2026 Civilian of the Year Nomination

I'm honored to nominate **Lori Ruth**, of the "East County Observer" for consideration as the 2026 Civilian of the Year, by the Manatee County Veterans Council (MCVC).

Over the past 15-18 years Lori has been the prime mover behind the "Tribute to Heroes" Parade, held in Lakewood Ranch every spring or fall. She works tirelessly to ensure that the Veterans are fed, treated with honor and respect, able to engage in the parade, and are always treated properly.

Lori was a "Founding Mother" of the "Tribute to Heroes" Parade since its inception. As a member of the "East County Observer" staff, she's always looking to find articles or items of interest to Veterans that she and the staff can highlight.

We, as members of VFW Post #10255, can testify to all the assistance and all the credit she has given us over the years. With a heart of gold, she does whatever is necessary to ensure that the parade is a success and that the Veterans are always treated with the honor and distinction they so richly deserve.

This is the third time I've nominated someone for Civilian of the Year, and Lori is just as outstanding as my previous nominees. The Council's ability to choose her as 2026 Civilian of the Year, is an honor I'm proud to stand behind. Thank you for your consideration.

Gill Ruderman
Trustee, VFW Post # 12055

