

## Honorary Membership Nomination Narrative

Nominee: **Bob Graham**

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Nominator: **Florida Chapter ASLA**

Bob Graham is nominated for Honorary Membership in ASLA by the Florida Chapter for his exemplary leadership (words and works):

- Conserving and protecting the nation's natural resources and scenic beauty.
- Demonstrating that stewardship of the land is good for business.
- Advancing the roles, responsibilities, and regulation of landscape architects.

Bob Graham (1936-) was born into politics as the third son of Ernest Graham who, at the time, was a Florida State Senator. After graduating from Harvard Law School he returned to Miami and worked with his brother, Bill, during the early stages of the development of Miami Lakes.

Miami Lakes was constructed by Sengra (now the Graham Company) beginning in 1962 on land that was formerly owned by Florida State Senator Ernest 'Cap' Graham. The Grahams stated for many years that it would be a 30-year development but they are still developing 47 years later. The original Miami Lakes development was master planned by Lester Collins, FASLA and John Simonds, FASLA. In the late 1950s, their firm, Collins, Simonds, and Simonds was hired to plan the Graham family's new town in Dade County. The Town is an early model of the New Urbanism movement with shopping and services located in walking distance of residences as well as narrow walkable streets and plenty of neighborhood parks. Throughout Bob Graham's career(s), he relied on this relationship with Collins and Simonds.

Upon entry into politics, in 1967, Florida State Representative Bob Graham came to Tallahassee with full understanding and appreciation of landscape architecture. In his first term, he helped pass legislation to upgrade the one year old landscape architecture title act into one of the nation's earliest comprehensive landscape architecture practice acts; a leading example for many states to follow.

During ten years as State Representative and State Senator, Bob Graham earned his reputation as a *champion* of the restoration of America's Everglades. Many believe that it not for him, the nation would not be anywhere near the point reached in the campaign to save the Everglades for current and future generations.

With generous support from his colleagues in both Houses of the Capitol, Bob Graham became Florida's 38<sup>th</sup> Governor. In support of the 1976 gubernatorial campaign, John Simonds, FASLA wrote about Graham's conviction that *conservation and sound development are mutually supportive*. This conviction has been a cornerstone of Graham's conservation position on state and federal legislation for more than thirty years. The new governor appointed Simonds to the Governor's Resource Management Task Force. Following Simonds' lead, Governor Graham implemented a complete program for resource conservation and planned

development in the state, and continued to accept Mr. Simonds' counsel for the remainder of his two terms as Governor. The innovative development principles professed by Simonds and embraced by Graham have become the standard, and continue to be the model of excellence studied by landscape architecture students throughout the nation and world.

The combination of strong regulation of the profession in Florida, and examples of profitable "green" development created a sustainable demand for landscape architectural services, especially in South Florida, still one of the nation's leading centers of the profession.

As governor, Graham pioneered several environmental programs which have attracted national and international attention, including efforts to save the Everglades, protect wetlands and safeguard Florida's coastline. During Graham's two terms as governor, Florida brought more environmentally endangered lands into public ownership than any other state in the nation. This included acquisition of sensitive lands surrounding rivers, beaches and barrier islands. Graham also saw that curtailing the impacts of urban sprawl would be key to sustaining Florida's environment, and is widely recognized for having championed important growth management legislation in the 1980s that still plays an important role today.

The Save Our Everglades program, launched in 1983, was designed to restore America's "River of Grass" and protect Florida's wetlands, endangered species and their habitats. As U.S. Senator, Graham authored legislation to restore the Kissimmee River, a critical part of the South Florida ecosystem; to expand Everglades National Park by adding lands east of the park; and to direct the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to develop the Everglades Restoration Plan.

Senator Graham led the bipartisan coalition that passed the comprehensive federal-state Everglades restoration plan in 2000. This \$7.8 billion, 40-year project is restoring the flow of fresh water to the Everglades and reviving the natural resources that are dependent on that water. Through the end of his term in 2004, Senator Graham continued to work diligently to maintain bipartisan support for funding this critically important project. Today, Graham is known as the father of the Everglades Restoration effort.

The Everglades project is now the largest ecosystem restoration initiative in the world. Landscape architects are enjoying a valuable opportunity to influence the success of this globally significant natural resource and scenic conservation program. Frequently, working with leaders at the National Parks Service, Environmental Protection Agency, and the Army Corp of Engineers, landscape architects expand the federal government's awareness of the full scope of practice of the profession.

Graham's actions to conserve Florida's globally recognized natural treasures have extended to the Florida Keys, as well. The world's third-largest coral reef received protection under his leadership through the creation of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. For the first time in U.S. history, the sanctuary legislation authored by Senator Graham included a water quality protection program, recognizing the critical role pollution plays in the health of fragile coral ecosystems. Landscape architecture has become one of the recognized sources of water pollution mitigation now in place to protect the sanctuary.

A meaningful tribute to Senator Graham was Simonds' request in 1994 that he write the foreword to *Garden Cities 21: Creating a Livable Urban Environment*, published by McGraw-Hill Professional (ISBN 0070576203, 9780070576209). There Bob Graham writes, *I am proud to be a friend of John Simonds. Through his writings and work, he has done much to advance the cause of sensitive landscape planning and to show that people, their communities, and cities can be brought into more productive, compatible, and rewarding relationship with the Earth.*