Allocations Committee. She is a Board member of the King’s Daughters and Sons Circle # 2 and is presently serving as Allocations Committee Chairman for the Kings Daughters and Sons Circle Foundation. Her dedication to our community is unending and our Queen has volunteered with the Salvation Army Soup Kitchen for the past 28 years. She also served as a Daisy Scout Troop Leader, as a volunteer with the Camp Looking Glass Warfield Riverfest, the Mississippi River Marathon benefiting Teach for America, Keep Fulton Beautiful, The E. E. Bass Foundation, Art for Heart, Delta Center Stage, the Washington County Chapter of the American Red Cross, the Delta Hot Tamale Festival, and she is an adjunct member of the Delta Children’s Museum.

(**If you want to make a little joke at the end you can add**). It is with great affection and appreciation that we thank our queen for taking a few moments to accept this award!