



2026 CIVITAS AWARDS | CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS

Nominate a business, individual, or organization for well-deserved recognition

Organization Awards

CORNERSTONE AWARD FOR SMALL BUSINESS EXCELLENCE

This award recognizes a small or family-owned business that is a model of successful enterprise. Examples of excellence can include job creation, economic diversification, unique risks and results, or filling a market niche.

TORCHBEARER AWARD FOR REGIONAL ECONOMIC IMPACT

This award recognizes a business that makes a significant impact on economic prosperity and quality of life in our region. For this recognition, the business must create a significant economic impact through investment or job creation at the regional level.

TRAILBLAZER AWARD FOR FREE ENTERPRISE EXCELLENCE

This award recognizes a start-up company or innovative established business in the region that demonstrates the spirit of free enterprise by investing in a new service or product offering.

CARETAKER AWARD FOR NON-PROFIT EXCELLENCE

This award recognizes a non-profit organization that demonstrates enhancement of the quality of life and betterment of the community, contributes a balance of time, expertise and funding, and meets an identified community need.

Individual Awards

SENTINEL AWARD FOR MILITARY CITIZENSHIP

This award recognizes an individual who is actively serving our country at MCRD Parris Island, Naval Hospital Beaufort, or MCAS Beaufort and who demonstrates community stewardship and representation of the military in our region.

PILLAR AWARD FOR COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

This award recognizes a respected business leader who has personally excelled at improving the business environment in our region and who exemplifies the directive of Leadership Beaufort to be engaged and give back to the community.

BUZZWORTHY AWARD FOR INFLUENTIAL LEADERSHIP

This award recognizes a professional who has created positive, newsworthy awareness and who exemplifies strong professional capabilities, leadership qualities, service to the community, and is seen as a rising star in the region.

CHAIRMAN'S AWARD

This award is bestowed by the Chair of the Chamber of Commerce to recognize an individual who has gone above and beyond to support the important mission of the Chamber.

LIFETIME OF LEADERSHIP

This award recognizes an individual who, throughout their lifetime, has made great contributions to the community through various avenues of service. Service may come in the form of business development, setting higher standards, and/or demonstrating great leadership skills. Lifetime contributions in communities prior to moving to the Beaufort region are also considered in determining lifelong leadership, provided the nominee meets the eligibility requirements.



CIVITAS AWARD NOMINATION FORM

Must be submitted by Friday, September 18, 2026

Your name: _____

Your email address: _____

Nominee name: _____

Nominee Business: _____

Nominee email address: _____

Nominee phone number: _____

Award you're nominating them for: _____

Please describe why this person or organization is being nominated with a paragraph between 100 and 300 words with specific information regarding how the nominee meets the award criteria as outlined.
Attach this write-up as a separate document in your submission. Incomplete applications are not acceptable.

The nominee will be notified upon receipt of a full nomination application and given the chance to send in supplemental information about themselves or their business by September 25, 2026.

A nominator may self-nominate, and there is no limit to the number of nominations made for any award, except Chairman's Award, which is chosen by the Board Chairman.

Thank you for helping the Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce provide well-earned recognition to exemplary people and businesses in our community! Please plan to join us for the Award Reception on October 17, 2024. Tickets can be purchased through the Chamber website.

More info about Civitas, forms and tickets, are available on the Chamber website: www.BeaufortChamber.org.
To contact staff with questions, please email Sarah Makuta at smakuta@beaufortchamber.org.

Please submit this Nomination Form by SEPTEMBER 18, 2026

Nominations can be e-mailed to Sarah at smakuta@beaufortchamber.org or mailed to:
Civitas Awards, Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce, 1140 Ribaut Rd, Beaufort, SC 29902.



PAST CIVITAS AWARD RECIPIENTS

LIFETIME OF LEADERSHIP

2024 – Edie Rodgers
2023 – Dick Stewart
2022 – Bill Prokop
2021 – Frank Gibson
2019 – Ed Duryea
2018 – Samuel E. Murray
2017 – Colden R. Battey
2016 – Martin Goodman
2015 – Jane Upshaw
2014 – Susan Cato
2013 – Richard Gray, Sr.
2012 – Robert DeLoach
2011 – Dorothy P. Gnann
2010 – Henry Chambers
2009 – Lt. Col. W.R. “Skeet” Von Harten, USMC (Ret.)
2008 – Malcolm Goodridge
2007 – William Brantley Harvey, Jr.
2006 – Bill Knepp
2005 – Jim Grimsley
2004 – Helen Harvey
2003 – Fred Washington, Jr.
2002 – Connie Hipp

