

SPPA Mourns the Passing of Dianne Watson

Dianne Watson, our #1 volunteer, past president, and greatest advocate passed away peacefully on Sunday morning. She was a member of SPPA for over 30 years – longer than any other current member. The SPPA Board of Directors honored her last year with the inaugural Volunteer of the Year Award, which is now named in her honor. Dianne served two terms on the SPPA Board of Directors. Her first term was as a Director, Vice President and RAC Delegate during the early 90's. She then led SPPA as President throughout 2011 and 2012, two of the association's most difficult years. Her primary mission as President was the monumental task of reaching out to SPPA members in all parts of our region. Reaching people was something Dianne excelled at, and she had the foresight to understand that doing so would boost the association's accessibility and increase the value of its membership. With the association still embracing Dianne's vision, she currently served as our Public Service Chairperson. For as far back as anyone can remember, Dianne volunteered to help at our tradeshow registration desk. For most of our members, hers was the first face they saw when attending our show.

She and her late husband, Brad, were multi-line reps who ran Brad Watson & Associates together for over three decades. They were a dynamic team who built a successful business and forged many lasting friendships. She is survived by her daughter Jamie Gilchrist (Bo) Turner; stepchildren Jennifer Watson, Patricia Martin and Stephen Watson; grandchildren Trey Turner, Elizabeth Turner, Angela (Ronnie), Julianne Pierce, Madelyn Martin and Mackenzie Martin; and great grandchild RJ Sessamen.

A celebration of Dianne's life will be held on Sunday, November 29th from 3-5pm at Rideout's Valley Chapel in Homewood, Alabama. The family requests that in lieu of flowers donations be made to one of Dianne's favorite charities, the Lorie Johnson Foundation, P.O. Box 381284, Birmingham, AL 35238.

SPPA members and industry friends are encouraged to visit our Facebook page to share their memories of Dianne, post a tribute, or share a favorite photo:

<https://www.facebook.com/SunbeltPPA/>