



## Marsha Herring

Daughter of French immigrants, Marsha was born on the Cajun Bayou south of Baton Rouge, LA. Living with her parents on a houseboat, she would frequent the bayou – fishing, catching gators, and listening to the hound dogs as they would chase down hoodoo spirits. It was on the Bayou where she met John who was a musician and living in a trailer. Together, John and Marsha bought a double-wide trailer, where she felt she was living like a princess

As John's musical career flourished, Marsha followed John to San Francisco where she became a flowerchild, was working soup kitchens, and staying in shelters. She did this for a period before she got bored and caught a train up the coast to Amchitka, Vancouver to attend a Greenpeace concert with Joni Mitchell and James Taylor. Marsha was caught up in the Greenpeace cause, and she joined maritime activists in "save the whales" protests against whaling operations. In 1982, the International Whaling Commission (IWC) voted a moratorium on commercial whaling. Seeking to see the rest of the United States, Marsha then took a job with National Railroad Passenger Association (Amtrak), stopping in cities to attend marches for Women's Rights, Greenpeace protests, and concerts where John was performing.

It was on one occasion during a train to Washington, DC that Marsha ran into Gloria Steinem who was speaking Women's Rights marches. Impressed with Marsha's passion for public service and desire to help those in need, Gloria referred Marsha for a job interview with the March Of Dimes. Being associated with the standup of Greenpeace and familiar with the railway system, Marsha secured a position as Corporate Outreach Specialist and traveled all over the country providing guidance to charities that were being organized. Marsha returned to Baton Rouge one summer, and took a position with Jimmy's Singing For Change Charitable Foundation. Word of Marsha's background and accomplishment found its way to Jimmy who was inspired to write the song "Railway Lady". Marsha has been a Parrothead ever since and accepted the position as Charity Trustee & Quartermaster for The Villages Parrot Head Club.