

Linda Roberts Bio

(Pronouns: She, Her, Hers)

Linda Roberts moved to The Villages, Florida five years ago from the Maryland suburbs of Washington, DC, her city of birth.

Linda considers herself a very visible activist and advocate for the LGBTQI community and the transgender and gender diverse populations in particular. Her activism led her to visit the Florida legislature in Tallahassee on two occasions this year to meet with lawmakers and testify before several committees contemplating anti-transgender bills. She later presented her knowledge and experiences involving this legislation to groups from the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, the Women's Democratic Club of Lake County and Families with Dignity.

Linda began her full societal transition eight years ago and is identified in all legal, governmental and societal documents as a female, the gender with which she has long identified.

Linda was honored in 2018 with the Engendered Spirit Award as a Capital Pride Hero on behalf of Capital Trans Pride and the Capital Pride Alliance (Washington, DC). This recognition is given annually to outstanding supporters, advocates and activists of the transgender community who have brought about positive changes to the lives of transgender persons and their community.

Linda served as Board Member (over 5 years) and Treasurer (over 4 years) of DignityUSA . She has authored "Frequently Asked Questions" content on DignityUSA's website on the subject of "Gender Theology". She has also written documents on Catholicism and Gender Identity/Theology and Recommendations for Dignity Chapters and Other Churches to Provide a Welcoming and Inclusive Environment for Transgender Persons and Their Families.

In 2022 she delivered the homily at DignityUSA's National Conference liturgical Mass and received a President's Award for her extraordinary leadership of the organization.

She has provided her story to several bishops who were signatories to an open letter entitled Created Male and Female, and challenged them to understand what it means to be transgender and how one's faith can actually be enhanced by living in the gender with which one truly identifies.

She led a panel discussion at Dignity's 2021 Virtual Gathering on the subject of Beyond the Binary – Emerging Issues in Gender Justice. She led a workshop at DignityUSA's national conference in July 2017 entitled Trans Catholic Voices, where the panelists shared their stories and faith journeys, and she recounted both biblical passages and recent Catholic Church pronouncements regarding gender theory.

In July 2018 Linda led a workshop entitled Transgender Support: Trans Christian Voices at the Federation of Christian Ministries 50th Year Assembly.

She remains a member of Dignity/Washington and was the recipient of a Community Service Award in 2017. She is also a member of St. Timothy Roman Catholic Church in Lady Lake, FL.

She has participated in eleven volunteer trips with Global Volunteers, including delivering lectures on Transgender 101 and her personal story in Costa Rica and Appalachia in West Virginia. In the spring of 2017, her volunteer efforts were profiled in an article in SAGE magazine, an organization which provides support and advocacy for gay elders.

Linda is an approved visitor through Prisoner Visitation and Support (PVS) and has been visiting transgender inmates monthly at the Coleman Federal Correctional Complex in Coleman, FL for the last two years. She was recently appointed to serve on the Finance Committee of PVS.

She supports through charitable giving over 30 organizations annually, both global and local entities.

In addition to her three adult children and six grandchildren, she sponsors two young girls in India and the Philippines through Unbound.

Linda is retired from a 40-year finance and accounting career, including nearly 29 years as a senior executive with the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, where she served as Treasurer, Controller, Investment Officer and Head of Compensation and Benefits. She possesses a BS degree in Commerce from Washington & Lee University, at which she was inducted into the academic honor societies of Phi Beta Kappa and Beta Gamma Sigma.

Linda is an avid dancer, bicyclist and enjoys ladies' softball, golf, pickleball, beach tennis, water volleyball, bowling and swimming. She also enjoys reading, film, theatre, concerts, and travel. Linda is also a member of Rainbow Family and Friends of The Villages, The Villages Mini Cooper Club, Singles in the Villages, the Mid-Atlantic Club in The Villages, and the Investment Club of The Villages.

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