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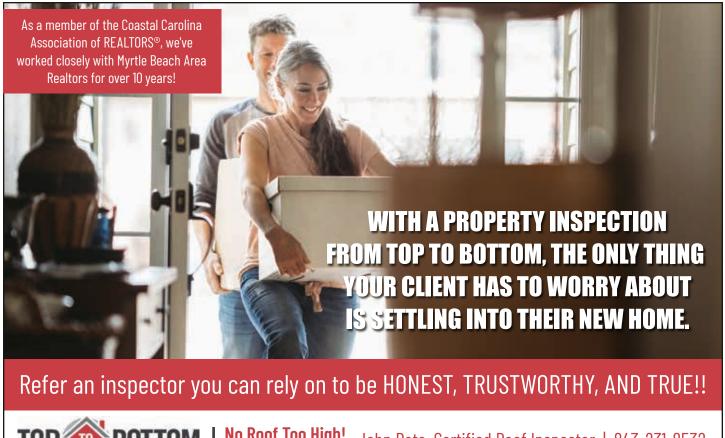






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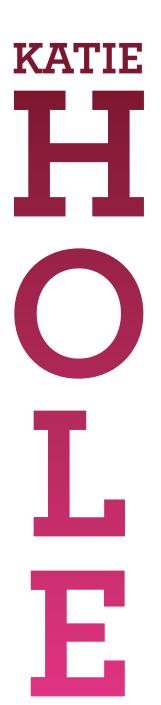
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Written By **Anita Jones** Photography By **Donald Hovis** - **Tides Eye Photography**



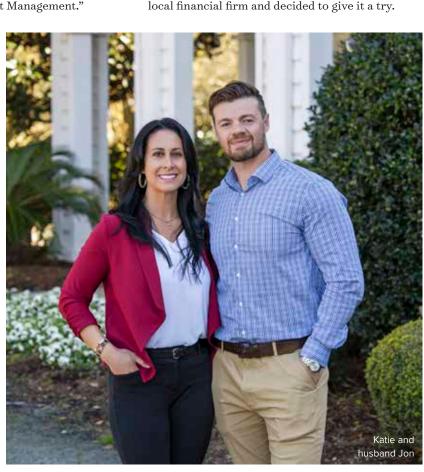


Katie Hole is a successful REALTOR® with KingOne Properties International and has been a member of the National Association of Realtors® for the past two years Despite only obtaining her license in February 2021, her career volume as a realtor is currently at \$7,049,052! She was honored to receive the Top Office Producer award in October 2022.

Katie shares, "Before becoming a REALTOR[®], I worked in investments and insurance. However, I have always been interested in real estate, and owning rental properties with my husband, Jon. He owns a construction and building company which reinforced that interest."

"I grew up in Pennsylvania with two sisters and an active family. We loved camping and visiting our grandparents in Delaware. I started working at the early age of 13 in the restaurant industry. Restaurant life captivated me for over a decade, and I had dreams of opening my own restaurant one day. This dream took me to Penn State for Hotel & Restaurant Management."

Katie continues, "Jon and I were tired of the long, cold Pennsylvania winters so decided we would move to Florida! My sister-in-law's mother worked at the Dunes Club, so on a whim, we flew down to visit her for a weekend. We loved it and decided Myrtle Beach would be our next destination. We were very excited to move here in May 2014. Moving to a new state with no family and not knowing anyone was definitely hard. Making all new friends and learning about an area that we have never visited before was challeng ing but we now consider Myrtle Beach home!"



"Since I did not know anyone, I started attending networking events and also joined the Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce. This opened doors to many people and businesses in the area. I still attend networking, Chamber events, and do volunteer work throughout the year. Being an active member of the community allows me to give back and also stay involved."

Katie realizes, "After moving to Myrtle Beach, I decided hospitality was no longer the field for me. I knew I did not want a desk job. I was used to being around people (happy and mad) and was trying to figure out my next move. I was asked to work for a local financial firm and decided to give it a try. After a few years, I found that was also not my passion. I finally understood that Real Estate was something I would enjoy. My experience in the restaurant industry gave me the patience and people skills necessary to succeed as a REALTOR[®]. I knew jumping into an already crowded field of REALTORs[®] was not going to be easy. It was a long journey to get here but dealing with the public since I was thirteen years old gave me practice and patience for dealing with the major life decisions of purchasing and selling properties."

"I love meeting so many new people! I have met and collaborated with some impressive agents, inspectors, lenders and attorneys and also met amazing clients who I am still in contact with."

