



City of Bristol Tennessee

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2014 Mayors' Award Recipients Announced



The 2014 Mayors' Award of Distinction winners were announced today by the awards panel Chairman Gary McGeough.

Bristol Regional Medical Center Volunteer Auxiliary was selected by the panel as one of three recipients. They were nominated by Becky Blevins, Manager of Volunteer Services at BRMC. Blevins said, "The auxiliary's volunteers are amazing. The volunteers' duties and tasks change often and in many areas of the hospital the volunteers are solely responsible for running each and every day."

Bristol Rhythm and Roots Reunion was nominated by the Birthplace of Country Music. The nomination form noted that the steady growth and popularity of the festival not only sheds the spotlight on our region's music, it has been instrumental in restoring economic stability to our region; as the festival has grown, so has Bristol.

Sue Williams a long-time advocate for the animals of the area and the founder of Holly Help Spay-Neuter Fund was also selected as a recipient. Ms. Williams was nominated by Phyllis Bewley and Debra Senecal. "Sue founded the fund out of her desire to see animal suffering reduced among primary category in which most of us have any regular contact with animals - our pets," said Bewley. "Over breeding, abandonment, careless owners, and many other factors have created the need for efforts like "Holly Help" and Sue is one of the many who has stood up to fight on behalf of these wonderful creatures," said fellow nominator Debra Senecal.

Bristol Tennessee Mayor Michelle Dolan said after hearing of the announcement, "I am truly delighted. The contributions made by the groups and individuals who are recognized each year is such an important part of our everyday life in the City of Bristol." Dolan went on to quote Margaret Mead,

“ ‘Never doubt that a small group of committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has.’ This says it all about the Mayors’ Award of Distinction.”

Mayor Guy Odum, Bristol Virginia said, “The Mayors’ Award of Distinction annually recognizes the accomplishments of engaged community members from both sides of the state line who are committed to enriching our City through the common denominators of compassion, resourcefulness and working toward a common good.”

The program was the brainchild of former Bristol Tennessee Mayor David Shumaker. Shumaker had attended a National League of Cities meeting where a group of individuals were discussing successful programs that had been hosted in their city. One of the programs being discussed was the Mayor’s Award of Distinction. “After I returned to Bristol I brought up the program to the rest of council who agreed it was a great idea and the rest is history,” said Shumaker. The green light was given to proceed. The first Mayors’ Award took place in 2007 and to date 23 recipients have been recognized.

The public awards presentation will be made on Thursday evening at 6:30 PM in the Paramount Center for the Arts on State Street. A reception will immediately follow the presentation in the lobby of the Paramount. The public is invited.

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