

# Nell Nolan: WTC Bertel Award; Millennials; American Cancer Society

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## Accolades!

### Bertel and Barkerding

Like father, like son! A déjà vu chord was struck when **Robert “Rusty” Barkerding Jr.** strode forward to receive the 2017 C. Alvin Bertel Award at a luncheon in the Sheraton hosted by the World Trade Center of New Orleans. In 1969, his father, Robert R. “Bob” Barkerding, received the same award.

The C. Alvin Bertel Award was established in 1967 and is presented annually to a person who has made significant contributions to the Louisiana port community. Rusty Barkerding is president of Admiral Security Services, a maritime-focused security firm, and in June, was elected chairman of the Board of Commissioners of the Port of New

Orleans, which has **Brandy Christian** as the president and CEO. Rusty succeeded **Michael W. Kearney**, who will continue to serve as a commissioner. In 2015, Kearney received the Bertel Award.

The father of five and grandfather of 14, Barkerding is a graduate of Tulane University and has worked in the maritime industry for more than 50 years. He is also a U.S. Navy veteran and former active duty and reserve member of the New Orleans Police Department.

After an initial round of greetings in the Sheraton's Armstrong Ballroom guests sat for lunch and the program, which was opened by WTCNO Chairman **Edward T. Hayes**. **Michael C. Nation**, the chaplain of the Gulf Region, The Seaman's Church Institute, gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance delivered by New Orleans Board of Trade Chairman **Michael Stark**, general manager of NOVA International Shipping.

Slated for the remarks were a notable foursome. The first was WTCNO Executive Director **Caitlin Cain**, who, earlier, at the announcement of the award in June, praised the recipient. "Rusty has been a strong advocate for the Louisiana port community over the years and contributed greatly to the growth of the Port of New Orleans as well as ports throughout the U.S." Subsequent remarks came from Louisiana Maritime Association Chairman **Michael A. Maloz**, president of General Maritime Transportation Services Inc.; the above Mike Kearney, chairman and CEO of the Kearney Companies Inc; and **Robert L. Livingston**, founding partner of The Livingston Group. Former titles of his were U.S. Representative, assistant U.S. Attorney and Louisiana Attorney General.

Former U.S. Sen. **David Vitter**, now of counsel with Butler Snow LLP, made the award presentation to Barkerding. Last summer, Vitter was limelighted as the Bertel Award recipient. The final words of acknowledgment and appreciation came from Barkerding, who received a hearty ovation. In the words of Caitlin Cain, "He couldn't be more deserving of this award, and it's an honor to recognize him among our industry peers."

## Millennial Laurels

The fifth annual Millennial Awards presented by the Spears Group in partnership with GNO, Inc. took place at the Civic Theatre with more than 300 attendees. Highlights included the Yelp-presented Best Millennial Restaurant Competition; the announcement of the 2017 MA winners across 18 categories; and the after-party with **DJ Soul Sister**.

For the last four years, Spears Group President and CEO **Cleveland Spears** made opening remarks. This year, in "the spirit of empowering the next generation of millennials," they came from **Morgan Ballard, Makala Blake, Reggie Cockerham and Ellie Schmidt**, the youngest members of the Spears team.

At 6 p.m., doors opened for the above Restaurant Competition with participating finalists DTB, Alma, Lula Restaurant Distillery, Diva Dawg, Melt and Poke Loa competing for the title of crowd-favorite. Guests sampled dishes and then voted, hailing Poke Loa as the winner.

Throughout the competition, **DJ Toine Boy** purveyed musical entertainment, and then **Thanh Truong**, news anchor at WWL-TV, and **Erica McConduit**, president and CEO of Urban League of Greater New Orleans, emceed and presented the awards.

Those lauded and their categories were: **Brandon Rapp**, Business; **Ethan Ashley**, Changemakers; **Miles Tully Jr.**, Culinary Arts; **Kenny Nguyen**, Digital Media; **Alejandra Guzman**, Economic Development; **Paris Woods**, Education; **Brik Allen**, Fashion; **Edward Buckles**, Film; **Blair DeQuesnay**, Financial Services; **April Dupre**, Healthcare; **Erin Gremillion**, Hospitality; **Blake Butterworth**, Innovation; **Anne Cutler**, Journalism; **Kevin P. Conway**, Law; **Ashley Shabankareh and PJ Morton**, who tied for Music; **Johnice Katz**, Real Estate; **Jeff Supak**, Service Person; and **Liana Elliott**, Social Entrepreneur. They were duly recognized, as were the other finalists.

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The event was conceived by Cleveland Spears five years ago after noticing the instrumental role of millennials in restoring post-Katrina New Orleans. He remarked that the city is “one of the fastest-growing cities for millennials in the country, and we want to ensure it remains so by celebrating and honoring their many contributions to the region.”

## Soar Beyond

The Shops at Canal Place was the place to be for the Announcement Party of the 2017 honorees of the 17th annual Belles and Beaus Ball benefiting the New Orleans American Cancer Society. It is scheduled for Sept. 22, at the Mardi Gras World Ballroom.

Nearly 250 attendees got an early jump on the fundraising fun at Canal Place, where the window-lined space within The Shops evoked the gala theme, “Soar Beyond,” with its light and airiness. Decorations included the buoyancy of balloons and Morton’s The Steakhouse and La Thai catered. The musical boost was by **DJ Mike Swift**.

**Katherine Kleinpeter Raymond**, the 2017 ball’s event chairwoman, opened the ceremonial activity. Then came the introduction of the 2017 Honorary Chairman **Dr. Larry Hollier** and mistress of ceremonies **Liz Reyes’** words of welcome. Special thanks to sponsors and the committee ensued.

Hailed, too, were the Belles and Beaus, who’ll get the spotlight at the ball. The Belles are **Carla Adams, Kiki Baker Barnes, Crystal Bell, Ruby Brewer, Laura Claverie, Ashlie Chocheles, Dr. Deirdre Hooper, Sarabpreet Khara, Shelby Sanderford and Alix Schaubhut**. And the Beaus, **Steven Blumhagen, Jerry Bologna, Dr. John Colfry III, David Gaines, Jacob Giardina, Dr. Eric D. Griggs, Michael Milling, Dr. Oliver Sartor, Carl Schaubhut and Giorgio Valobra**.

**Shannon McCloskey Able**, a former president of the Junior League of New Orleans, as was the above Katherine, will serve as the ball’s co-chairwoman. And then in 2018, she’ll head it all up as chairwoman.