

History of Chamber Award Winners

Community Service Award (Volunteer):

1997- Charles Tripp
1998- Danny Fitzpatrick
1999- Steve Nipper
2000- Randy Lann
2001- Margo Weiser
2002- Lois Gene Russell
2003- Annette Pate
2004- Kelli Souter
2005- Trish Franks
2006- Les and Valerie Kent
2007- Janet Rider-Babbitt
2008- Richard Metzelaars
2009- Doris Warren
2010- Steel Magnolias Breast Cancer Support Group
2011- David Nelson
2012- Ronnie & Dawn Sanders
2013-
2014- James Souter
2015- Julia Nipper
2016- Making Magnolia Blossom
2017- David Kaar
2018- Albemarle Foundation
2019- Magnolia Jr. Charity League
2020- Bill Dailey
2021- Peoples Bank
2022- Lesley Thompson

Public Servant Award (Award of Valor 2018)

2011- Lt. Leroy Martin
2012- Michael Caldwell
2013- Columbia County Ambulance Service
2014- Greg Pinner
2015- Sherry Bell, County Clerk Office
2016- Colton Burks
2017- Todd Dew
2018- Linley Crisp
2019- Natalie Hill/The Call
2020- Scott Reeves
2021- Amanda Warren-Newton
2022- Kaylynn Sands

Rising Star

2005- Aaron Street

Young Person of the Year (Student of the Year)

2011- Ashley Dingman
2012- Victoria Maloch
2013- Barrett Sanders
2014- Gabrielle Davis

2015- Katy Hicks
2016- Clair Peterson
2017- Samantha Gregory
2018- Reece McDonald
2019- Terrel Paige
2020- Brandon Bailey
2021- Tanner Nielsen
2022- Troi Kascir
2023- Maggie McDonald
2024- Lauren Wilson
2025- Emma Collier

Educator of the Year

2011- David O. Stuart Sr.
2012- LaNita Talley
2013- Gary Hines
2014- Robbie Frizzell, Emerson, Taylor, Bradley
2015- Roger Loper, MHS
2016- Dr. David Ashby
2017- Carol Liberty
2018- Larry Dunn
2019- Tracy Card
2020- Jennifer Kyle
2021- Barbara Pearson
2022- Courtney McHenry
2023- Emerson Elementary School Staff
2024- Gary Herron
2025- Kelly Ribble

Leadership Magnolia Distinguished Alumni Award

2012- Celia McQuiston
2013- Debbie Arnold
2014- Todd Smith
2015- Roger Guevara
2018- Kristen Reeves
2019- Samantha Roberson
?- Margaret West

Employee of the Year

2011- David Smith
2012- Bronwyn Sneed
2013- Bobby Heinze, Peoples Bank
2014- Greg Pinner, Magnolia Fire Dept
2015- Virgil Davis, East Side School
2016- Samantha Roberson
2017- Cheryl Sanders

Business Person of the Year (Business Leader of the Year 2018)

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2011- Annette Pate
 2012- Downtown Magnolia Square
 2013- David Haney
 2014- Mark Taylor, Southern Aluminum
 2015- Macy Braswell, Lifetouch Hospice
 2016- Mike Boyd
 2017- Ashley Talley
 2018- David Taylor
 2019- Jamie Waller
 2020- Doug McCrary
 2021- Denisa Jamerson and Chris Ludwig
 2022- Lacey Ogle

Young Professional of the Year:

2022- Andrew Hinkle
 2023- Dr. Brittany Reeves
 2024- Dustin and Kaila Cross
 2025- Travis Arnold

Retail Business of the Year:

1997- Lois Geans
 1998- Jennifer's
 1999- Smitty's
 2000- Warnock's
 2001- Fallin Tractor
 2002- Magnolia Bake Shop
 2003- Murphy's Jewelers
 2004- Cameo Theatre
 2005- Treasure Chest
 2006- Farmers Bank & Trust
 *Changed in 2008 – to be Business/Industry of the Year

