



THE FLORIDA SENATE
SENATOR BEN ALBRITTON
President

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Contact: Katie Betta
(850) 487-5229

Senate Honors President Albritton During Traditional Portrait Unveiling

Tallahassee—The official portrait of Senate President Ben Albritton (R-Wauchula) was unveiled this afternoon. President Albritton is the 91st Senate President since statehood. Under current practice, his portrait will hang in the Senate Chamber for 100 years and will then be retired to the Historic Capitol and eventually to the state archives.

President Albritton’s portrait was created by Steven Davis of Leon Loard Portraits. Artists from Leon Loard also crafted the portraits of Senate Presidents Jennings, King, Lee, Pruitt, Atwater, Gaetz, Gardiner, Negron, Galvano, Simpson and Passidomo.

To honor his family’s legacy in Florida’s iconic citrus industry, President Albritton’s portrait features a citrus tree and a bowl of oranges. The portrait also includes a bible given to the President by Florida House Speaker Danny Perez (R-Miami) on the occasion of their swearing in as presiding officers of the Florida Legislature at the 2024 Organization Session. Finally, the portrait includes the American flag and a picture of President and Mrs. Albritton and their children at their family home.

In discussing his decision to include citrus imagery in the portrait, President Albritton stated:

“JJ Parrish, the Senate president whose portrait will be hanging on the opposite end of the Chamber from mine, was a major citrus grower in Florida. He actually created, in 1935, the Florida Department of Citrus and the Florida Citrus Commission. I was the Chair of that very Citrus Commission in the early 2000’s.

“When J.J. Parrish was born in 1877 in Bowling Green Florida, my great, great, great grandfather, Noah Samuel Albritton would have been 58 years old, my great, great grandfather, John Harley Albritton, would have been 21 years old. They lived in Bowling Green as well. The Bowling Green settlement’s estimated population in the 1880’s was somewhere around 250. I find it hard to believe our families didn’t know each other.

“What’s more fascinating, is in that town of 250 people, JJ Parrish’s parents and my family alive at that time, attended the same tiny, country church, the Paynes Creek Primitive Baptist Church just west of Bowling Green. I’m sure our families knew each other quite well.

“President Parrish’s legacy and portrait have circled the Senate Chamber now for decades, watching over citrus in the Florida Senate. His portrait is heading to retirement in the Old State Capital in a couple of years. I hope my portrait will take up the same task once his portrait is retired. In my portrait, a bowl of oranges will be a great reminder for all Senators yet to come that this iconic and important Florida industry and culture really matters.”

The President was accompanied to today’s ceremony by his wife of 33 years, the First Lady of the Florida Senate, Missy Albritton. Their daughter, Becca, attended with her husband Dustin Goodwyn and their children, Brooks and Bella Grace. The Albritton’s eldest son, Joshua, attended with his wife Emi Albritton and their children, Walker and Lucas. Joshua is a worship pastor with Canoe Creek Church of St. Cloud and offered the opening prayers at today’s Senate sitting. The Albritton’s youngest son, Ryan, also attended alongside President Albritton’s parents Benny and Pam Albritton, Mrs. Albritton’s mother Ms. Patty Jo Schrader, and President Albritton’s brother and sister-in-law Joe and Mindy Albritton. District staff members Patty Harrison, Karen Whaley, Kara Lucas, and Jared Richards, as well as former District staff members Kevin Cleary, John Hinchee, Andrew Liebert and Tanner Warwick also attended the event.

In honor of the portrait unveiling, Senate-President Designate Jim Boyd (R-Bradenton) and Democratic Leader Lori Berman (D-Boca Raton), presented President Albritton with a gift from the Senators – a framed Nolan Ryan jersey with a personalized autograph. The President is a collector of Nolan Ryan memorabilia and has several items displayed in his office at the Capitol.

Retiring the Portrait of Senate President Samuel Walter Anderson

In keeping with Senate tradition, the first presidential portrait on the west side of the Chamber was officially retired to the Historic Capitol.

Former Senate President Samuel Walter Anderson served in the House of Representatives from 1917 to 1918. He was elected to the Senate in 1918 and elected Senate President on April 5, 1927. President Andersen represented Gadsen County and was a prominent businessman in the area. He was a farmer, sawmill and turpentine operations owner and President of the Bank of Greensboro. In 1925 he founded Citizens Bank and Trust in Quincy and served as President of the bank until his death in 1950.

About Senate President Ben Albritton

President Albritton is a fourth-generation farmer, born and raised in Florida’s Heartland. After graduating from Florida Southern College, Senator Albritton continued to work for his family’s citrus groves, expanding the business to support citrus grove ownership, grove management, payroll management and risk consulting. His lifelong work in agriculture fostered his interest in public service and desire to serve as a voice for his fellow farmers and ranchers in Tallahassee.

President Albritton began his public service as a gubernatorial (Governor Bush) appointee to the Florida Citrus Commission. From 2010-2018, Senator Albritton served in the Florida House of Representatives. He was elected to the Senate in 2018 and reelected subsequently. During his time in legislative service, Senator Albritton has prioritized protection of Florida's natural resources and support for the agriculture industry.

In 2024, Senator Albritton was elected to a two-year term as Senate President. During his presidency, he has championed Florida's Rural Renaissance as well as funding and field trials to support Florida's heritage citrus industry and "Make Citrus Great Again." President Albritton has also prioritized legislation to support families who have a child with Autism and a new approach to managing mental health within the criminal justice system.

Senator Albritton lives in Wauchula with his wife Missy. They have a keen interest in child welfare policy and together spearheaded legislation to expand data collection to combat child exploitation, create a recruitment program for child welfare professionals, and establish a professional foster care pilot program to better serve children with high behavioral acuity.

The Albrittons are lifetime members of First Christian Church of Wauchula, where Senator Albritton serves as an elder. They have three adult children, and four grandchildren, including two born during the 2025 session.

For more information, please visit www.FLSenate.gov.

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