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News Release

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TOWN COUNCIL SELECTS ITS FIRST COUPLE AS CITIZENS OF THE QUARTER

CAROLINA BEACH, NC---Leslie and Darlene Bright of Carolina Beach – who have been married for 24 years - share a love of history and a love for each other. In 1993, they and eight others formed the Federal Point Historic Preservation Society (FPHPS). Through their efforts, the organization has grown into a highly-respected group and museum with 300 members nationwide, a fascinating collection of photos, data and artifacts and many accomplishments. Because of their dedication, the Town Council has selected the Brights as Citizens of the Quarter. **This is the first time since the inception of this recognition that Council has selected a couple as the honorees.**

Although the Brights are modest about their roles in the Federal Point Historic Preservation Society, they have done nearly every job possible within the organization including helping to build its current site which is adjacent to Town Hall. Though never an officer, Mr. Bright has served on the Board of Directors most of the time since its inception. He is chairman of the program committee and is responsible for the speakers who come to the group's monthly meetings. His background includes a 34-year career as an underwater archaeologist with the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources which has served him well as the town's local historian. "He has seen probably all of the known submerged Civil War blockade runners on the Cape Fear Coast, including the *Venus, Douro, Hebe, Lynx, Modern Greece, and the General Beauregard,*" reports the FPHPS newsletter.

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Mrs. Bright has served as Secretary and Treasurer of the organization, but she mostly works in the background as well. She writes articles for the newsletter, maintains the History Center and responds to the numerous inquiries for information on the area.

Through their work with FPHPS, the Brights have played a major role in getting local sites on the National Register of Historic Places including the Joy Lee Apartment Complex and the Newton Home Site and Cemetery which dates back to the 1700s. They have also put recognition plaques on area homes with historical significance.

Sedgeley Abbey was once a plantation in this area with thousands of acres of land. The Brights worked with New Hanover County to get a conservation easement for the location where the plantation once sat. A few years ago, the last piece of the land was sold for the Telfair Forrest Subdivision, but the area where the house sat has been preserved thanks to the Brights.

The Brights are optimistic about the future of the organization and they want to remain involved for as long as possible.

"I'd like to see us grow to being to have a full-time staff person and open for five days a week," Mr. Bright said.

In their spare time, the Brights enjoy spending time with their family which includes six children and grandchildren. They have lived in and enjoyed Carolina Beach and vicinity since the 1960s.

This is one couple who has certainly made history here. Congratulations to the Bright family!

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