



National Newspaper Association
309 S Providence Rd
Columbia, MO 65203
573.777.4980 Fax: 573.777.4985

**Emma C. McKinney Memorial Award
2014
NNA Checklist**

Nominee Name: Judy P. Griffin

Newspaper Name & Location: Forney Messenger, Forney, TX

Nominated by: Cary Griffin

NNA Membership Information: Member through 1/31/2015; verified 4/24/2014

Year Nominated/Last Year Eligible for Award: 2011/2016 - (Renominated in 2014)

Completed Nomination Form?: Yes

Completed Nomination Letter?: Yes

Documentation Supporting Nomination Criteria to Support the Areas Below? - Yes

- Professional Achievement
- Community Leadership and Service
- NNA/National Involvement

Biographical Sketch of Nominee?: Yes

Three Letters of Reference?: Yes: 4: Brian M. Brooks; Ray Pike; John L. Taylor; Laurie Barkham

Photo Included?: Yes

FORNEY MESSENGER INC.

Publisher of Kaufman County's Oldest Newspaper • Since 1896

P. O. Box 936
201 W. Broad St.
Forney, Texas 75126

CARY L. GRIFFIN
President

972-564-3121
Fax: 972-552-3599

E-mail News: messengernews@sbcglobal.net
E-mail Advertising: messengerads@sbcglobal.net

May 1, 2014

To the Emma C. McKinney Award Selection Committee
In re: Bio of nominee Judy P. Griffin

Judy P. Griffin has been co-owner of the *Forney Messenger*, the only weekly newspaper in Forney and the oldest continuously-published newspaper in Kaufman County, with her husband Cary L. Griffin since the Griffins purchased the *Messenger* October 15, 1972.

Almost immediately, Judy showed her talents as a business manager and from the day the Griffins purchased the paper until now has been its business manager *de facto*. She officially received the title of business manager when the Griffins formed an S Corporation, Forney Messenger Inc., in 1990, at which time she also became treasurer of the corporation.

Judy began covering meetings of the school board and City Council for the paper during the mid-1980s in order to help publisher Cary Griffin, whose responsibilities as the paper's primary reporter by that time were growing considerably. Judy proved so astute in her coverage of these often complex meetings that Cary finally gave her full responsibility for covering them. While covering these meetings, Judy helped the paper develop positive and strong relationships with the city and the school district. Later, after a part-time reporter resigned, Judy also began covering meetings of the Kaufman County Commissioners Court, a responsibility she continues to carry out faithfully and which has also borne fruit in a good relationship between the county and the *Forney Messenger*.

Judy has proven very good at collecting overdue ad and other accounts.

Judy represents the *Forney Messenger* and its parent company very well in the community at large. She has served on several committees of and presently serves on the Board of Directors of the Forney Chamber of Commerce; has served as a member of the board of the Forney Arts Council, and is on the Ellen Brooks West Memorial Library board of directors. She often brings insights she has gained on these bodies to bear in her reporting.

Because of Judy's considerable acumen as a financial manager, Forney Messenger Inc. has no outstanding debt, and that enabled the paper to survive the steep economic downturn of 2008-2009 with little financial damage.

The Forney Messenger is the only independent newspaper in Kaufman County.

Emma C. McKinney Award

2011 Nomination Form

Nominee Name

Judy P. Griffin

Position Secretary-Treasurer

Newspaper Forney Messenger

Address Forney Messenger, Inc.

P. O. Box 936

City, State Zip Forney, TX 75126

Phone 1-972-564-3121 Fax 1-972-552-3599

E-mail : messengernews@sbcglobal.net

Nominator's Name

Cary Griffin

Position: Publisher,
Forney Messenger Inc.

Affiliation Forney Messenger Inc.

Address P. O. Box 936

City, State Zip Forney, TX 75126

Phone 1-972-564-3121 Fax 1-972-564-3599

_messengernews@sbcglobal.net

E-mail messengernews@sbcglobal.net

Professional Achievement: Describe the nominee's professional background, achievements, awards, and activities, which illustrate how the nominee exemplifies the best in journalism and serves as an inspiration to others.

