

# **Okaloosa County News Release**

March 5, 2015

Kathy Newby, 850.651.7515, [knewby@co.okaloosa.fl.us](mailto:knewby@co.okaloosa.fl.us)

NR15-23

## **Commissioner Carolyn Ketchel Selected NWF Social Worker of the Year**

The Florida Chapter's Northwest Unit of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) has selected Commissioner Carolyn Ketchel as Social Worker of the Year. This Social Work award is given as a result of a lifetime of contributions to the field of Social Policy and specifically to the field of Social Work. Ketchel was elected Okaloosa County Commissioner as the only female currently on the Commission, and the first Licensed Clinical Social Worker to hold office in Northwest Florida.

"After 40 years in the Social Work profession, I am humbled to be honored by my Social Worker colleagues. It has been a privilege to be a part of this profession and I look forward to continuing to serve the citizens of Okaloosa County as a servant leader," said Commissioner Carolyn Ketchel.

Commissioner Ketchel's lifetime contributions began at the level of Federal Policy, where she participated in President Jimmy Carter's White House Conference on Families, was recognized by President Ronald Reagan for her work on the Social Security Commission and went on to work with the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Ways and Means. After moving to Florida over quarter century ago, Commissioner Ketchel Carolyn was appointed as the Senior Legislative Director for Senator Don Gaetz, during which time Ketchel advocated and ultimately worked to pass legislation creating the Masters-level Social Work program at the University of West Florida, among other professional endeavors.

In summary, Commissioner Carolyn Ketchel has exhibited a lifetime commitment to the ideals and ethics of the field of Social Work, which she brings into focus as county commissioner, to improve the lives of the citizens of Okaloosa County.

For more information call or email Citizens Information Line at 311. Follow us on Facebook at Okaloosa Board of County Commissioners, and connect with us.

###