

Business Leader of the Year

This award recognizes an outstanding individual for his or her dedication to their own business, as well as a commitment to advancing the business climate in the community. This individual should be a proven asset to the organization in which he/she holds a management position or is the owner. They should be well respected by their co-workers and employees and should contribute to the quality of life in this community.

Criteria:

- Must be a manager or owner of a Chamber member business or organization
- Assists in the growth and success of business
- Demonstrates the ability to positively respond to adversity
- Committed to quality of product and service
- Demonstrates concern for community betterment
- Demonstrates leadership skills
- Is involved in improving the local business climate

Business/Industry of the Year

To honor an industry or business that has demonstrated outstanding service to the community and its employees.

Nominations for this award are made by the community and chamber board members.

Criteria:

- Chamber Member
- Committed to employees and welfare
- Provide an example of adapting to new management and marketing techniques
- A good retail citizen or corporate citizen of the area
- Demonstrate a willingness to contribute to the community efforts with their time, financial, and/or other resources

Award of Valor

This award recognizes those who protect the wellness of the community. This person may be referred to as a hero that has demonstrated a heroic act which had an impact on this community or an individual. This person may also be considered a hero in their line of work as an officer, firefighter, EMT, medical professional, DHS or any other professional that works for the immediate wellbeing of the citizens of this community.

Community Service Award

This award recognizes an individual or a group whose remarkable efforts have produced significant benefit to our community. Their community involvement may take many forms, but the net result is that Magnolia and Columbia County are a better place to live and work because of their contribution. Among the areas of where “service” may have been given are projects completed, gaining positive recognition for the area, gifts or scholarships given, aesthetic improvements, time and dedication to an organization or of the organization to public service, or a patriotic endeavor.

When deciding on an individual or organization for the Community Service Award, the below mentioned criteria should be considered:

- Longevity
- Organization can be non-profit or for-profit
- Service beyond the call of duty/mission
- Volunteer Component

Educator of the Year

The nominee may be a teacher, administrator, office staff or other support staff member. The nominee should exemplify excellence in their field or job by their enthusiasm, expertise, creative ideas, and communication skills. This individual should be respectful and inspiring to both students and co-workers. The nominee must work in education in Columbia County. Longevity of career should also play a factor.

Young Person of the Year

This award is designed to recognize the outstanding achievements and contributions of young people in our community. The winner will be presented with a \$250.00 scholarship (sponsored by Southern Title & Closing) to be used to continue their education. Anyone may nominate themselves or another who is a senior in one of the school districts or private schools in Columbia County planning to attend college or trade school.

The nominee must be a resident of Columbia County and should exhibit the following:

- Leadership skills;
- Involvement and/or contribution to community;
- Involvement and/or contribution to school;
- Volunteerism;
- Innovation and creativity.

Citizen of the Year

This award is given to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution(s) “above and beyond” exemplified by their service through civic, service, charitable or religious organizations and/or community activities. Regard is given to the nominee’s achievements in the year immediately prior to receiving the award, as well as their past achievements and ongoing contribution to the community.

When deciding on an individual or organization for the Citizen of the Year Award, the below mentioned criteria should be considered:

- Significant contribution to the community
- An inspirational role model
- The scope of impact the individual’s contribution has made on the community

Lifetime Achievement Award

Purpose: To recognize and honor an individual who has made sustained, significant achievements or contributions to Magnolia and/or Columbia County through his/her selfless dedication, leadership and service to the people of this community.

Eligibility: Citizen or former citizen of Magnolia-Columbia County and may be posthumously awarded. Chamber membership not required.

Criteria: Selection will be based on an individual who has demonstrated community philanthropic acts which:

- Promoted goodwill toward all people,
- Supported and encouraged business recognition, growth and development,
- Routinely participated in a variety of community endeavors to stimulate the health, welfare, and spirit of the community,
- Provided sustained leadership that made a lasting contribution to the community.

***Nominations are confidential, however, the individual submitting someone for nomination must identify themselves.**

***Selection of the award winner is made by the ad hoc selection committee of the Magnolia-Columbia County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.**