

Grand Opening
Orlando Remembered Permanent Exhibit
Orange County History Center
Orlando, Florida
September 29, 2005

By Matthew W. Certo, Board Member
Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation, Inc

Good evening everyone, my name is Matt Certo and I am a member of the Board of Directors of the Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation, Inc. On behalf of our Chairman, H. Clifford Lee and the entire Board of Directors, I want to thank the History Center for the invitation to be the presenting sponsor for "Orlando Remembered."

Any great community links its past to its present as it charts a course for its future. This History Center does just that. It does it exceptionally well under the leadership of Sarah Van Ardsale, Executive Director, and her staff; the financial commitment of the Orange County Mayor Richard Crotty and Board of County Commissioners; and private philanthropy and volunteerism generated by the Society.

Orlando's past was written by the likes of Harry P. Leu, Jacob Summerlin, Joseph Bumby, and Thomas Gilbert Lee. Today our history is being written by the likes of Lt. Governor Toni Jennings, Jim Senneff of CNL, Joe Lee of Darden Restaurants, Dr. Hitt of UCF, Secretary of State Glenda Hood, Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer and Jessica Dunlap our former Miss America!

Part of any great community, like Orlando, is its history of philanthropy and volunteerism. Orlando's philanthropic tradition is filled with names like Harry P. Lue, Dr. Phillips, Bill Darden, Mildred Overstreet, Martin and Gracia Andersen, and of course, Edyth Bush. We need to encourage philanthropy in our community, because apart from the ballot box, philanthropy represents the single most direct way a person can express their hopes and dreams for Orlando's future.

Mrs. Bush is part of our community's philanthropic history, a history that continues today and in perpetuity through the Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation. Years ago, the City of Orlando recognized the contributions of Mrs. Bush by dedicating a lovely sitting area and gazebo overlooking Lake Formosa, close to the Menello Museum of America Art, another part of our community's philanthropic tradition. In front of the gazebo, is a large brass plate, weathered with age, which reads:

"In honor of Edyth Bassler Bush, a woman devoted to goodness and beauty, a gardener who took pride in her roses, an artist who influenced the life of thousands, and a philanthropist whose generosity lives on."

Let me close by again thanking the History Center for inviting the Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation to be the presenting sponsor for “Orlando Remembers” and having the remembrance of Mrs. Bush’s generosity live on. Thank you to all the other sponsors listed in your program, and thank all of you for continuing to link our past with our present as we chart a course for our community’s future.