

# CONTENTS

Introduction 1

## 1. ADVOCATES 3

- Greg Asbed—Farmworker organizer 3  
Gay Culverhouse—Concussion whistleblower 7  
Louise Gopher—Seminole Tribe elder 10  
Nicole Johnson—Diabetes educator and Miss America 13  
Barbara Mainster—Preschool provider 16  
John Walsh—Anticrime crusader 18  
Carlton Ward—Wildlife corridor protector 21

## 2. ARTISTS 25

- Romero Britto—Cubism—Pop Art painter 25  
Mary Ann Carroll—Only female Florida Highwaymen painter 28  
Mike Peters—*Mother Goose & Grimm* creator 30  
James Rosenquist—Pop Art pioneer 34  
Jerry Uelsmann—Photomontage innovator 37

## 3. ATHLETES 41

- Joey Cornblit—Jai alai superstar 41  
Phil Esposito—Hockey promoter 44  
Chris Evert—Tennis icon 47  
Artis Gilmore—“Gentle Giant” 50  
Shaquille O’Neal—Basketball celebrity 53  
Juan “Chi Chi” Rodriguez—Professional golfer 56  
Steve Spurrier—Gator great 59

Doug Williams—First African American quarterback to start and win  
a Super Bowl 62

Winky Wright—Boxing titlist 65

Don Zimmer—Baseball lifer 68

#### 4. EDUCATORS 72

Ray Arsenault—Civil rights historian 72

Judith A. Bense—Anthropologist, archaeologist, and president of  
UWF 76

Wilson Bradshaw—Psychobiologist and president of FGCU 79

Stephen Leatherman—“Dr. Beach” 82

Theresa Manuel—Olympic runner and teacher 85

M. J. Soileau—Engineering professor 87

Nan-Yao Su—Termite foe 90

#### 5. EXPLORERS 94

Joe Kittinger—Space skydiver 94

Edgar Mitchell—Sixth to walk on the moon 98

JoAnn Morgan—Kennedy Space Center and NASA senior  
executive 101

Winston Scott—Space Shuttle astronaut 104

#### 6. ENTERTAINERS 107

Zev Buffman—Producer and actor 107

Brian Johnson—AC/DC lead vocalist 110

Sherrill Milnes—“Bari-Hunk” singer 113

Bello Nock—Comic daredevil 116

Burt Reynolds—Mega-celebrity actor 119

Mel Tillis—Country music star 124

#### 7. ENTREPRENEURS 127

George Billiris—Sponge diver and seller 127

Ed Droste—Hooters cofounder 130

Richard Gonzmart—Leader of Florida’s oldest restaurant 133

Ward Hall—Carnival barker 136

H. Irwin Levy—Century Village developer 139

Tony Little—Pitchman and fitness activist 142

Joe Redner—Adult-business mogul 145  
Arthur Rutenberg—Residential builder 148  
Michael Saunders—High-end home seller 150

## 8. INDUSTRIALISTS 154

Robert M. “Bob” Beall II—Bealls executive 154  
Albert J. Dunlap—“Chainsaw Al” 157  
Tom James—Raymond James Financial leader 162  
Steve Raymund—Tech Data builder 166

## 9. JOURNALISTS 170

David Lawrence Jr.—*Miami Herald* publisher and children’s  
advocate 170  
Lucy Morgan—Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative reporter 173  
Eugene Patterson—Newspaper executive and civil rights leader 177

## 10. NATURALISTS 182

Alto “Bud” Adams Jr.—Legendary rancher 182  
“Alligator” Ron Bergeron—Gator-wrestling developer 185  
Eugenie Clark—“The Shark Lady” 188  
Don Goodman—Gardener 191  
Bill Haast—Snake venom enthusiast 194  
Jeff Klinkenberg—Florida folklorist 197  
Margaret D. Lowman—Forest canopy explorer 200

## 11. PHILANTHROPISTS 204

Derrick Brooks—Charter school founder 204  
Warrick Dunn—Homeownership advocate 207  
William R. Hough—Arts and education funder 210  
Kiran Patel—Cardiologist and prolific giver 213  
Howard C. Tibbals—Circus expert 216

## 12. POLITICOS 219

Susan Benton—First woman elected sheriff in Florida 219  
Betty Castor—Education commissioner and USF president 222  
Sam Gibbons—Congressman and D-Day vet 224  
Charles Gray—Political insider 227

Bob Martinez—Florida governor and Tampa mayor 230  
H. Lee Moffitt—Legislator and cancer center founder 234  
Ed Price—Lawmaker and citrus promoter 237  
Alex Sink—Top finance officer 240

### 13. PRACTITIONERS 243

W. George Allen—Trailblazing attorney 243  
Craig Fugate—Disaster responder 247  
Thomas “Blue” Fulford—Commercial fisherman 250  
“Big Daddy” Don Garlits—Drag racer 253  
Marcella Hazan—Cook and author 257  
Gene Leedy—Sarasota School architect 260  
Roland Martin—Professional fisherman 264  
Tater Porter—Cowboy and rodeo star 267  
Norman Van Aken—Father of New World Cuisine 270  
Dick Vitale—ESPN broadcaster 274

### 14. WRITERS 278

Dave Barry—Humorist 278  
Carl Hiaasen—Columnist and author 281  
Peter Meinke—Florida’s poet laureate 285  
Patrick Smith—Writer of *A Land Remembered* 288

### 15. ALL OF THE ABOVE 291

Ferdie Pacheco—Muhammad Ali’s “Fight Doctor,” artist, writer, and  
broadcaster 291

### 16. A BRIEF HISTORY 295

Acknowledgments 297  
Photo Credits 299  
Interview Index 303