

Let's get to know Pilar Turner

Pilar Turner, Impact 100 secretary, talks about her time as Mayor of Vero Beach, her passion for our community and the importance of volunteering.

Where did you grow up? Go to School? What degrees do you hold? I grew up in Dallas, Texas and went to boarding school in New Orleans at the age of 13. I graduated from Georgia Tech with a degree in civil engineering and from the University of Houston with an MBA.

Tell us about your family? I met my husband in Bogota, Colombia where I was building a trans Andean pipeline for British Petroleum. I have two stepchildren and two grandchildren.

You were mayor of Vero Beach? What was the highlight? After serving on the City Finance Committee as a volunteer, I decided to run for City Council and concentrate on some of the city policies. I served three terms on the City Council (2010-2016), and was elected mayor and vice-mayor by the City Council during this time. I am most proud of helping with pension reform, improving staff efficiencies, and moving forward the sale of the electric company.

What's a fun fact about you not many people know? When I started at Georgia Tech there were 5,000 men and 100 women! Great odds for a girl who spent 12 years in Catholic girls schools.

What are your favorite hobbies? I love to travel, take spin class, do needlepoint, read, watch tennis (I don't play any more), and spoil my labradoodle.

Where's your favorite place in the world? Vero Beach! I've lived here since 2003.

What's the last book you read? American Marxism

What three words best describe you: Outgoing, tenacious, and passionate

What one food can you not live without? Wine

