

# Local Florist Tapped for Inauguration

By Ryan Anderson  
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While it took several recounts to determine the winner of the 2000 presidential election, no recount was needed when it came to selecting one of the floral designers for the festivities surrounding George W. Bush's inauguration.

Lynn Lary McLean, of Lary's Florist in Friendswood, will be one of about four dozen floral designers from around the country who will transform tens of thousands of flowers into festive floral arrangements fit for a president. Organizers estimate that 1,500 arrangements will be created to help set the mood for the various functions surrounding the inauguration.

"This is very exciting for me," McLean said. "I have helped with inauguration before so I know what is facing me, but it is still exciting to get to go to Washington D.C."

This will be McLean's fourth inauguration. Her first was the second Ronald Reagan inauguration. Additionally, McLean worked on George Bush's inauguration and Bill Clinton's first inauguration.

Besides inauguration, McLean has been a judge for the Tournament of Roses parade in Pasadena, Calif. and several other national events.

"Ms. McLean, a past president of AIFD (American Institute of Floral Designers), was first recognized for her floral design talents in 1983 when she was accepted into this organization," said Thomas C. Shaner, AIFD executive director. "Membership in the organization is extremely difficult to achieve. Candidates must demonstrate an advanced artistic creativity using flowers."

According to Shaner, there are only 1,200 AIFD members worldwide.

McLean's love of floral design began in the fourth grade when her mother opened her own store.

"I grew up in the business, so it was a very easy decision for me to pursue it as a career," McLean said.

Besides designing for high-profile events around the nation, McLean enjoys the seasons of floral designing.

"The neatest thing about being a floral designer, is the ability to experience all the seasons inside the store, even as you can't experience them outside," McLean said. "It is truly a privilege to work with all the different types of flowers."