Judy has promoted the Forney Messenger by being one of its "faces" in the community of Forney for more than 38 years. She has regularly covered City Council and school board meetings and through her work she has built positive relationships with key community leaders.

Community Leadership and Service: Describe how the nominee is an advocate for his/her community; how he/she serves the community on a local, state and/or regional level. Provide specific examples of projects in areas of community service, and outcome. Judy serves her community on the Library Board and on the Board of Directors of the Forney Chamber of Commerce. She has also served on several Chamber of Commerce committees. She is also treasurer of both the Forney Library Board and the Forney Arts Council.

NNA/National Involvement: Recognizing that a nominee may have moved beyond local or state involvement to a broader level, include service to NNA and other regional/national/international service organizations or causes in which the nominee has been involved. (Evidence of NNA service required.)

Please return (1) this form and (2) letter of nomination by May 2, 2011 to:

McKinney Award



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April 25, 2011

National Newspaper Association
P. O. Box 7540
Columbia, MO 65205-7540

In re: Nomination for the 2011 Emma C. McKinney Award

To Whom It May Concern:


Please find enclosed my nomination of Judy P. Griffin for the 2011 Emma C. McKinney Award.

Judy has been co-owner of the *Forney Messenger* in Forney, Texas since October, 1972 and was made Secretary-Treasurer of Forney Messenger Inc. when the paper was incorporated in 1991.

Although Judy holds no professional awards, she has served the cause of journalism in the community of Forney faithfully for almost 39 years. Although a speech and government major while in college and a teacher by profession, she proved willing to gain hands-on journalism skills from day to day and as a result grew with the *Messenger* from the moment Judy and I purchased the paper. In addition to managing the business side of the paper with remarkable organization and accuracy, she jumped right in and learned to cover stories within months. As she has grown, she has evolved into a devoted reporter and a champion of First and Fourth Amendment rights.

In my opinion, Judy embodies the tenacity and "can do" spirit that should be a distinguishing mark of the independent, grass-roots press.

Very truly yours,


Cary L. Griffin
Editor and Publisher
clg:hs

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May 23, 2011

To the Emma C. McKinney Award Selection Committee
In re: Bio of nominee Judy P. Griffin

Judy P. Griffin has been co-owner of the *Forney Messenger*, the only weekly newspaper in Forney and the oldest continuously-published newspaper in Kaufman County, with her husband Cary L. Griffin since the Griffins purchased the *Messenger* October 15, 1972.

Almost immediately, Judy showed her talents as a business manager and from the day the Griffins purchased the paper until now has been its business manager *de facto*. She officially received the title of business manager when the Griffins formed an S Corporation, Forney Messenger Inc., in 1990, at which time she also became treasurer of the corporation.

Judy began covering meetings of the school board and City Council for the paper during the mid-1980s in order to help publisher Cary Griffin, whose responsibilities as the paper's primary reporter by that time were growing considerably. Judy proved so astute in her coverage of these often complex meetings that Cary finally gave her full responsibility for covering them. While covering these meetings, Judy helped the paper develop positive and strong relationships with the city and the school district. Later, after a part-time reporter resigned, Judy also began covering meetings of the Kaufman County Commissioners Court, a responsibly she continues to carry out faithfully and which has also borne fruit in a good relationship between the county and the *Forney Messenger*.

Judy is also the paper's primary advertising salesperson—and on the other end, has proven very good at collecting overdue ad and other accounts.

Judy represents the *Forney Messenger* and its parent company very well in the community at large. She has served on several committees of and presently serves on the Board of Directors of the Forney Chamber of Commerce; is a member of the board of the recently-formed Forney Arts Council, and is on the Ellen Brooks West Memorial Library board of directors. She often brings insights she has gained on these bodies to bear in her reporting.

Because of Judy's considerable acumen as a financial manager, Forney Messenger Inc. presently has no outstanding debt, and that has enabled the paper to survive the recent steep economic downturn with little financial damage.

