Bio

Charles Gilliam

I grew up in a small farming town in Kentucky and have held tight to the values of my community. I graduated from Berea College with a degree in Business Management with an emphasis in Hospitality. My parents, coaches and teachers influenced me to know the difference between right and wrong and to question those who believe that impossible exists.

I have been a full-time business owner since I was 22. My first venture was a carpet cleaning company. That led to flipping homes by making them more attractive through quick property impacts which then led to complete property rehabs. In 1998, Okra’s replaced the other businesses. I’m proud to say it has become a cornerstone of Old Town Manassas and has stood the test of time for 22 years.

Throughout my life, community service has always been at the forefront. Both personally and via my businesses, I have been able to participate in and contribute to almost every non-profit in Prince William County and the surrounding area. Because the New Orleans area and culture play a significant part in my life, in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina I brought several people from New Orleans to work with us here at Okra’s until they could return to their homes. Locally and beyond my back yard, I continually look for ways to help and contribute wherever I can.

I was awarded the highest honor that can be bestowed on a Kentuckian in 2013 when I was commissioned as a Kentucky Colonel. Fellow LPW board member Brad Marshall is also a member of this outstanding brotherhood.

In 2019 I was honored to become the recipient of the Kathy Ellington Leadership Award.

I am honored to be considered as the Chair Elect and welcome the opportunity to serve.