

CAROL LANDAU – The Little Texas Dynamite

By Bernice K. Dixon, CMC; Vernon, CT

Photo by Debra Todd Photography



I recently became aware of a hard working former clerk with an amazing story. Carol Landau was a clerk in Lighthouse Point, Florida after having worked in several small Texas communities. Carol retired three years ago, due to health concerns, but that didn't stop her from traveling around the country in the motor home she calls Molly. Her travels allowed many people to experience her generosity and positive attitude and offered Carol the opportunity to learn of the sacrifices made by volunteer firefighters across the country. Her enthusiasm and energy really came through in my long distance conversations with her.

According to Betty Brown of Austin, TX, "Carol is always on the go and always smiling. She is so giving. If there was a clerk in need, Carol was the first in line. She helped many new clerks learn their duties and responsibilities that they should have for the citizens of their towns. Now she is helping all kinds of organizations with grants from her retirement fund."

After 25 years as a city clerk in Texas and Florida, Carol learned in January 2013 that she was terminally ill. "I am at peace. I've had health issues all my life. I knew this was coming and I'm prepared for it. I'm living every day to the fullest," said Carol in an interview with CBS4 Reporter Joan Murray in Florida.

Carol decided to make her remaining time the opportunity of a lifetime. She is giving away her life savings meant for retirement primarily to volunteer fire departments, as well as wildlife rehabilitation centers, animal rescue groups, homeless centers, libraries and small police departments. She decided it would be the best use of her hard-earned funds, after seeing firsthand how volunteer fire departments struggle to fund their budgets. She has paid for protective gear and much needed other necessary gear, well aware of the life-saving work the volunteers do even though they are often underfunded. "With the time I've been given, I'm trying to do the best I can to add to other people's lives. I'm doing this because I want to raise awareness to the needs of firefighters. I want people to understand if you have one hundred, or ten dollars, help your local fire department. Save their lives so they can save other lives."

Carol has set up a committee to continue this mission into the future. In another interview with Reporter Larry Barszewski of the Sun Sentinel she said, "I want it to go where it will do good for people for years to come. Years ago I decided I wanted my epitaph to be: My life made a positive difference."

Read about Carol Landau's travel adventures and the people she has met on her blog, carolsadventures.com