

Robert A. Dressler

- (Born August 26, 1945) – Grew up in Fort Lauderdale in Victoria Park on NE 7th Street and following college and his time in the military, bought the home he lives in today on NE 6th in Victoria Park.
- Received his AB from Dartmouth College in 1967, cum laude.
- Served in the Marine Corp rising to the rank of Captain serving in Vietnam.
- JD from Harvard University School of Law in 1973, cum laude.
- Elected Mayor of Fort Lauderdale in 1982 – the first directly elected mayor in the City’s History. (until this election all Mayors had been appointed by the City Commission among their elected members). He was reelected to a second three-year term in 1985.
- During his second term, the issue of [Spring Break](#) revelry and mayhem reached a breaking point. Hundreds of thousands of college students visited the city every spring, destroying hotel rooms, despoiling the beach, and driving away local residents from the beach areas. In 1985, he appeared on [Good Morning America](#) and announced that spring break college students were no longer welcome in the city. The city commission, under his leadership, passed laws forbidding open alcoholic containers on the beach side of [State Road A1A](#) and overnight parking on the beach. [MTV](#) was asked not to set up their operation on the beach, and a heavy enforcement of the new laws resulted in over 2,500 arrests. The new zero-tolerance policy resulted in a sharp drop in college visitors, from an estimated 350,000 students in 1985 to an estimated 60,000 just three years later.
- In 1986, Dressler resigned from office to pursue election to the [Florida Senate](#). He was unsuccessful, and returned to private practice as an attorney specializing in [trusts](#) and [wills](#); [estates](#); and [probate](#).
- From 1982 to 1989, he served on the board of the Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce, and from 1987 to 1993, he was a member of the Board of Regents of the State University System of Florida. He remains active in the community, with involvement in the [Rotary Club](#) of Fort Lauderdale, Leadership Florida, the [Marine Corps League](#), and the Vietnam Veterans Association. He was named Florida Man of the Year by [Florida Atlantic University](#) in 1993, and 2007 Distinguished Citizen by the Fort

Lauderdale City Commission on 17 April 2007.

- Rob is a traveler and writer cataloging his adventures.
- He served on the Board of Regents for the State of Florida when it existed.
- Founded Victoria Park Civic Associations (responsible for stop signs being installed throughout the neighborhood).
- Created the City's original Vision Plan and then participated in its update several years ago.
- He was a part of the originating group that identified Riverwalk and participated in its generation.
- He continued the organization for several years known as the Forum founded by Jack Latona and continues today.