

This year's recipient of Alexander County Citizen of the Year is well deserving of this award . First of all, he is a man of true character. He sets the example of a model husband and father and most of all a friend that all should follow. Whenever you need him, he is there, no matter what time of the day or night. Whether he is your good friend or acquaintance or a true stranger, he will answer the call of duty to be a good citizen and help those in need.

He is truly a hard example to follow, but one anyone should be proud to follow. Seldom do you see his picture in the paper, nor do you hear his name mentioned, but you know when he has been there.

He follows the scripture so well when Jesus says, "When you do something good for others, do it from the goodness of your heart, and not for fame or fortune. Not only does it glorify your heart, but also the heart of the Lord."

For all of his contributions to the citizens of Alexander County, he never brags or wants any recognition. His self-satisfaction comes from helping others. If a tenth of Alexander County citizens were as helpful as this man, we would be living in a much better place.

Although I cannot name all of the committees that he has served on, I can say that he has willingly served on any committee that he felt would benefit the citizens of Alexander County and make it a better place to live.

A priority of his has been the children of the county, as he served as a coach of various recreational sports and as a Cub and Boy Scout leader for many years. He is a former member of the Taylorsville Jaycees, where he spent countless hours as a leader and contributor to all of the service projects of this organization.

One of his greatest contributions as a good citizen is his dedication to Alexander County as a volunteer fire fighter, first responder, and strike team leader for the forestry service. He has been a member of the Taylorsville Fire Department for well over 30 years, where he has served as Chief, Asst Chief, Captain, First Responder Trainer and mentor. He does things at fires that should be done by someone much younger than he is and takes daring risks to save lives and property. As a first responder, the lives he has helped save are countless. Whatever he is doing, if there is a call, you can count on this man to answer the call. His family and work have often been put aside so many times to help others.

Although this man has given literally thousands of hours to the citizens of Alexander County with his firefighting and first

responding, he has also found the time to serve the citizens of Alexander County in various other capacities.

Although I stated that his family has had to endure to his doing good deeds for others, this man has always known his priorities and kept them in tact. His first loves are his wife, children and now, two grandchildren. While helping others has always been a passion of his, his true passion is his family.

This year's recipient attended Taylorsville High School and is a graduate of Appalachian State University. He taught school for two years at Ellendale Elementary and has worked in the furniture industry for over thirty-five years.

Although Denise has to tell a BIG lie to get this man here, I am sure he will forgive her as it's been for a very special and tremendous honor to receive this distinctive award and honor.

It is with great pleasure that I present to you this year's 2007 Citizen of the Year, Mr. Phillip Anthony Hartis.