

HRC 2026 AWARD NOMINATION FORM

(Please note: The form must be fully completed and submitted by **Tuesday, February 10, 2026**)



You are welcome to submit more than one nomination for consideration. However, please choose only one category per form.

This nomination is for consideration of the:

_____ Theodore W. Stephens Lifetime Achievement Award

_____ Lord D. Nickens Community Service Award

_____ Human Relations Award

_____ Claire S. Knight Youth Achievement Award

1. Nominator's name, address, telephone number, and email address:

2. Nominee's name, address, telephone number, and email address:

3. Attach a written statement that describes how this nominee meets the award criteria and deserves this award. Please be specific and provide details. Do not assume that everyone knows as much as you do about the extraordinary work your nominee is doing.

4. If possible, please consider attaching a brief resume for the nominee and letters from others who support this nomination.

HRC AWARD CRITERIA

INSTRUCTIONS

Each nomination may only be for one award. However, you may submit a nomination for each category on separate forms. Please keep the criteria in mind when composing your nomination.

To be considered, a nomination must be – 1) complete, which means you should fill in each section, and 2) received in the HRC office by the assigned deadline.

Please do not assume that the selection panel of HRC members knows the person or business you are nominating. Thus, the more details and specific information you provide, the more likely it will be that your nomination will receive serious consideration.

Please email your completed form and attachment(s) to
humanrelationscommission@frederickcountymd.gov.

THEODORE W. STEPHENS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

This award is given to an individual with at least 10 years of active involvement in community services in Frederick County. The person has compiled a record of outstanding contributions over a substantial period. They have done things like eliminating discriminatory practices in Frederick County, promoting awareness of cultural differences, and including disenfranchised and poor people in our community's life.

Theodore Stephens is a former director of the Human Relations Department. He has done much to help his church and the people of Frederick County. He consistently opposed discrimination in every way possible.

LORD D. NICKENS COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

This award is given to an individual or organization (school, business, non-profit agency, etc.) in Frederick County that has shown a strong commitment and compiled a solid record of achievement in promoting justice, tolerance, affirmative action, cultural diversity, and inclusion in the community at large.

Lord Nickens was a community service leader of the highest order in the Frederick community. During his almost 100 years of life, he was a civil rights leader, active member, and president of the local NAACP chapter for many years, and a founding member and longtime contributor to the Frederick Community Action Agency. He attended several HRC events and activities and passed on his vivid memories of life in a segregated America. Additionally, he never hesitated to explain why segregation was wrong, even when it created a problem for him. In 2007, a street in downtown Frederick was named after Lord Nickens,

and in 2014, a mural honoring him was unveiled on the side of a building at 629 N. Market Street.

Some examples of community service activities that would be worthy of consideration are:

- Civil rights outreach and education.
- Mentoring, apprenticeships, and internships.
- Support of school or community multi-cultural programs.
- A business that supports youth activities or participates in programs for adults with disabilities or who are homeless.
- Special training programs to assist people obtain emergency housing or medical care, purchase a home, or find a job.
- Providing educational assistance, including teaching language classes.

HUMAN RELATIONS AWARD

This award is presented to a business located in Frederick County that has provided leadership in civil rights or social justice activities or provided assistance or support to people in need.

Some examples of activities that could support a nomination for this award would include:

- Develop programs that oppose harassment or promote accessibility for people with disabilities.
- Advocate the hiring of people who are underrepresented in the workplace.
- Demonstrate a commitment to diversity, inclusion, and fairness.
- Create new solutions to discrimination problems.
- Establish a mentor program to assist minority employees.

CLAIRE S. KNIGHT YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

This award is given to a Frederick County resident under the age of 30 who has demonstrated leadership and achievement in human rights activities, especially helping others in need.

Claire Knight was a 17 year old senior at Middletown High School whose life tragically ended in a traffic accident in 2015. She worked closely with the deaf community and was an honor student fluent in American Sign Language. She was loved and respected by everyone and touched many lives in profound ways.