



Pride of Obion County



Former Troy Mayor Deanna Chappell has been honored with the title of Pride of Obion County for 2022.



Six different nomination applications were submitted recommending the long-time educator and public servant for the award.

"It is with great pleasure that I write to you to nominate Deanna Chappell for Pride of Obion County," one nomination letter read. "I believe that Deanna is the best choice for Pride of Obion

County because of her efforts to bring progress to Obion County. I have known Deanna for many years and seen the various ways she has consistently and relentlessly strived to enrich the lives of Obion Countians."

Mrs. Chappell is married to Sidney Chappell. Together they have two sons, Wes Miller and his wife, Emily, of Rives and Zach Miller of Omaha, Neb.; two daughters and sons-in-law, Stephanie and Joe Wagner of Obion and Emily and Corey Cox of Troy; and five grandchildren.

The daughter of the late Gordon and Hallie Mae Adams of Dresden, Mrs. Chappell graduated from Dresden High School and the University of Tennessee at Martin, earning her master's degree and 30 hours above.

She spent 31 years teaching before re-

tiring in 2004 to take a consulting job. She then taught in Kentucky and in Caruthersville, Mo. She is a member of Delta Kappa Gamma, a national teacher's society.

During those years, as a charter member and former president of Obion County Junior Auxiliary, she was instrumental in setting up JA Girls Camp. She was also a volunteer for Northwest Tennessee Safe Line, a hotline for domestic abuse.

"I have known Deanna Chappell since she moved to Obion County in 1974. She has been tireless in helping others," another nomination letter read.

As a parishioner of St. James Episcopal Church in Union City, she has served on the vestry and as church pianist, as well as volunteered for the women's annual bake sale.

She has also served on the Northwest Tennessee Head Start and Early Head Start Policy Council.

Mrs. Chappell began her political career in 2003, becoming the first female alderman elected in Troy. She served in that position until she was elected the town's first female mayor in 2014. She was re-elected in November 2020 to her fourth term before resigning in December 2021 due to her declining health as a result of her amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) diagnosis.

While serving on the board as an alderman and then as mayor, she was instrumental in making improvements in the town's utilities and parks systems.

While she was mayor, Troy installed a new water treatment plant and new electronic water meters, expanded utilities and received Drinking Water and Clean Water

project grants. The restrooms at the softball field were remodeled and the Scout House was renovated. The basketball and tennis courts were resurfaced and bleachers were installed at Trojan Park. New playground equipment was also placed at City Park.

A \$200,000 Recreational Trail Grant she was instrumental in getting was used to repave the Trojan Park walking track with state-of-the-art materials, install stationary outdoor fitness equipment and make the park ADA accessible. The walking track was named in her honor by Troy's leaders.

As mayor, she worked with the Troy Industrial Board to help bring Reelfoot Metal to Troy and recruited Air Evac Lifeteam, building a base site in the Troy Industrial Park. She also made it possible for the town to provide a basic Air Evac subscription for all Troy residents.

Mrs. Chappell helped establish Ladies Day Out in Troy, promoted bringing back Troy Community Involvement Days and worked with the Pecan Festival.

While mayor, she completed the University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service Elected Officials Academy Levels I and II. In 2015, Troy was given the Small Town Improvement Award as a direct result of her outstanding leadership.

In February 2020, the same month area residents hosted their first Walk to Defeat ALS, Mrs. Chappell was diagnosed with the disease. She led the walk in 2021.

A luncheon will be held in her honor Oct. 5 at noon at Discovery Park of America.

Tickets are \$15 each and are on sale at the Obion County Public Library.

Past Pride honorees

- 1992 — Milton Hamilton
- 1993 — John Tanner
- 1994 — Bill Burnett
- 1995 — Charlie Vaughn
- 1996 — Phillip Pinion
- 1997 — Hattie Lou Brown
- 1998 — Mike Dickerson
- 1999 — Dr. Bobby Williams
and the late Barry White
- 2000 — Gail Latimer
- 2001 — Jim Rippey Jr.
- 2002 — Norris Cranford
- 2003 — Rev. James Kinsey
- 2004 — Robert Wood
- 2005 — Clay Woods
- 2006 — Myrtle Harton
- 2007 — Dan Boykin
- 2008 — Community businesses
- 2009 — Pat Wade,
Judge William Acree and
Judge Raymond Morris
- 2010 — Al Creswell
- 2011 — Judy Barker
- 2012 — Robert Kirkland
- 2013 — Bill Harrison
- 2014 — David Harris
- 2015 — Roger Williams
- 2016 — William H. "Bill" Latimer III
- 2017 — Mike Cox
- 2018 — Tracy Bruff
- 2019 — Sacchi Doss
- 2020 — Event canceled due
to coronavirus pandemic
- 2021 — Glenda Chrisp

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"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." - John 3:16