



John T. & Sandra B. Landry Vermilion Parish

Nominated by: Charles Sonnier

John T. and Sandra B. Landry of Abbeville are the 2021 recipients of the Leaders In Philanthropy Award for Vermilion Parish.

The couple has been married for 54 years and has quietly donated generously over the years to numerous religious, educational, and humanitarian organizations and causes.

In 1991, the Landrys established the John T. & Sandra B. Landry Endowed Award for Teaching Excellence to annually acknowledge and award the top professor in the B.I. Moody III College of Business Administration at UL. They have since established two additional endowed funds at the Community Foundation of Acadiana – one supporting St. Theresa Catholic Church and the other to support Vermilion Parish nonprofits through the newly established Vermilion Foundation, an Affiliate of the Community Foundation of Acadiana. They have also established a significant planned gift to benefit Our Lady of the Oaks Retreat House in Grand Coteau where John T. served as captain of the Abbeville men’s retreat group for over two decades.

Sandra retired in 2000 after 32 ½ years teaching first grade in the Vermilion Parish public school system. She is a long-time member of a Come Lord Jesus Women’s Bible study group and has hosted their weekly meetings in her home for 15 years. She is a eucharistic minister, lector, and Adoration Hour Coordinator for St. Theresa Catholic Church in Abbeville.

After a successful career as an automobile dealer in Abbeville, John T. had a ‘second career’ as Director of Development at his alma mater, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. During his tenure as the chief fundraising officer for the UL Foundation, the gifted assets of the university grew from \$19 million to \$130 million. He received the Top Fundraiser of the Year Award for the state of Louisiana from the Baton Rouge Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals [AFP] and retired in 2008. He serves as trustee and eucharistic minister for St. Theresa Catholic Church and conducts a prison ministry at the Vermilion Parish Prison. He currently serves as president of the board of the Abbeville Christian Service Center.

Often referred to affectionately as ‘The Father of Palmetto Island State Park’, John T. served over 30 years as a volunteer member of the Louisiana State Parks & Recreation Commission. He conceived of, and fought tirelessly for, the establishment of the popular Vermilion Parish State Park and established the original Park Support Fund at Community Foundation of Acadiana.

The couple has two children; Dr. Craig Landry of Lafayette and Nicole L. Moss of Flower Mound, Texas. They are the proud grandparents of six.