

Roger Southern honored with DAR community service award

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contributed by JANELLE JOHNSON



Roger Southern, a Madison resident and longtime mail carrier with Stokesdale's post office, poses with the community service award he received on Oct. 27 for the many ways he serves his community, his postal patrons and his church. The award was presented by Janelle Johnson (left), Community Service chairperson of the James Hunter Chapter of the DAR, and Glover Lowery (right), with Madison United Methodist Church, where Southern attends. Photo courtesy of Janelle Johnson

MADISON/STOKESDALE – On Oct. 27, Roger Southern, a dedicated member of Madison United Methodist Church, was recognized by the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) with the prestigious Community Service Award. Presented by the James Hunter Chapter in Madison, the award celebrates individuals who demonstrate extraordinary commitment to serving their communities.

Janelle Johnson, Community Service chairperson of the James Hunter Chapter, said Southern's efforts embody the spirit of selflessness, much like the Good Samaritan.

"His dedication spans multiple outreach initiatives, including his work with the Hands of God Food Pantry," Johnson said. "When the pantry receives items it cannot use, Southern ensures they are redirected to those in need or donated to the Salvation Army, keeping them out of landfills. He also contributes to the church's clothing closet, personally delivering clothing to individuals in need whenever he learns of someone requiring assistance."

A mail carrier for over 40 years, Southern remains active in his 70s. Rather than retire when he became eligible a few years ago, he continues to work and uses his job with Stokesdale's post office to connect with and serve his postal patrons beyond delivering

their mail to them. He also uses his income to give back to others through his various outreach ministries.

As an example, when he heard about families with children on his route who were struggling to afford milk, he personally delivered some to them. Through his connections in the Postal Workers Association, he also identifies individuals who would benefit from prayer shawls, coordinating with his church's prayer shawl group to have them made.

Johnson noted that Southern's contributions extend to his church as well.

"He plays a vital role in the Men's Ministries' fundraiser, overseeing the preparation of boiled peanuts, from purchasing supplies to organizing the cooking process," she said. "On Sundays, he provides breakfast between services, personally purchasing and preparing a spread of meats, eggs, fruit, donuts, and biscuits. He also cooks meals for special church events such as Easter egg hunts and picnics

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