

THE COURIER

OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Montgomery County employees, departments recognized at annual Christmas lunch

By Sondra Hernandez, Staff writer Published 2:50 pm CST, Wednesday, December 5, 2018



Photo: Cody Bahn, Houston Chronicle / Staff Photographer

Taylor Nichols, forensic services, shakes hands County Judge Craig Doyal as she accepts the employee of the year award during the Montgomery County employees Annual Christmas Luncheon on Tuesday, Dec. 4, 2018 at The Lone Star Convention Center in Conroe.



Photo: Cody Bahn, Houston Chronicle / Staff Photographer

Montgomery County Constable pct. 1 Philip Cash tells the crowd that the people working for him are what make a good boss as he accepts the boss of the year award during the Montgomery

County employees Annual Christmas Luncheon on Tuesday, Dec. 4, 2018 at The Lone Star Convention Center in Conroe.



Photo: Cody Bahn, Houston Chronicle / Staff Photographer

County Attorney JD Lambright accepts the department of the year award for the County Attorney's Office during the Montgomery County employees Annual Christmas Luncheon on Tuesday, Dec. 4, 2018 at The Lone Star Convention Center in Conroe.

As Montgomery County's first medicolegal death investigator, each day holds a new challenge or situation for Taylor Nichols. In her job, she assists the doctors at Montgomery County Forensics Services and the five Justices of the Peace with death investigations. This often includes responding to scenes day or night and working with families to obtain crucial information.

Through her work, she's able to bring closure and answers to families who are going through the worst thing they've been through in their lives. For her dedication and compassion, Nichols was selected as the 2018 Employee of the Year for Montgomery County.

This award - and the ones for Best Boss and Department of the Year - were announced at Tuesday's annual Christmas luncheon for Montgomery County employees. Nichols was chosen from a group of 12 county employees who had been named Employee of the Month for each month of this year.

"On behalf of Commissioners Court, it is my privilege to stand here today and say thank you to each and every one of you for the job that you do. I know that you work very hard in the offices you are in and I want you to know how much we appreciate you," said County Judge Craig Doyal just before announcing the awards on Tuesday.

Nichols started in this position in October 2016. It was a new position created by the county. "As a new position, it did not come with a 'how-to' manual," said Dr. Kathryn Pinneri, head of the Forensics Department who nominated Nichols. "It took many meetings and phone calls to get the position started and she was critical to the process."

Pinneri explained that almost daily Nichols goes above and beyond in her job duties. "She has managed to locate the next of kin for several decedents who appeared to have no one to claim them and would otherwise have had a county burial," Pinneri said. "But she was able to provide closure for those families who had lost touch with their family member. Also the energy and enthusiasm she brings to the job is uplifting - something greatly needed in an office that deals with death and dying every day."

Nichols said she enjoys that everyday brings something new in her job and that she's able to help bring closure to families and help them get the answers they want so they can get the closure they need.

Boss of the Year

Constable Philip Cash from Precinct 1 was named 2018 Boss of the Year. One of his employees wrote, "Constable Cash is a top notch leader and has turned Precinct 1 around completely. He provides for a working environment that encourages everyone to productive and be proactive in response to the needs of the community. Constable Cash has provided me the opportunity and freedom to be a productive part of this department and anyone who comes to work with us has the same opportunity. Constable Cash supports his troops and provides training opportunities that help advance our knowledge and confidence in performing our jobs. Precinct 1 has been an outstanding place to work since I've been here."

Department of the Year

The County Attorney's Office, headed by J D Lambright, was named 2018 Department of the Year. The Government Affairs Division of the Montgomery County Attorney's Office nominated the County Attorney's Office for Department of the Year.

The County Attorney's office provides legal advice and other related services to a variety of county departments, agencies, boards and organizations, as well as to the County Judge and County Commissioners. The team members of the Government Affairs Division stated that "the staff works diligently in the performance of its duties to ensure the accuracy and promptness of responses to all queries, routinely going the extra mile. Additionally our staff is dedicated to the highest level of serve and attentiveness to clients' concerns."

Chair of the County Employee's Committee Natalie Laurent explained that employees can submit letters to nominate an Employee of the Month. She said the letters are reviewed by a group outside of this county, that has no affiliation with the county. A winner is chosen by this group. Then the selected employee is recognized before Commissioners Court each month. As the end of the year nears, employees may submit nominations for their boss or their department. Those letters are also read by the group not affiliated with the county and winners are selected from the nominations.

"It's been a privilege and an honor for me for these last 32 years to work with each and every one of you. I want to wish each of you the very best from the bottom of my heart and hope you have a very Merry Christmas and a blessed 2019," Doyal said in concluding Tuesday's luncheon.