

Lafayette native Joan Babineaux Wingate, held service positions at Sts. Leo-Seton Elementary and School Board, Academy of the Sacred Heart, and Bayou Girl Scouts. She co-chaired *Challenge 2000* for the building of St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church.

Cultural interests, awakened as the details of the Acadian flag were hashed out at her family's dining table, are important to Joan. She participated in the 2nd youth exchange with Longueuil, Quebec and Foreign Study League /French at Leysin American School, Leysin, Switzerland. Joan holds leadership positions with *La Reunion des Babineaux et Granger*, her Acadian Family Association formed for *Congres Mondial* 1999 held in Lafayette and *Ballet Acadiana*, whose focus was art, education, and culture.

Joan, a 1976 graduate of The University of Southwestern Louisiana earning a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, was active member of *Delta Delta Delta* international women's fraternity, serving as president of Phi Nu Collegiate Chapter and Lafayette Alumnae Chapter. She also enjoyed "grass roots" legislative committee work with USL Alumni Association. Joan was elected as the first woman president to serve the Louisiana Cemetery Association and of the Louisiana Finance Association.

As a graduate of Leadership Lafayette XIV, Joan identified reading and literacy as service areas. In 2005 she joined the Lafayette Public Library Foundation, whose association she still enjoys, being the recipient of the LPLF's President's Award in 2021. She was appointed by the City - Parish Councils to the Lafayette Public Library Board of Control, completing her second 5-year term in April 2023. She served as Vice President, President and participated in 2 Public Library Association (PLA) conventions. Joan is grateful that her service coincided with the fruition of the community mandated expansion- bringing 4 new regionals and a refurbished main branch to Lafayette's library system!

Joan is married to Keith Wingate and they share 3 charmingly capable daughters, Ruthie Landry, Annie Spell and Meghan Payne... and the joy of 1 granddaughter and 5 grandsons.