THE BUZZWORTHY AWARD

LOWCOUNTRY YOUNG PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

2024 – Ashley Houck
2023 – Jess O’Brien, Beaufort Digital Corridor
2022 – Charlie Stone, Beaufort Economic Dev. Corp.
2021 – Jennifer Phillips, 303 Associates
2019 – Patrick Cunningham, Merrill Lynch
2018 – Russell Baxley, Beaufort Memorial Hospital
2017 – Lindsay Gifford, Pink Magazine
2016 – Kevin Dukes, Harvey & Battey, PA
2015 – Gloria Duryea, Coastal Community Foundation
2014 – Stephanie Greene, River Oaks Assisted Living
2013 – Jon Rembold, Ward Edwards Engineering
2012 – Stephen Murray, Kazoobie Kazoos
2011 – Ian Leslie, Lowcountry Economic Network
2010 – Huntley Duryea
2009 – Tray Hunter, Hargray Communications
2008 – Kim Statler, Lowcountry Economic Network

THE SENTINEL AWARD

MILITARY CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

2024 – Cpl Madison Minner
2023 – Cpl Jose Martinez
2022 – Gunnery Sgt Sean Kasper
2021 – Sergeant Diego Marmolejo
2020 – All MCRDPI Graduates in 2020
2018 – Sergeant David Moncada, USMC
2017 – HM1 Donna Patrick, Navy (Retired)
2016 – James W. Boozer, USAF Reserves
2015 – Gunnery Sergeant Ron Voegeli, USMC (Retired)
2014 – Lt Col W.R. “Skeet” Von Harten, USMC (Retired)
2013 – Colonel Jack Snider, USMC (Retired)
2012 – Lieutenant Colonel Bill Severns, USAF (Retired)
2011 – Colonel John Payne, USMCR (Retired)
2010 – Captain Steve Illes, USMC (Retired)
2009 – Sergeant Ryan T. Montgomery, USMC
2008 – Staff Sergeant Nicholas Underwood, USMC

THE TRAILBLAZER AWARD

EXCELLENCE IN FREE ENTERPRISE

2024 – Higgins Family Brand
2023 – Shell Ring Ale Works
2022 – Magnus Development Partners
2021 – Glass WRX
2019 – Seaside Grown
2018 – Geismar
2017 – J. H. Hiers Construction, LLC
2016 – Flint Group Beaufort
2015 – Bob Woodman Tires & Motorsports
2014 – Sea Eagle Market
2013 – Grayco Hardware and Home
2012 – Greenbug All Natural Pest Control
2011 – Lowcountry Produce
2010 – Kazoobie Kazoos

THE TORCHBEARER AWARD

REGIONAL ECONOMIC IMPACT

2024 – Gay Fish Company
2023 – Fripp Island Golf & Beach Resort
2022 – 303 Associates
2021 – Beaufort Memorial Hospital
2020 – All Hospitality Sector Businesses
2019 – Alpha Genesis Inc.
2018 – Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS)
2017 – Harris Pillow Supply
2015 – Lockheed Martin
2014 – Heritage Classic Foundation
2013 – Midtown Square, Community Dev. Corp.
2012 – Technical College of the Lowcountry
2011 – University of South Carolina Beaufort
2010 – Beaufort Memorial Hospital
2009 – Technical College of the Lowcountry
2008 – CareCore National, LLC
2007 – The Millennium Real Estate Group
2006 – Karen Harvey – Friends of Caroline Hospice
2005 – Clarece Walker, United Way of the Lowcountry
2004 – Ellen Long, Beaufort Arts Association Gallery
2003 – Frank Gibson, Lowcountry Insurance Services
2002 – Dennis Green, Kieretsu, Inc.

THE CARETAKER AWARD

OUTSTANDING NON-PROFIT

2024 – Operation Patriot FOB
2023 – 100 Women Who Care
2022 – DragonBoat Beaufort
2021 – BJH Comp Health Services
2019 – Adaptive Golf Experience
2018 – Beaufort-Jasper YMCA of the Lowcountry
2017 – Friends of Caroline Hospice
2016 – Lowcountry Habitat for Humanity
2015 – Citizens Opposed to Domestic Abuse (CODA)
2014 – Second Helpings
2013 – Child Abuse Prevention Association
2012 – HELP of Beaufort
2011 – Junior Service League of Beaufort
2010 – Literacy Volunteers of the Lowcountry
2009 – Kiwanis Club of Beaufort
2008 – The Little Red Dog Foundation
2007 – Second Helpings
2006 – The Friends of Hunting Island State Park
2005 – Hope Cottage, Inc.