Katie is passionate about helping clients navigate the current tough market, ensuring all parties are satisfied with their purchase or sale. She loves helping people make one of the biggest decisions of their lives and enjoys being around beautiful properties. The most rewarding part of her business is meeting new people and building lasting relationships. Looking towards the future, she plans on continuing to purchase rental properties and traveling.

Katie got the travel bug early from being able to visit Jamaica, Spain, Greece, and Turkey while in high school. She views real estate as a career that provides her with the flexibility to meet this goal. Katie's interest in real estate has been further fueled by the rental properties she and her husband started acquiring, along with his construction and building business.

Katie continues, "For me, success is reaching a point in life where I can take time off without feeling stressed or guilty. Outside of work, I enjoy going to the gym, taking boxing classes, listening to live music, and attempting to play golf. My husband and I enjoy spending time outside around the fire pit, going to concerts, and trying new restaurants. And a fun fact is, I did not miss a single day of school from 7th to 12th grade."

"My advice to up-and-coming realtors is to listen to successful agents around you, shadow them, and do not be afraid to ask questions. Always be willing to learn and grow in your career. Right now, is a tough market to purchase and sell. Everyone is looking at the past few years and it is not the same! My passion right now is helping clients navigate this market, so all parties come out happy and satisfied with their purchase or sale."

In April, it was announced that Katie won the 2023 Chamber of Commerce Ambassador of the Year! Congratulations Katie! She is definitely living her best life!







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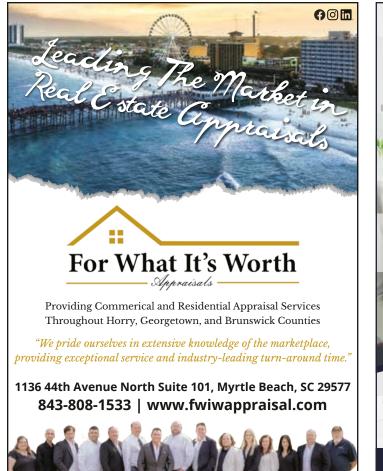
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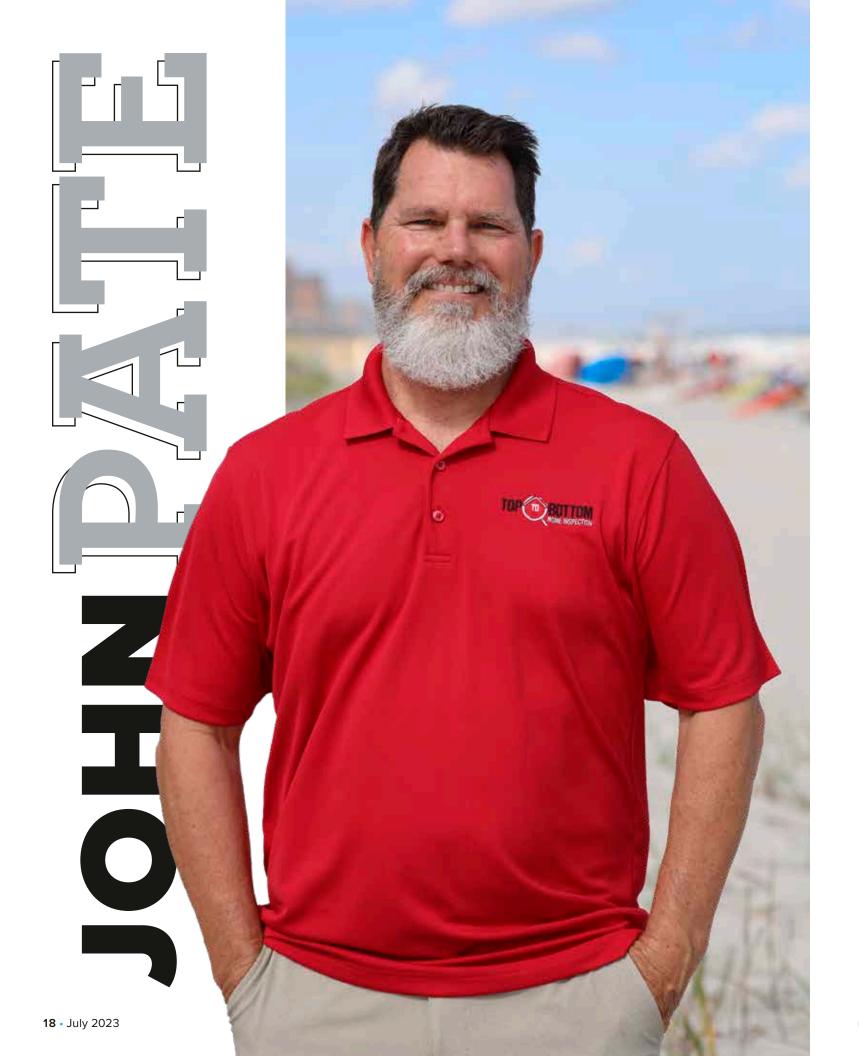
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Sponsor spotlight Written By Heather Spruill Photography By Donald Hovis - Tides Eye Photography

