



SUBMISSION FORM

All submission forms must include the following information. Separate submission forms must be turned in for each eligible program. **Deadline: July 1, 2023.** Please include this submission form with the electronic entry. If you do not receive an email confirming receipt of your entry within 3 days of submission, please contact [Gage Harter](#).

PROGRAM INFORMATION

County: Dinwiddie

Program Title: Hometown Heroes

Program Category: Community & Economic Development

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Marie Grant

Title: Grants & Community Information Coordinator

Department: County Administration

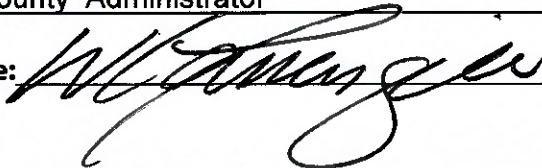
Telephone: 804-469-4500, opt 1, ext. 3230 Website: www.dinwiddieva.us

Email: mgrant@dinwiddieva.us

SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Name: W. Kevin Massengill

Title: County Administrator

Signature: 

Dinwiddie County
2023 VACo Achievement Award Submission
Dinwiddie County - Hometown Heroes Program

PROBLEM:

In 2014, the Dinwiddie County Board of Supervisors desired a meaningful way to celebrate Black History Month and recognize Dinwiddie citizens for significant contributions and accomplishments. After much discussion, the Hometown Heroes program was launched in 2015.

PROGRAM CATEGORY: Communications

AWARDS CRITERIA:

Dinwiddie County Hometown Heroes is an **innovative** program that recognizes and celebrates African-American citizens who have made significant contributions in the following areas:

- ✓ Advancement of Civil Rights
- ✓ Agriculture
- ✓ Business
- ✓ Education
- ✓ Faith Community
- ✓ Government
- ✓ Law Enforcement
- ✓ Public Safety

The Hometown Heroes program is one that could easily serve as a **model for other localities**.

The program requires community engagement and **collaboration** and the cost is minimal.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Nominations are solicited from the community. Information is shared via the Countywide newsletter, mailed to each residential address in Dinwiddie County, social media, the County website, display monitors in County facilities, Board meetings, mass emails to County employees and all local churches, and word of mouth.

Dinwiddie County
2023 VACo Achievement Award Submission
Dinwiddie County - Hometown Heroes Program

To be eligible, nominees must be older than 18 years, and be a resident or native of Dinwiddie County. Each year a selection committee is convened to review and select the honorees. The Selection Committee is comprised of a member of the Board of Supervisors, 2 previous honorees, and a representative of County staff. The Committee reviews all nominations and selects one male and one female honoree. Once selected, honorees are interviewed to obtain biographical information. A bio is developed for each honoree. Bios are read during the recognition ceremony, shared with the media, and posted on the County's website and social media pages.

Hometown Heroes are announced and recognized during the February Board of Supervisors meeting. In attendance at the meeting are their children, grandchildren, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, friends, pastors, co-workers, etc... Elected officials and media are also invited. This is the most anticipated and well-attended Board meeting of the year. Following the Board meeting, Hometown Heroes' photos and bios are posted on the Dinwiddie County website, shared with local media outlets, and on social media.

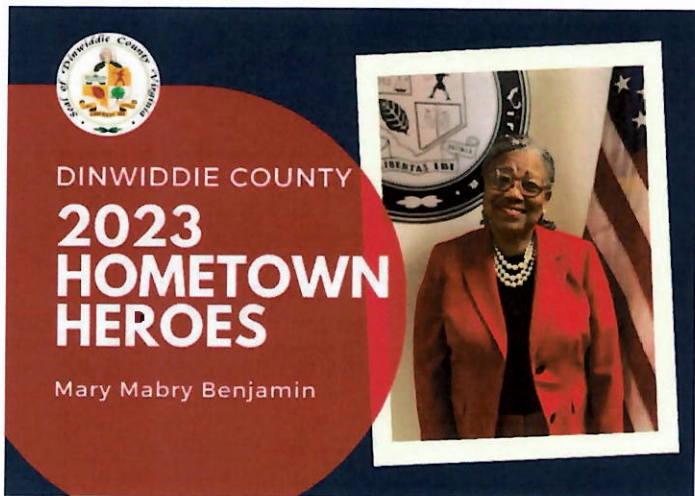
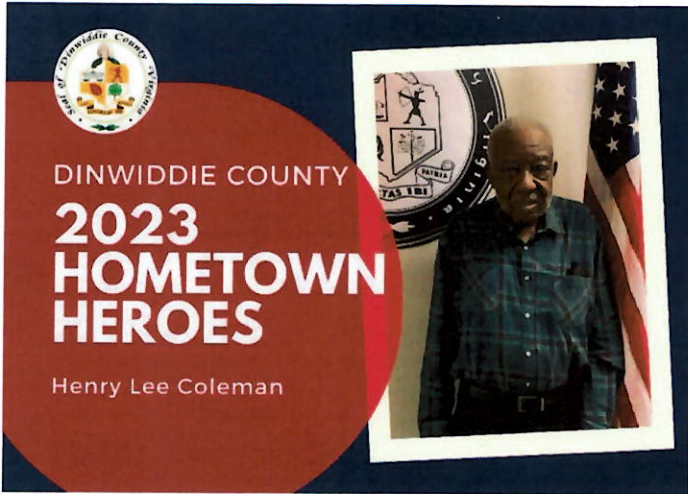
The County's Grants & Community Information Coordinator manages all aspects of the program.

The only cost involved is the framed award presented to each Hometown Hero.

The Dinwiddie County Board of Supervisors has recognized 26 Hometown Heroes since the program's inception in 2015. Information on the program along with photos and bios of each honoree can be found on the Dinwiddie County website:

<https://www.dinwiddieva.us/1348/Hometown-Heroes>

Dinwiddie County's 2023 Hometown Heroes:



Executive Summary

In 2014, the Board of Supervisors identified a need to recognize the contributions and accomplishments of Dinwiddie County's African-American citizens, as such; the Hometown Heroes program was born.

Each year since, nominations have been solicited from the community. Nominees must be a native or resident of Dinwiddie County, and must have made a significant contribution in one or more of the following areas: Agriculture, Business, Education, Faith Community, Government, Law Enforcement, Public Safety, and the Advancement of Civil Rights. A selection committee comprised of a member of the Board of Supervisors, previous honorees, and County staff, is convened to review and select Hometown Heroes for the current year.

Once selected, honorees are interviewed and a bio constructed for public consumption. The official recognition takes place during the February Board of Supervisors meeting. This is the most anticipated and well-attended Board meeting of the year. Guests include the honorees, their family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc... as well as elected officials, and the media.

Dinwiddie County
2023 VACo Achievement Award Submission
Dinwiddie County - Hometown Heroes Program

To date 26 individuals have received the distinction of "Hometown Hero". The program has been very well received by the community and earned an Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties earlier this year.

Brief Overview:

Dinwiddie County's Hometown Heroes Program recognizes the achievements and contributions of African-American citizens each year during Black History Month. The program enlists the support of the community by soliciting nominations. A selection committee reviews each nomination and selects the Hometown Heroes for the year. Honorees are recognized at the February Board of Supervisors meeting before a standing-room-only crowd. The program successfully addresses the need to recognize and celebrate the contributions of African-American citizens and engages the community in the process. To date, there have been 26 Hometown Heroes. The cost is minimal and the program would be easy to replicate in other localities.