

# City of Bristol Tennessee

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Tuesday, March 20, 2012

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## **Keynote Speaker Named for the Mayors' Award of Distinction**

The 2012 Mayors' Award of Distinction officials are proud to announce the keynote speaker for the April 22, 2012 program. This year the speaker is award winning writer Sharon Randall. Ms. Randall is a columnist for Scripps Howard News Service and is featured every Sunday in the Bristol Herald Courier. Her column is featured in some 400 newspapers and an estimated 6 million newspaper subscribers read Randall's column nationwide. She receives thousands of letters and emails each year from readers who connect with her stories about everyday people and ordinary things. Randall divides her time between the Monterey Peninsula and Las Vegas. She was born and reared in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North and South Carolinas growing up in Landrum, S.C.

As a winner of numerous professional awards, Randall proudly notes that she has also "scrubbed a lot of toilets, washed a lot of towels and burned a lot of cookies." She credits her training as a writer to "15 years as a reporter, some 30 years as a wife and a mother, and more than 50 years as a daughter, a sister and a friend."

"Each year the two cities of Bristol host a program that is aimed at recognizing the cities' unsung heroes; the gentleman who mows the widow neighbor's yard, the quiet lady who long-ago retired and gives her time and money to a local non-profit, the group whose mission is to take up a local worthy cause, or a philanthropist who gives quietly. We want to honor those who have a strong sense of doing good in the community," said Terrie Talbert, Director of Community Relations for the City of Bristol Tennessee who is overseeing this year's recipient honors program. "This award honors many of the same attributes Randall writes about each week in her column. She is constantly weaving the kind, unnamed person who goes beyond what is expected into her stories.

With this in mind, we felt Ms. Randall would be a natural for the Mayors' Award of Distinction honors."

The event is scheduled for Sunday, April 22, 2012 at 2:00 P.M. in the Paramount Center for the Performing Arts. The event is open to the public and is free of charge. The community is encouraged to attend and join City officials in honoring those selected as the recipients of the 2012 Mayors' Award of Distinction.

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