TOP TO BOTTOM INSPECTION, LLC

Top to Bottom Home Inspection LLC provides an in-depth and honest assessment of one's prospective home under the noteworthy leadership of John Pate. His eight years in the inspection business with 20+ years of experience in sales and construction makes him a one-of-a-kind businessman.

Finding His Footing

John was born and raised in Wadsworth, Ohio, where he graduated with his high school diploma and was preparing to begin his first year at Akron University. His parents, entrepreneurs, and brother moved to Myrtle Beach, SC, in 1984 to open a local food store called Pizza & Cream. They would later open a convenience store right next door, to which their customers would refer to the two storefronts as Pate's Plaza.



John decided to join his family after completing his freshmen year. While he helped run his family's business, he learned that he would rather be more of a hands-on worker. As he was learning the basic principles of sales and customer service, he dreamt of working in an industry that would allow him to build and manage constructions. Though he wanted to pursue those goals one day, his father closed the business, and the family moved back to Ohio.

Once back in their home state, his family owned and managed two drive-through beverage centers, one supervised by John for seven years. Finally, he decided that he had had enough of the northern winters and wanted to spread his wings in the warm comforts of Myrtle Beach. He found a job as a builder in the Conway area, which included building and repairing sea walls, docks, log homes, etc. Later, he found work in sales for the ABC Supply Company. There, he learned about building and constructing homes, products, installations, and home repairs. After 20 years of being an outside salesman, John began to look into a different avenue: home inspections.

John reflects, "I started taking home inspection courses, and by the end of 2014, I completed my certification. It was difficult gaining new clients as a new inspector, but I made it work. I started with one client a week while promoting myself to local businesses and growing a positive rapport with realtors. Soon my client base grew to three a week. I knew how to do my job well, but I was still working as a salesman, so balancing the two professions was tough."

"What makes our business unique is the time we spend on the property. Inspections can run as long as seven hours."



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A Very Thorough Inspector

In 2018, John took a leap and quit sales. A friend created a website for his business, and soon after, Top to Bottom Home Inspection LLC became a tremendous success. It took weeks for John to decide on a catchy name for his business, but he and his wife found one that best describes the proper home inspection process: starting from the very top while thoroughly working their way down to the bottom.

John says, "We offer home inspections for resale properties, new construction during the build, before and after close, and ll-month inspections before the one-year builder warranty expires. We work hard for the buyers of a home, not their realtors. So, we take as long as we need to do a very detailed inspection, ensuring that our clients are well informed of the conditions of the properties. What makes our business unique is the time we spend on the property. Inspections can run as long as seven hours."



John and his partner work vigorously to provide quality work and excellent customer service for those new to the real estate buying and selling process. He prides his business on having the best interest of his clientele and providing detailed same-day inspection reports. Their dedication to their craft allows John and his partner to work on larger homes, spend more time on their property, and communicate well with buyers and their agents.

When he is not dedicating his time to serving his community, John supports his wife Bobbi with her barbershop called Bearded Stag and loves to spend time with their son Eric, a store manager in the Charlotte area. He and his wife enjoy camping, the beach, and dinner with friends. In owning his business, John defines success as working for himself and doing something he enjoys, giving him more time to spend with his family.

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DREAMS DO COME TRUE

▶ feature agent

Written by **Heather Spruill** Photography By **Donald Hovis** - **Tides Eye Photography** ith only six years of experience, Wren Floyd has taken the real estate industry by storm and shows no signs of slowing down. Her difficult childhood has helped to shape her future in the best way possible. She dreamt of a home that she always wanted, and now she can help others attain that dream. Though her accolades and achievements speak volumes, she continues to recognize and appreciate where she came from, and the woman she has become.

Starting From the Very Bottom

Wren was born in Myrtle Beach, SC, in 1990 and unfortunately, did not have the best upbringing. Having moved several times as a young girl with her mother, she would come to know stability at age seven, moving in with her father at Myrtle Beach. Life together was not easy as they lived more like roommates than father and daughter, but Wren attended school and, later, signed up for a local sports team.



