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FIRST LEGENDS OF THE INDIAN RIVER LAGOON SELECTED; INDUCTION NOV. 4

Marine Resources Council (MRC) has selected the first inductees to the Legends of the Indian River Lagoon (IRL), a new hall of fame.

The first 12 Legends will be inducted, Fri., Nov. 4, at the MRC annual Love Our Lagoon Celebration, at the Hilton Melbourne Beach Oceanfront, 5-8pm. The inaugural inductees are:

Ais Indigenous People; the “Ays” were the native tribe of the Indian River Lagoon
Diane Barile, environmental planner and fierce Indian River Lagoon advocate and activist
Virginia H. Barker, Director, Brevard County Natural Resources Department
Dr. Duane De Freese, Executive Director, Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program
Jonathan Dickinson, shipwreck survivor who wrote firsthand about the Ais Indigenous People
Maggy Hurchulla, fierce southern lagoon environmental warrior
Dr. Grant Gilmore, Senior Scientist, Estuarine, Coastal and Ocean Science, Inc.
Paul Kroegel, leader in protecting lagoon’s Pelican Island, first of 567 National Wildlife Refuges
Mark Perry, 30-year Executive Director, Florida Oceanographic Society
Nathaniel “Nat” Pryor Reed, leader in protecting 10 million acres of Florida natural lands
Jim and Jonnie Swann, philanthropic couple; leaders in responsible community development
Laurilee Thompson, fourth generation commercial fisher and staunch environmental leader

“The Legends of the Indian River Lagoon are the people, organizations, and projects that should be long remembered for protecting, restoring, uniting, and promoting Florida’s east-central coastal community,” explained MRC Executive Director Leesa Souto, PhD. The stories of the Legends will be shared through social and news media, and honored at MRC headquarters campus at the Ted Moorhead Lagoon House visitor and environmental learning center.

Since 1990, MRC members and volunteers have worked together to create a SEA Change: Science + Education + Action. Those interested in attending the Love Our Lagoon Celebration, knowing more about the Legends of the IRL, and those nominated for the MRC annual Conservation Awards, may visit SaveTheIRL.org or phone 321.725.7775.

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