

Tennessee Historical Commission  
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May 1, 2024

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**Tennessee Historical Commission 2024 Certificate of Merit Award Recipients Announced**

NASHVILLE – The Tennessee Historical Commission has announced the recipients of this year’s annual Certificate of Merit Award. These awards are presented each May during National Preservation Month. Since 1975, THC’s Certificate of Merit Program has recognized exemplary work by individuals, groups, organizations, corporations, or governmental entities to further promote historic preservation or the study of history in Tennessee. Nominations are solicited from the public in December of the preceding year and judged by category. “Tennessee benefits greatly from individuals, businesses, and organizations who work to protect and enhance our treasured heritage. We are honored to recognize this inspiring group of individuals and projects,” notes Executive Director and State Historic Preservation Officer Patrick McIntyre.

The Historic Preservation category recognizes excellence in the preservation, restoration, or rehabilitation of a historic or archaeological site, preservation leadership, preservation planning, publications related to historic preservation, public programming, or research. 2024 recipients in this category include:

- **David Britton** for the completed restoration work of the 1859 Masonic Lodge and General Store at Port Royal State Historic Park.
- **Mary Watkins** for the Evergreen Cemetery Section M project. The Evergreen Cemetery in Murfreesboro was established in 1872 as a public cemetery.
- **Sharon Hayes** for her work to erect a memorial for unmarked graves at the Haywood County Farm.

The Book or Public Programming category recognizes notable achievements toward advancing the study of Tennessee history through certain types of books or public programming. 2024 recipients in this category include:

- **Christopher Gose** for his creation of the “What’s Your Story” program at the Elmer Cox Genealogical Library in Greeneville.
- **Frederick Murphy** for his ongoing work with the nonprofit History Before Us.
- ***From the Mouth of Boyds Creek***, a book that provides an extensive history of two rural communities in Sevier County.

Applications for the 2025 Merit Awards can be found [here](#). For additional information, please contact Caty Dirksen at [caty.dirksen@tn.gov](mailto:caty.dirksen@tn.gov). For more information about the Tennessee Historical Commission, please visit the [website](#).

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