

For Immediate Release

Contact: Melanie Scanlon, Leadership Geauga
Phone: 440-286-8115
Email: executivedirector@leadershipgeauga.org
December 28, 2020



Leadership Geauga Announces 2021 Emerald Leader

Barbara Titus Recognized for Dedicated Service

Since 2001, Leadership Geauga County has honored outstanding community leaders whose dedicated volunteer service has significantly enhanced Geauga County's quality of life, by recognizing each as an "Emerald Leader" at the organization's gala event, the Emerald Ball.

We are honored to announce that Barbara Titus will receive the 2021 Emerald Leader Award on March 6, 2021 at Leadership Geauga County's annual Emerald Ball.

The Emerald Leader Award is given annually to an individual, a business and/or a non-profit agency that exemplifies outstanding leadership by positive contributions to Geauga County through volunteer service, philanthropy, or innovation.

Margie Wilbur, founder of Write 2 the Point, a local communication firm, nominated Ms. Titus for this award. "I have known Barbara Titus since beginning *Geauga Business Magazine* 10 years ago. Sheoga Hardwood Flooring was one of the first businesses we profiled," she commented. "Since then, I have gotten to know Barbara and am honored to call her my friend. She is a woman with a strong faith who truly serves as a role model for all of us. She is generous with her time, serving on several local as well as national boards. She is passionate about helping our active military service men and women, veterans and Gold Star families."

About Barbara Titus

Barbara Titus is the Vice President of Operations/International Sales and Director of Sheoga Hardwood Flooring headquartered in Middlefield, Ohio. She is a respected national business leader and non-profit organization volunteer. She currently serves as the President/Chairwoman of the Geauga Credit Union and serves on the University Hospitals Leadership Council.

Barbara brings her business acumen, and her deep commitment to public service to charitable organizations focused on the needs of veterans. She spurred a local Middlefield-based charity, Santa's Hide-a-Way Hollow, to add a *Veterans Day at the North Pole* event to its annual schedule. Disabled vets from across NE Ohio enjoy a family picnic, fishing, haircuts, and visits with their families and Santa at a re-creation of the North Pole in Middlefield.

Leadership Geauga Emerald Leader

December 28, 2020

Page 2

Barbara is an active member of the Geauga Growth Partnership's Intern program. This program provides paid internship opportunities for junior and senior high school students to learn all facets of a business during the summer months. Barbara has spent countless hours training, interviewing, and building resumes of young men and women throughout the county to prepare them for taking full advantage of this great opportunity.

Barbara's latest local charitable effort for veterans is the development of the Valor Retreat. As Vice President/Vice Chairwoman of the organization's Board of Directors, Barbara is leading the effort to raise \$2 million for the development of a 238-acre retreat in Ohio's Hocking Hills and the construction of four handicap-accessible cabins and a lodge. The retreat will provide a free recreational facility for combat veterans, their families, and Gold Star families, offering them a tranquil environment to recover from the ravages of conflict, to heal and reconnect with nature and one another.

Barbara serves on the board of the Gary Sinise Foundation, whose mission is the welfare of our most critically injured military veterans, through the construction of specially adapted smart homes in locations throughout the United States.

EMERALD BALL HONORS TITUS – PUBLIC IS WELCOME

The public is invited to honor Barbara Titus by attending Leadership Geauga's annual Emerald Ball, an evening of leadership recognition and philanthropy, on **Saturday, March 6, 2021**. This important event will be held virtually.

For further information on sponsorships, advertising or to purchase tickets, call 440-286-8115 or visit the Leadership Geauga website at leadershipgeauga.org

ABOUT LEADERSHIP GEAUGA COUNTY

Founded in 1995, Leadership Geauga County is a community-based 501c3 nonprofit organization working to develop and encourage current and future leaders from a cross section of Geauga County. The organization builds bridges between the public, private, and non-profit sectors with annual programs that inform, educate, connect, and inspire the county's seasoned and future decision-makers to serve as catalysts in building strong organizations and vibrant communities. LGC programs are a unique combination of relationship building, leadership development, personal and professional growth, and outstanding community education.

For further information on Leadership Geauga, please call 440-286-8115 or visit the Leadership Geauga website at leadershipgeauga.org

###