Wren says, "I believe the best decision my father ever made for me was to sign me up for the local swim team. That is where I received a positive outlook on life today."

While on the team, Wren noticed *how* her teammates lived, *where* they lived, and their wonderful relationships with their families. She daydreamed about having a life that mimicked theirs. Along with experiencing how the other side lived, her swim coach, the most reliable and consistent figure in her life at the time, instilled in her that pushing beyond pre-conceived limits would be the driving force of success. Those encouraging words did not just apply to swim practice and meets. For the first time, Wren began to dream about the life she could have without limits.

With guidance from other adult figures, she encountered in life and through trial and error, Wren raised herself. At 14 years old, she knew she had to find a way to support herself and help her father. She decided to start working as a restaurant server. To find a way to do more for her family, she graduated early and found better work. At age 21, she gave birth to a beautiful boy and, soon after, started her career in real estate in resort sales. However, the lack of career-advancing opportunities and insufficient income forced Wren to take a leap of faith. In 2017, she left her position with a local resort company and started to pursue her real estate education. She knew she would have to work harder than anyone in any room to provide a better life for herself and her son.



Wren says, "I did not come from a wealthy family, so there was no one to borrow money from to help me get started. I did not have much money saved, so I took a great leap and acquired an \$8,000.00 personal loan to help support my son while I was learning the business. I had limited time and money, so I was fully immersed in real estate when I was not tending to him. My son was the single most motivating factor in my life then. There was no fallback plan. Real estate had to work. So I made it work."

It Was All Worth It

In 2017, the same year Wren successfully earned her realtor's license, she learned about Sloan Realty Group through their vigorous marketing campaign. She met with Blake Sloan, the company's founder and president, for an interview and soon became an agent on the rise. Through his mentorship and professional experience, Wren developed techniques and practices that helped her become a one-ofa-kind agent. With her drive, tenacity, and inconceivable love for and mother. In 2022, with 99 homes sold and a total volume of nearly \$24million made, it was clear that she had developed a fantastic reputation thanks to the encouragement and leadership of Mr. Sloan. Wren says, "Blake makes success seem so possible and within reach. I knew he was the best, and there is no better system than his when buying or selling a home. My job performance has caught the attention of several other firms, but my loyalty to Sloan Realty Group remains solid. He lives to see our accomplishments, and that brings me comfort to know that I have a leader who is in this for the long game with me!"

Wren continues, "The most rewarding part of this business is carrying out a smooth and successful selling process. My clients often say they appreciate being seen and treated as a person during the home-selling process, not a transaction. It is important that the client feels a part of the process at every step of the way. My personal goal is to set a new standard for what is expected of a realtor."

Wren is passionate about caring for those who are not as educated or in the best circumstances when selling their home. She assures every client that they are in the best hands and that it is her duty and privilege to help them achieve their goal, no matter how difficult the journey may be.





Though Wren's success as a realtor speaks volumes, her home life is just as wonderful. She is happily married and is now a mother of two. When they are not traveling for her son's extracurricular activities, they are happy homebodies who love to make each other laugh. Coming from humble beginnings, she is determined to provide her children with the life of which she had always dreamed.

Wren's future rests in building an impressive investment portfolio and becoming a mentor to new aspiring agents who want to know how to work in this field of real estate.

Wren continues, "To the up-and-coming producers, I would encourage them to be relentless! When life is in complete chaos and business does not seem to be moving as fast, take that downtime to grow your craft even more. Do not give up. Fail forward and keep going!"

> It is important that the client feels a part of the process at every step of the way.

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NORTH MYRTLE BEACH





A True Real Estate Educator

Brandi Minchillo has been a mover and a shaker in the real estate business for the last nine years and shows no signs of stopping. While dedicated to giving her clients a smooth and exciting experience when purchasing or selling property, she is also a REALTOR[®] leaving a legacy of perseverance and gratitude in this fastpaced and ever-developing industry.

Putting In the Work

Brandi watched her parents work laboriously during her childhood in upstate New York. With the extra helping hands of her grandparents, godparents, and other family members, who all lived on the same street as her family, there was no denying the love and support she had as a young girl. As she got older, she respected her father and his dedication to





providing for his family by any means necessary. When he was not working, her family would travel to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, for vacation once a year. His determination and diligent efforts to make sure his family was secure made her want to work just as hard as he did.

