



## COMMENDATION

Shirlee Ezmirly was born on June 19, 1927 and has lived in Rhode Island, Alaska, Miami, Saudi Arabia and Key West.

Shirlee received her bachelor's degree in occupational therapy in the 1950's and spent 2 years in the Air Force Women's Medical Specialist Corp. Shirlee was the first female occupational therapist in the US Air Force. She moved to Key West in 1980, working for the Coast Guard as a civilian.

In 1983, Shirlee and her second husband bought the historic hospital building at 532 Fleming Street, which was the site of the first private hospital in Key West and was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

At 97 years young, Shirlee stays youthful by walking two miles a day and she credits her vegetarian diet. Each day, Shirlee sweeps the sidewalk from Bahama Street to Simonton Street and marches in the Veteran's Day Parade each year.

Shirlee has spent her life working as an activist to help others. She began in her late teens helping an African American friend sit in a white only restaurant. Here in Key West in the 1980's she protested outside drug houses with a sign that said, "Up with Hope, Down with Dope." She later protested t-shirt shops which she and others felt were destroying the charm of Duval Street. In recent years she worked as the inspirational leader of the Key West Rip Off Rapid Response Team, which brought attention to predatory shops on Duval Street.


Her adult children, grandchildren and great grandson said she taught them to always stand their ground and not to be afraid. We are grateful for her commitment to making our island the best it can possibly be.

In recognition of this honor, I, TERI JOHNSTON, MAYOR of the City of Key West, along with the entire Key West City Commission, do hereby present this Commendation to

## SHIRLEE EZMIRLY

WITNESS my hand and seal of the City of Key West, Florida, this 8<sup>th</sup> day of August 2024.



  
Teri Johnston, Mayor

  
Clayton Lopez, Commissioner