

Chapter Retiree Service Recognition



Applicant Name: Marilyn Sebesta, CEA-FCS (Ret)
M.S., CFCS

Applicant Address: 1207 N Fulton

Applicant City State Zip: Wharton, TX 77488

Applicant Phone Number: 979-532-1351

Applicant Email: mssebesta@att.net

Chapter: Texas/Alpha Zeta Chapter

South Region: South

Have Dues Been Paid for the Current and Previous Year? Yes

Year Initiated into ESP? 1984

Describe Your Education (150 Words Maximum)

M.S. - Agricultural Education, Texas A&M University, 1991

B.S. - Home Economics Education, Baylor University, 1971

Enter Employment History (150 Words Maximum)

County Extension Agent – FCS, Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Wharton County (1984-2007)

County Extension Agent – FCS, Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Matagorda Co., (1973-1984)

Assistant County Home Demonstration Agent, Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Matagorda Co., (1971-1973)

Enter Your ESP Membership & Involvement (150 Words Maximum)

Marilyn Sebesta first joined Epsilon Sigma Phi in 1984 and was immediately placed into leadership as the District 11 Representative - a 2 years commitment. Miss Sebesta served ESP faithfully as she rose through the ranks of ESP in Texas having served as , Chairman of the State Membership Committee (1990-1993), then was elected as State Secretary (1993-1994), followed by State President-Elect for (1994-1995), State President (1995-96) and finally State-Past-President (1996-97). On the national level, Marilyn Sebesta was a member of the National Membership & Recruitment Committee (1994-1995) and represented Texas as a member of the State PEAC Committee (1995-1996) and National Public Policy Workshop (1996).

Enter Your Professional Accomplishments (150 Word Maximum)

Miss Marilyn Sebesta, throughout her 36 years of service to Texas AgriLife, was appointed to serve on 39 internal committees and task forces to help increase the effectiveness or proficiency of AgriLife.

In addition, she served on 23 external committees and task forces as either a member or in a leadership role. Miss Sebesta was a member of seven professional organizations including four at the time of her retirement in 2007 - National/State ESP, National/State Assoc. of Extension 4H Agents, American/Texas Association of FCS, and the National/Texas Extension Assoc. of FCS. In every professional association, Miss Sebesta served on average in 8 committees and served as president, chairman or co-chairman an unprecedented fourteen times. In addition, she has earned 40 prestigious awards from not only AgriLife and her professional associations, but also from external support groups and various agencies including Texas Dept. of Health, American Cancer Society, & Independent School Districts.

Enter Program Accomplishments (400 Words Maximum)

Miss Marilyn Sebesta has been instrumental in planning, implementing, evaluating and interpreting a very effective adult and youth Extension educational program over her 36 years of service. She has always efficiently utilized program area committees and Extension task forces to identify and plan relevant educational programs. In any given year, over 30 such meeting were held. In addition, she has collaborated with key partners in an effort to support their programmatic needs while upholding the mission and vision of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.

Based on Miss Sebesta's wealth of knowledge, her broad experiences, her decision making skills and her ability to "read" her target audiences to determining the scope & range of her educational efforts her program delivery was second to none across the State of Texas. In addition, her programs have always utilized an assortment of teaching methods appropriate to her target audience.

Her programs have been multi-dimensional in scope and addressed current issues as they relate to health & wellness, foods & nutrition, cancer prevention & management, diabetes prevention & management, community economic development, community leadership, youth character education, and youth leadership. Through her diverse program efforts she has contributed greatly to the quality of life of her clientele in both Matagorda and Wharton Counties. The scope of her programmatic efforts included: the use of mass media (over 200 monthly radio programs and 300 printed news articles); the use of educational exhibits (over 20 created); the use of instructional guides (38 total created); and the use of visual presentations including PowerPoint and slide sets (61 total).

In addition, she has sought and received \$101,400.00 in grants and donations to conduct educational programs on a local basis, dating back to 1984. Grants and donations varied from \$500.00 to \$10,000.00 and supported physical fitness, diabetes educations, childhood immunization, anti-tobacco use, cancer awareness, and general safety.

Now, since Miss Sebesta retired she continues to support AgriLife Extension, particularly in the area of Family & Consumer Sciences and 4H & Youth Development by participating as a special guest speaker in educational programs designed to provide professional development to our County Extension Agents in South Region - Districts 9, 11 and 12.

Summary Statement for Award Presentation (75 Words Maximum)

Miss Marilyn Sebesta served as a faithful employee of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service for 36 years, first in Matagorda and then Wharton County. She delivered programs that yielded superior results and improved the lives of those she reached. Upon her retirement she earned the Regent Fellow and the Emeritus Status, and continues to serve as a valuable resource across South Region in helping to increase professionalism of FCS and 4H agents.

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