BOTH SIDES NOW:
Bridging Our Differences in A Divided World.

Compassionate St. Augustine is proud to present “Both Sides Now: Bridging Our Differences in A Divided World,” a panel discussion grounded in civil discourse with Republicans, Democrats and those who cross party lines from St. Johns County. Frank Denton, Florida Times Union Editor-at-Large and Vice President of Journalism for Morris Communications, will moderate the panel.

At a time when our county, country and the world are deeply divided by lines in the sand that represent political affiliations, personal beliefs, and interests, the diverse panelists will focus on what each believes should happen for residents to help erase those lines and come together collaboratively, cooperatively, creatively and compassionately for the greater good locally and beyond.

This event is free and all are welcome and encouraged to attend on Wednesday, January 18 at 7 to 8:30 P.M. at the Willie Galimore Center, 399 Riberia St., St. Augustine, FL.

“At its core, Both Sides Now is an invitation to have the courage and compassion to thoughtfully examine what it really means to agree to disagree, respect the Golden Rule, talk to and not about others, and finally choose to mutually explore helpful ways to address issues that concern and impact all citizens,” says Caren Goldman, executive director of Compassionate St. Augustine. “In the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew, our community compassionately enlivened and modeled those ideals through individual and collective thoughts, words and deeds. And by doing so out of a shared sense of profound loss, sadness, and ‘we’re all in this together,’ the lines in the sand that otherwise separate us didn’t seem to matter.”

Moderator Frank Denton has spent 50 years as a journalist, 30 of them as the leading editor. He was the Editor of Florida Times-Union from 2008 to 2016. Now Editor-at-Large, Denton will remain responsible for the editorial page, continue as a columnist, and provide oversight for community initiatives begun during his editorship. He is also the VP of Journalism for Morris Communications, parent company of the Florida Times-Union.

A native of Texas and current resident of Jacksonville, Denton holds a BA from the University of Texas, MS Columbia University, MBA and PhD University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Current panelists (in alphabetical order) include Ron Brown, Jerry Cameron, Deltra Long, Kris Phillips, Ron Rawls, Lynn Waugh Straughan, Tracy Upchurch, and Doug Wiles.
Ron Brown, J.D., has dedicated more than 27 years to public law and local government - a career founded on the provisions of practical innovation and legal solutions while often under intense public scrutiny.

After serving eight years as attorney for the City of St. Augustine Ron retired in 2014. Currently, he provides legal services through his private practices in Palatka and St. Augustine and serves as legal counsel for the St Johns River State College District Board of Trustees. Ron earned his Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Florida. He continues to serve the community as the board director of the ARC of the St. Johns and as chairman of the St. Johns River State College Foundation Board.

Jerry Cameron has worked in public service for decades as the police chief of Irmo, SC and Fernandina Beach, FL and as City Manager of Fernandina. More recently, he has spent over ten years as Assistant County Manager of St. Johns County. Those experiences, combined with two decades in private-sector management, have informed and broadened his view of how the fabric of our community is woven together.

Jerry serves on the board of the United Way of Saint John’s County and the Community Leadership Council. Additionally, he has been honored for his community work and leadership from the Nassau County NAACP, The Maria Jefferson Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Executive Staff of the City of Saint Augustine, the St. Johns County Veterans Council, and from EPIC Behavioral Health Care.

Deltra Long, a lifelong resident of St. Augustine who grew up in the historic Lincolnville neighborhood, is a retired guidance counselor from the St. Johns County School District. She and her sister Alice were two of four students to integrate St. Augustine High School in the 1960s.

She has a BA from the University of West Florida, MA University of South Florida and her Doctor of Law degree from the Florida Coastal School of Law. In 1992, Deltra was one of the founding board members of Habitat for Humanity. Her broad community involvement includes serving as a former chairperson and current vice chairperson of the St. Augustine Planning and Zoning Board. Additionally, she serves other boards including the Community Hospice Advisory Board Council; Community Leadership Council, and the board of the St. Augustine High School/Ketterlinus Alumni Association. She is also a board member of the St. Augustine High School/Ketterlinus Alumni Association and a member of Rotary of St. Augustine, Inc.; the City's Accountability Group; the St. Johns County NAACP, and St. Paul AME Church.
**Kris Phillips** is President of Phillips Broadcasting, LLC which owns Newstalk 102.1 WFOY and 96.5 WAOC radio stations in St. Augustine. WFOY has served St Augustine for almost 80 years.

