



Distinguished Service Award: **Brenda Walker**

Nomination Testimonial 1:

Brenda has mentored many interpreters since moving to Florida. Her desire to pass along her knowledge and experience to other interpreters is without bound. She is willing to invest her time in mentoring, education, workshops, and any other avenues she can find to help other interpreters develop their skills.

Nomination Testimonial 2:

I have had the privilege of knowing Brenda Walker since 2003. We met at the 2002 RID Region III conference. At the time, Brenda was still very much involved in her state affiliate chapter (Wisconsin) even after serving as WisRID President, 1996-1998. I was serving my state affiliate chapter (Indiana) at the time and co-mingling with other RID Region III affiliate chapter leaders at state and regional conferences. I learned much about leadership from Brenda during those years and the years that followed. Brenda has been an active member of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf at all levels. Most notably, Brenda served the RID membership as the President from 2011-2013. Formerly, she was the Treasurer and also served as the Member/Chairperson for the Professional Development Committee for eight years. At the regional level, she was the Finance Chair for the Region III Conference, held in Milwaukee, WI. At the state level, she has served the Wisconsin Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (WisRID) as president, vice president, treasurer and the chair of the conference planning committee, bylaws committee and professional development committee. But that is her professional bio...a mere snapshot of her journey. Shortly after Brenda moved to Florida, I also moved to Florida where we were able to reconnect again. Brenda has been an amazing friend, mentor, and ray of light to everyone she encounters. Even when faced with the grim diagnosis of cancer of the breast in 2014, which after a double mastectomy continued to spread to her lymph nodes and brain, Brenda continues to share her love and light with her community. Currently, she is still actively teaching and mentoring interpreting students and even more recently has been seen at several ASL community events. Nothing can stop this woman. She is fearless. She is invincible. She has distinguished herself among all others. Please join me in honoring her today and always.