By 2005, Brandi acquired her BA and MS in Education from SUNY Cortland and Iona University. She was an elementary school teacher for five years for the NYC public school system. She also taught at a Westchester County private school for ten years. In hopes of purchasing their own home, her growing family moved to Myrtle Beach, SC, for better and more affordable opportunities. There, she taught for two years at South Conway Elementary School in Conway, SC.

Brandi loved teaching, but over time, she became overworked and unhappy with her compensation and was ready to take a chance to learn something new. One day she saw a REALTOR® ad on Craigslist and decided to take a leap of faith. Although she had no experience in sales, she knew this was the perfect industry to find a new way to use her teaching skill set.

Brandi believes, "Teachers make the best REALTORS® because we are organized and used to working within the confines of tight schedules. We also have a great deal of patience and are accustomed to explaining things in many ways to ensure understanding."



As she got ready to study and prepare for a new and exciting challenge, a few were not as supportive of Brandi's journey. Close critics reminded her that she was a financially strapped, married woman with two children under five years old. Her family barely made ends meet, so childcare was out of the question. Nevertheless, she was determined to find a way. So, early in her real estate career, she found a nanny to hire for four hours daily, Monday through Friday, while she began to build her business.

66 Every day we get to choose how we respond to life and the things it throws at us. Good or bad, we get to choose to be grateful, and that is what I will always choose to be."

After interviewing with several agencies, Brandi settled her real estate roots at RE/MAX Southern Shores in 2014. She appreciated their roster of seasoned and commendable agents, and it was only befitting that she learned from the best of the best. In addition, she was excited to work in a positive and collaborative culture where she could blossom in her new career.

Although the company had previously only hired experienced, full-time REALTORS®, they gave her a chance. Once in the field, Brandi felt that her ambitions were questioned, but she was





determined to be taken seriously. She had a first-year goal of earning \$50 thousand and knew she could not continue in the field unless she reached that goal. As a result, she channeled those doubts and negative talk. In the end, she reached beyond her first-year sales goal.

Brandi reflects, "Sometimes discomfort leads to the greatest changes in our lives. I try hard to remember that when things are tough, there is always a light at the end of the tunnel."

Leading By Example

For nine years, Brandi has enjoyed leaving her clients happier than

when she met them. She is a devoted and tenacious representative for those who trust her to make finding their dream home a reality. She also makes it her duty to positively influence and mentor others as they pursue their leadership path. She is grateful for the receipt of thanks from colleagues that she has encouraged or inspired

in some way. Her mission is to leave positive lasting impressions on anyone she encounters in the business.

While she continues to be attentive to her clients, Brandi feels even better when she finds ways to give back to her community. She takes up-and-coming agents under her wing locally and nationwide. In addition, she sits on the NAR YPN Advisory Board, which allows her to travel to YPN networks around the county and speak to young professionals pursuing a career in real estate.

Brandi continues, "I am also incredibly passionate about REALTOR'S® Advocacy and protecting homeownership and private property rights. I have served as an RPAC chairwoman at our local association for several years. I regularly champion agents to invest in the industry that allows us to serve and protect the public."

When she is not preparing paperwork or sending her clients off to their newly purchased homes, Brandi enjoys the comforts of her own home. Whether it is game night, movie night, or arts and crafts projects with her three children, Ava, Noah, and Olivia, she enjoys spending quality time with her family. As a giving person herself, Brandi also teaches her kids to be faithful givers as they are big supporters of many children's charities. Every Christmas, they serve as angels and shop for less fortunate children so they can experience the magic of the holiday season.

At the end of a busy workday, Brandi remains thankful for the many blessings in her life. Even though life has its share of obstacles, she is grateful for the lessons and opportunities she has and that she can show others that success is within their reach.

Brandi concludes, "I want to be remembered for living with an attitude of gratitude. I try to find the silver lining in everything. Every day we get to choose how we respond to life and the things it throws at us. Good or bad, we get to choose to be grateful, and that is what I will always choose to be."

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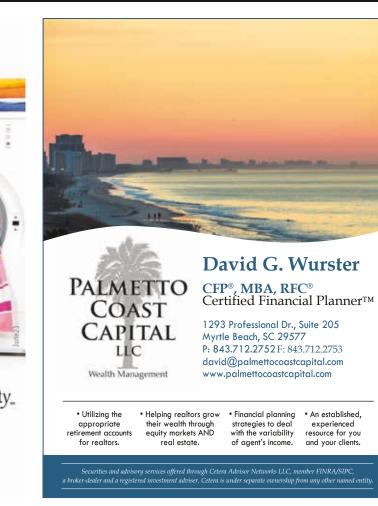


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