



NEWS RELEASE

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STARS Employee Award Luncheon honors recipients since 2012

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. – Every good organization needs game changers. People who recognize what needs to be done and do it without fanfare because it's the right thing to do for the good of public service.

Mayor Shane McFarland honored STARS winners for their game-changing character and excellence during a Stars Employee Award Luncheon Wednesday, August 31 at Bradley Academy Museum.

“The reason you are here today is because you recognized the game changing moment and set the example as a standard for others to follow,” said Mayor McFarland. “We appreciate what you do and for finding the game changing moment.”

In recognizing the City employees for their accomplishments, McFarland referenced the book *7 Men* by Eric Metaxas which profiles courageous leaders like George Washington, Eric Liddell and Jackie Robinson as models of right behavior.

Most know George Washington, McFarland said, but few know that he turned down a demand to be called “King George.” Eric Liddell is known for winning gold as a runner in the 1924 Olympics and featured in the movie *Chariots of Fire*, but few know that he died as a missionary in a dissident camp in China because he refused to leave the children he was teaching. Jackie Robinson is celebrated as the first African American baseball player in the Major League Baseball but few know the hard work and ridicule he endured in the minor leagues.

Since 2012, the City of Murfreesboro has recognized exceptional employees with the STARS award for Succeeding Through Attitudes Reflecting Service Excellence. They include police officers who take swift action to save lives, Rover employees who respond to storm victims in need of transportation, a Water Department employee who assisted an elderly victim of a head injury, and an entire team of wastewater treatment plant employees who performed above and beyond.

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“You make us proud and make us look good,” added McFarland in thanking the STARS employees on behalf of the City Council. “We want you to know the work you do does not go unnoticed.”

Each of the STARS employees in attendance received a STARS pin and lanyard presented by the Mayor. Councilmembers Bill Shacklett, Eddie Smotherman and Rick LaLance also attended the luncheon to congratulate and thank the STARS employees.

City Manager Rob Lyons thanked the Human Resources Department, including Director Glen Godwin, and the nominating committee for organizing the luncheon. On a monthly basis the nominating committee considers nominations. Winners are recognized by the Mayor at City Council meetings and announced to the public.

“From the bottom of my heart I thank you for what you do,” Lyons told the STARS recipients. “Some of you have literally saved lives through your services.”

The STARS Service Excellence program is intended to recognize outstanding employees who embody the city’s standards for service excellence and exemplify the city’s core service values. The purpose of the STARS award is to recognize and reward those employees who go above and beyond their normal job duties in providing outstanding customer service to internal and external customers.

To nominate an employee, visit the nomination form page <http://www.murfreesborotn.gov/formcenter/administration-department-4/stars-nomination-form-35> or call Human Resources at 615-848-2553 to pick-up a form.

For City News online, visit www.Murfreesborotn.gov.

Photo attached captions:

1. *STARS Employee Award Luncheon photo.jpg*

Back Row L/R Rob Lyons, City Manager, Mayor Shane McFarland, Glen Godwin, HR Director, Ann Cool, Raymond Hillis, Chris Murphy, Rick LaLance, City Councilor, Terry Smith, Josh Alcorn, John Strickland, Adam Todd, Randy McCullough, Tony Burkhart, Tim Juneau, Eddie Smotherman, City Councilor.

Front Row L/R Michelle Kasper, Lesia McCluskey, Jennifer Joines, Jason Reed, Karen Heyduck, Nora Smith, Brianna Dunn, Lindsey Callahan, Michelle Rowland, Cassandra Scott, Bill Shacklett, City Councilor. (Photo by Jim Davis, City Parks & Rec)

2. STARS recipient Lindsey Callahan receives STARS pin and lanyard from Mayor McFarland, Aug. 31.