

### Hall of Fame Award Hortense Pittman (Texas)

Hortense Pittman is recommended for the AVSA Hall of Fame Award in recognition for outstanding service to AVSA. She served as the twenty-seventh (27<sup>th</sup>) President of AVSA from 1993 to 1995. Her emphasis was for the society to operate in a more businesslike manner by modernizing the office and staff. She has hybridized over five hundred and seventy (570) varieties of African violets. These are listed in the Master Variety List of African Violets (First Class program).

Hortense Pittman has received the following AVSA Society awards

Honorary Life Member Award in 1995.

Bronze Medal for Horticultural Achievement in 1986.

Hortense Pittman started in the Alamo AVS; San Antonio, Texas, in the late 1960's and joined AVSA at the same time. It was a day time club; she served in most of the offices to include the President. While she was President of the Alamo AVS, they had their first AVSA judged show in San Antonio.

In 1975, she assisted with the organizing the Lone Star African Violet Council (LSAVC) to support the AVSA national convention and show in Austin, Texas, in 1978. She attended her first national convention in St Louis, Missouri, in 1977 to support the next convention to be held in Austin. She is still an active member of the LSAVC and supports the council in any way possible. Hortense has missed only one (1) LSAVC Conventions and Shows since it was organized in 1975, they were moving to north Texas during that convention.

In 1978, she became a commercial member of AVSA and had her first Display Table at the Austin convention and show. She has been a consisted winner of the Commercial Display Table and Commercial New Cultivar since that first show. She has supported AVSA sales room with a number of sale tables of quite beautiful African violet each year. She and her husband, Ray, gave their first horticultural program during the convention in Austin. They have given a number of programs since then at the conventions. They are in the process of updating their AVSA library program from slides to a DVD program.

She joined the Magic Knight AVS, San Antonio, Texas, after her husband retired in 1977. She served the local society at every office to include the President. She moved to Celina, Texas, and joined the First Nighters AVS of Dallas in November, 1998 and served as President and numerous other offices. She dropped her commercial membership on moving to North Texas, but continues to hybridize, growing and exhibiting African violets as a member of AVSA.

She attended a hybridizer program in late 1970's by Harold Utz and that started her in the role of a hybridizer. Her first African violets were register to her and Utz in 1979. Since then she has over 570 African violets listed in the AVSA Master Variety List and First Class Program. She has a number of African violets listed each year in the annual 'Tally Time' and 'Honor Roll' sections in the AVM.

She became an AVSA judge February, 24, 1977, and is a Master Judge October, 2002.

It is quite interesting how she got started in African violets. Ray always purchased African violets for her birthday since she was born in February. The African violet is the flower for February. When they moved to San Antonio after being married 41 years ago she joined the San Antonio Garden Club and some of the ladies in the garden club also were members of the Alamo AVS. They asked her to join the Alamo African Violet Society since she was growing the African violets she had received from Ray as birthday gifts.



**Hortense Pittman with Ray Pittman and  
Kent Stork – Tulsa OK, AVSA 2008**

So we the members of AVSA can thank Ray Pittman for getting her started in the African violet world by being a faithful husband and buying African violets each year. She has been one of the top hybridizers and supporter of AVSA since she joined in the late 1960's

She has served AVSA as Committee Chair, Director, Third Vice-President, Second Vice-President, First Vice President and President. She has served AVSA for almost forty years. She continues to serve AVSA by growing, showing and hybridizing of the African violet.

She is highly recommended to receive the AVSA HALL OF FRAME AWARD.

**Examples of some of Hortense Pittman's outstanding hybridizing efforts:**



**Precious Pink**



**Precious Red**



**Definitely Darryl**

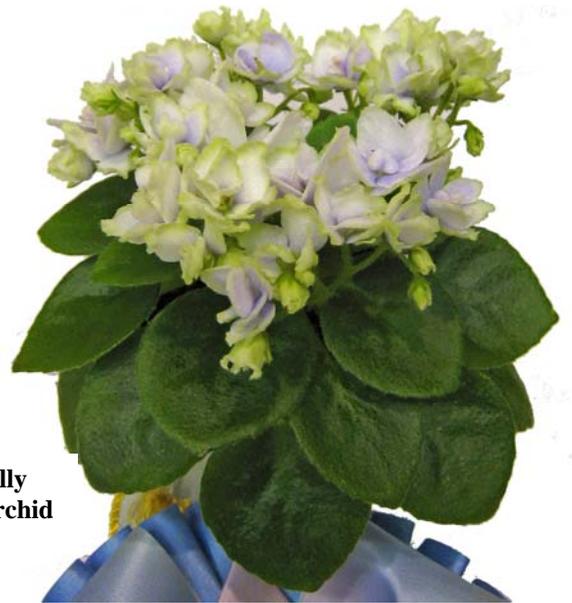


**Jolly Frills**

**Jolly Devil**



**Jolly Orchid**



**Jolly Sailor**



**Jolly Mischief**



**Jolly Gem**



**Petite Ruby**

**Orchid Trail**



**Celina Dark Velvet**

**Pink Puff**



**Hortense's Little Sunset**

**Jolly Wine-O**



**Petite Pet**