



EAST TENNESSEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Making history personal

— since 1834 —

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Cherel Henderson  
(865) 215-8823  
[cherel@eastTNhistory.org](mailto:cherel@eastTNhistory.org)

### **East Tennessee Historical Society Honors Four Sevier County Initiatives with Awards of Excellence in History**

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., May 24, 2019 – The East Tennessee Historical Society’s (ETHS) annual Awards of Excellence were presented at the organization’s Annual Meeting on May 14, 2019, at the Foundry on the World’s Fair Site in Knoxville. Since 1982, the Society has annually recognized individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to the preservation, promotion, programming and interpretation of the region’s history. Four Sevier County initiatives were among the 44 awards presented.

- **Jessica Sterling** was the recipient of a ***Teaching Excellence Award***. “The Presidents” is an American history course researched and developed by Jessica Sterling, a teacher at Seymour High School. While the course covers the terms of all U.S. presidents, instruction is especially focused on those with a Tennessee connection, including Tennesseans Andrew Jackson, James K. Polk, and Andrew Johnson, as well as those connected to state and national events, such as Franklin D. Roosevelt.
- **Sevierville Chamber of Commerce** was the recipient of two awards. They received an ***Award of Distinction*** for the “Discover Sevierville Walking Tour,” enjoyed by locals and visitors alike. Among the stops are public buildings, private homes, historic churches, the old 1856 courthouse, a statue of Dolly Parton, and other unique spots of interest. Narrated tours with a “History and Haunts” theme are available in October. The Sevierville Chamber of Commerce was also awarded a ***Community History Award*** for their changing exhibits at the Sevierville Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center that are attracting both tourists and locals to learn about the county’s history. Notables such as Dolly Parton and Tennessee Governor John Sevier are among those featured. The most recent exhibit, *The Furious Clash of Cavalry: The Battle of Fair Garden*, featured the story of the county’s most significant Civil War engagement.
- **Charles Ogle**, also a teacher at Seymour High School, was the recipient of a ***Community History Award***. A history teacher for 41 years, Charles Ogle has been deeply involved in the ETHS National History Day program as a teacher, sponsor, judge, and as a strong promoter of the competition. He is widening his education

focus by serving as a heritage interpreter at Mabry-Hazen House in Knoxville and by attending local history lectures and workshops.

**About the East Tennessee Historical Society:**

Established in 1834, the East Tennessee Historical Society has 2,000 members across the United States. The Society sponsors the Museum of East Tennessee History, East Tennessee National History Day, and the family heritage programs “First Families of Tennessee” and “Civil War Families of Tennessee.” Its active publications program includes the biannual genealogy magazine *Tennessee Ancestors*; the annual *Journal of East Tennessee History*; and *Newsline*, as well as other books pertaining to the region’s history. For more information on ETHS, exhibitions, or programs, call 865-215-8824 or visit the website at [www.EastTNHistory.org](http://www.EastTNHistory.org).

###