Non-profit of the Year

2024- The Stewpot
 2025- Columbia County Community Foundation

Business/Industry of the Year:

1997- Alcoa
 1998- SMI Steel
 1999- Albemarle
 2000- Entergy
 2001- Southern Aluminum
 2002- Quail Piping
 2003- SAU
 2004- Reliance Well Service
 2005- Alcoa
 2006- Columbia Sewing
 2007- CMC Steel
 *Business/Industry of the Year:

2008- Entergy
 2009- Peoples Bank
 2010- Magnolia Regional Medical Center
 2011- S&S Home Center
 2012- Lewis Funeral Home
 2013- KDAS (Kathy's Dance Arts Studio)
 2014- Hixson Lumber
 2015- Chicken Express, Robert Dodson
 2016- Jefferson Garage Door, Jeffers Jefferson
 2017- Murphy's Jewelers
 2018- Hampton Inn Magnolia
 2019- Elliott Manufacturing
 2020- Quantum Rehabilitation
 2021- Amfuel
 2022- Southern Caregivers
 2023- Bridget's
 2024- Story's on the Square (Small Business)
 2024- Wentworth Place (Large Business)
 2025- R.L. Reed Funeral Home (Small Business)
 2025- Southern Aluminum (Large Business)

Citizen of the Year:

1967- Dr. Dean Andrews
 1968- Flo Bradley
 1969- Dr. Fay Smith
 1970- Morris Ratley
 1971- Richard Clark
 1972- F.B. Buffington
 1973- Jim Arnold
 1974- Cody Harrison
 1975- W.C. Blewster
 1976- Louise Phillips
 1978- Joseph Street
 1979- W.H. Handy
 1980- Connie Irwin
 1981- O.A. "Buddy" Franks, Jr.
 1982- Carlton Hasley
 1983- Vivian Shiver and Paul Crumpler
 1984- Verbie Graney
 1985- Selwyn Whitehead
 1986- Gresham Shinn, Posthumously
 1987- Ralph Weiser
 1988- Rochelle McMahan
 1989- W.C. Partee
 1990- Dorothy Edwards
 1991- Jim Davis
 1992- Homer "Sonny" Greer
 1993- Dianne Scott
 1994- Don McMahan
 1995- James Whitefield

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1996-	Harold Fincher	2023-	Steve Nipper
1997-	Jim Givens	2024-	Annette Pate
1998-	W.P. Florence	2025-	Sandy Marlar
1999-	Rucker Clayton		
2000-	Mary Harsh		
2001-	Archie Monroe		
2002-	Jeannie Bismark		
2003-	Steve Nipper		
2004-	Betty Epley		
2005-	Sara Carrington		
2006-	John Miller		
2007-	Steve Morgan		
2008-	The 39 th Brigade		
2009-	Molly Burns		
2012-	Therral & Jan Story		
2013-	Sharon Eichenberger		
2014-	Mike Davis (Banquet 2014)		
2015-	David Nelson		
2016-	Steve Keith		
2017-	Whitney Whitelaw		
2018-	Kathy Gean		
2019-	Bruce Maloch		
2020-	Dr. Trey Berry		
2021-	Steve Crowell		
2022-	Parnell Vann		
2023-	Jason Ray		
2024-	Deborah Nipper		
2025-	Jamie Waller		

Lifetime Achievement Award:

2003-	W.T. Watson
2004-	Jim Arnold
2005-	No nomination
2006-	Mike Kinard

2008-	Sue Shinn
2009-	Ralph Weiser
2010-	Archie Monroe
2011-	Not given
2012-	Pete Schmidt
2013-	Harold Fincher
2014-	Not Given
2015-	Dr. David Rankin
2016-	Donna Garrett
2017-	Judge Michael Epley
2018-	Mary Harsh
2019-	Larry Price
2020-	Joe Mullins
2021-	Leesa Stephens
2022-	Robert "Bob" Burns