2004 – Literacy Volunteers of the Lowcountry
2003 – Beaufort Marine Institute

THE PILLAR AWARD

OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY LEADER

2024 – Christina Wilson
2023 – Pat Harvey-Palmer
2022 – Courtney Worrell
2021 – Stephen Murray
2019 – Ross Vezin
2018 – Amy Achurch
2017 – Greg Rawls
2016 – John Troutman
2015 – Charlotte Gonzalez
2014 – Jack Cunningham
2013 – Rob Bridgers
2012 – Terry Bennett
2011 – Connie Hipp
2010 – Kendall Erickson

THE CORNERSTONE AWARD

SMALL BUSINESS EXCELLENCE

2024 – Berman Property Group
2023 – Carolina Air
2022 -- AlphaGraphics
2021 – Bill's Liquor and Fine Wine

THE CHAIRMAN'S AWARD

EXCEPTIONAL CHAMBER IMPACT

2024 – Beaufort Memorial Hospital
2023 – Monique Dawson
2022 – Leadership Beaufort Team
2021 – Whitney McDaniel

We also honor worthy past recipients of previous awards:

COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP

2020 – All Clinicians & Healthcare Workers
2018 – Lockheed Martin
2017 – Sea Eagle Market
2016 – Carolina SportsCare
2015 – SugarBelle
2014 – Harris Pillow Supply
2013 – Kinghorn Insurance Agency of Beaufort, LLC
2012 – Robinson Grant & Co.
2011 – H2 Builders
2010 – Hargray Communications
2009 – First Citizens Bank
2008 – Tanger Properties, LP
2007 – MCAS Beaufort Federal Credit Union
2006 – Peter F. White, M.D., Biopsy Diagnostics
2005 – HomeTown Realty
2004 – A.G. Edwards & Sons
2003 – Ward Edwards
2002 – Paul Kern – Lobeco Products

OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEE

2020 – All working-from-home Parents & Teachers
2019 – Kendra Twitty, CAPA
2018 – Cesar Garcia, Second Helpings

2017 – Betsy Hinderliter, Beaufort-Jasper YMCA
2016 – Margo Wehrenberg, Beaufort Memorial Hospital
2015 – Ben Duncan, CenturyLink
2014 – Tracey Robinson, Wardle Family YMCA
2013 – Cindy Coburn-Smith, LifeFit at Beaufort Memorial
2012 – Androula Weiland, Main Street Beaufort
2011 – Kim Merritt, Beaufort Memorial Hospital
2010 – Corina Altamarino, Literacy Volunteers of Lwctry
2008 – Anna Edwards, A. G Edwards
2007 – Nicholas Miranda, The Veranda Restaurant
2006 – Mardia Thames, Tri-Command Communities
2005 – Rebecca Berry, Sandbar Productions
2004 – Kenneth Cowart, NetSolutions Technology
2003 – Naomi Hroncich, Friends of Caroline Hospice

JUNIOR ENLISTED SERVICE MEMBER OF THE YEAR

2019 – Lance Corporal Ashanti Washington, USMC
2018 – Lance Corporal Xukai Chi, USMC
2017 – Lance Corporal Ashley A. Phillips, USMC
2016 – Lance Corporal Jimmy J. Vertus, USMC
2015 – Lance Corporal Scott M. Foster, USMC
2014 – Lance Corporal Timothy J. Zawiski, USMC
2013 – Corporal Sarah Cherry, USMC
2012 – HM2 Samuel J. Woodson, USN
2011 – Corporal Jesse J. Park, USMC
2010 – Hospitalman Holden J. Roberts, USN
2009 – Airman Shawn Reagan, USMC
2008 – Sergeant Jason Harris, USMC
2007 – HMCS Steven E. Teaford, USN
2006 – MA1 Kenneth M. Drane, USN
2005 – Sergeant Major Alexander McBride, USMC
2004 – Sr Master Chief Bob Bible, USMC (Retired)
2003 – 1st Sergeant Lorenzo Cox, USMC
2002 – Gunnery Sergeant Robert Baxter, USMC

NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER OF THE YEAR

2019 – Corporal Kathryn Adams, USMC
2018 – Corporal Saamad A. Mitchell, USMC
2017 – Sergeant David A. Waterfield, USMC
2016 – Corporal Daniel L. Odom, USMC
2015 – Corporal Anthony C. Yan, USMC
2014 – Corporal Juan A. Garay, USMC
2013 – Corporal Judena Seck, USMC
2012 – Sergeant Ashley Mohr, USMC
2011 – Staff Sergeant Nicholas J. Underwood, USMC
2010 – Sergeant Charles E. Jackson II, USMC
2009 – Sergeant Patrick L. DeForge, USMC
2008 – Sergeant Jason Harris, USMC
2007 – Major Teagan Yonash, USMC
2006 – Lt. Col. Patrick J. Campbell, USMC
2005 – Capt. Jodie Moser, USMC
2004 – Capt. George Hull, USN
2003 – Lt. Col. Michael Viers, USMC
2002 – 1st Lt. Gary R. Kipe, USMC

HISTORIC REHABILITATION

2018 – Fordham Market

TOURISM LEADERSHIP

2019 – Pat Conroy Literary Center
2018 – Anchorage 1770

2017 – Penn Center
2016 – The Beaufort Inn
2015 – Cuthbert House Inn
2014 – Anita Singleton-Prather, ASE'-Gullah Education
2013 – Beaufort International Film Festival
2012 – Beaufort Water Festival
2011 – Friends of Hunting Island State Park
2010 – Susan Sauer, Discover Tours

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

2018 – Katherine Cuppia Phifer