Kris’ earlier career included being an on-air television reporter in Little Rock, KATV; the producer of documentaries for Arkansas Public Television, and the moderator of Arkansas Week, a statewide public affairs program on legislative and political issues. Additionally, she served as Communications Director of a U.S. Senate Committee under U.S. Senator David Pryor and was the host of Secure Retirement, a nationally syndicated radio show focusing on senior issues.

Currently, Kris is a board member of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce and the ARC of the St. Johns. Community involvement includes work with the American Cancer Society, Big Brothers-Big Sisters, Habitat for Humanity, Haven Horse Ranch, and the United Way.

**Rev. Ron Rawls** is beginning his tenth year as Pastor of the Saint Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church in St. Augustine since 2007. He holds a BA in religion from the University of Florida and has been in the ministry since 1994. A passionate community advocate, Rev. Rawls is known for speaking out at St. Augustine City Commission meetings on behalf of his community and is a contributor to the St. Augustine Record.

Currently he is president of the St. Paul Development Center (Lead the Way Daycare Center), Chair of the Steering Committee of the West Augustine CRA (Community Redevelopment Agency), and a member of the St. Augustine Rotary Club, and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity.

**Lynn Waugh Straughan** is the owner/CEO of LWS Grant Consulting and a St. Augustine resident since 2000. Over the last 35 years she has worked in the social service industry and locally was the founding Executive Director for both Kids Bridge Family Visitation Center and the Cyprian Center for Expressive Arts. Currently, she serves as the Board President of Kids Bridge.

Lynn received her BA in Sociology from Mercer University. In 2002 she was honored as the St. Johns County School District Volunteer of the Year for her work as PTO President at Ketterlinus Elementary School. Additionally, she has served on non-profit boards including the Junior Service League of St. Augustine, The St Augustine Community School of Performing Arts, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and Lift Up Lincolnville© Farmers Market.
Tracy Upchurch, a lifelong St. Augustine resident, is a former State Representative in the Florida House of Representatives, Mayor and City Commissioner. Prior to becoming an Associate Professor of Law and History at Flagler College, the Director of Flagler’s Pre-Law Program and Chair of the Faculty Senate, he spent 25 years as a practicing attorney.

Tracy received his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Florida and his Master of Arts degree in American History from the University of North Florida. He has served on the boards of numerous local organizations including Flagler Healthcare Systems, St. Augustine Rotary Club, Lightner Museum, Historic St. Augustine Research Institute, The St. Augustine Historical Society, St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences, and Prosperity Bank. For his continuing contribution to Flagler’s academic excellence he has been honored with the Flagler College Dean’s Award for Outstanding Teaching and was also voted the Faculty Member of the Year by the student body in 2015.

Doug Wiles, Col. (Ret.) U.S. Army and a lifelong St. Augustine resident, is the president and majority owner of Herbie Wiles Insurance, Inc. He grew the organization from a small, primarily personal lines agency to a diverse property and casualty, employee benefits, financial planning firm currently employing more than 25 staff members.

Doug walked in his father and grandfather’s shoes as a public servant from St. Augustine. He represented Clay, St. Johns, Flagler and Volusia Counties as a State Representative in the Florida House of Representatives from November 1996 through November 2004. While a State Representative he served on the House Insurance, Transportation and Economic Development Committees, among others. Doug was Minority Leader Pro Tempore in 2000 and Minority Leader in 2002.

Doug’s U.S. Army Service was with 11th ACR, 1974-79 and Florida Army National Guard, 1979-2000. He served as an officer in the Florida National Guard for 21 years, deployed for state active duty 14 times in response to natural disasters and other emergencies and to Saudi Arabia for Operation Desert Shield. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in journalism from the University of Florida.

Currently, Doug serves on the board of directors of the Florida Association of Insurance Agents.

Please contact Caren Goldman, Executive Director, Compassionate St. Augustine with any questions, RSVPs to event, or for additional information at carengoldman@me.com or 904-501-3561.