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May 23, 2011

To the Emma C. McKinney Award Selection Committee
In re: Accomplishments of the *Forney Messenger*

Under the ownership of Cary and Judy Griffin, the *Forney Messenger* has grown in the past 38.5 years from a six-page broadsheet with only a small core of regular subscribers into a comprehensive and credible source of local and county news.

Almost from the time the Griffins took over publication, the paper, which in the past had been rather isolated, began reaching out to its companion publications in Texas and beyond. One of the first major acts for the new owners was to join the Texas Press Association and the National Newspaper Association. In 1973, the *Forney Messenger* staff attended their first meeting of the North and East Texas Press Association.

The paper earned better newspaper award certificates from NETPA between 1972 and 1985. In 1983, the paper earned a first place in editorial writing and in 1985 earned a first place in feature writing. (An increasing volume of responsibility has prevented the *Messenger* from entering better newspaper contests in recent years.) In 1985 and 1986, the paper earned the Media Award from Keep Texas Beautiful, Inc. for its promotion of a beautification effort that in both years earned Forney the Governor's Achievement Award for Beautification—the only community ever to have won this recognition in two consecutive years. More recently, the *Messenger* was nominated several times by the Forney school board for the Media Award of the Texas Association of School Boards for outstanding coverage of local education, and each time, the *Messenger* got the award. The *Messenger* has also earned recognition several times from Metro Creative Services for its annual Christmas issue.

The *Messenger* staff attended their first GAC in the mid-1970s and attended their first NNA convention in 1979 in Orlando, Florida.

In 1997, the *Messenger* received a Texas Historical Marker designating the paper, which began publication in 1896, as an official part of Texas history.

CITY OF
★
FORNEY

TEXAS

May 19, 2011

Sara Dickson
P.O. Box 50301
Arlington, VA 22205

Dear Ms. Dickson:

It is my pleasure to recommend Judy Griffin of the Forney Messenger to be a recipient of the Emma C. McKinney Award. As City Manager for the City of Forney, Texas, I have had the pleasure and privilege to work with Mrs. Griffin and the Forney Messenger for over five years.

Mrs. Griffin represents the highest integrity of professional journalism and community reporting. She spends countless hours attending and reporting on major and minor events that affect our city. Mrs. Griffin also diligent in her efforts to highlight the positive and endearing aspects of our community.

Mrs. Griffin understands the vital relationship between a community newspaper and the people it reaches and informs weekly. The Forney Messenger is not only our newspaper of record for the City of Forney, it is an integral part of the communication to the entire community.

I appreciate the opportunity to write a letter of recommendation on Mrs. Griffin's behalf, and I look forward to her consideration for this prestigious award.

Sincerely,



Brian M. Brooks
City Manager

JOHN L. TAYLOR DDS 1 GA-312321111 MAY 23 2011 01:00PM 10017002

**FAMILY & COSMETIC
DENTISTRY**

John L. Taylor, D.D.S.

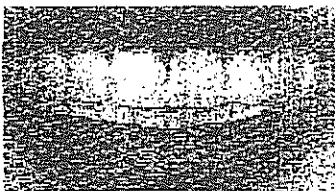
Ms. Sara Dickson
Programs and Outreach Manager
National Newspaper Association

Dear Ms. Dickson

I am honored to have been asked to supply support for Mrs. Judy Griffin and her nomination for the McKinney Award. Let me qualify myself. I have been a member of this community since 1987, served as Chamber of Commerce President on two separate terms, several terms on its Board of Directors, and I am currently serving my third term as a school board trustee. Let being said, on to Mrs. Griffin.

Mrs. Griffin - Judy - and I have been friends for almost 25 years. In all those years, I have seen Judy support the community in many different ways. Her service to Forney included being a director or member of many boards and committees, such as the Keep Forney Beautiful, Inc. board. This organization was instrumental in developing and implementing an environmental enhancement program for the entire area of Forney.

Judy and The Forney Messengers have been tireless supporters of the Chamber of Commerce and its efforts to enhance the business environment in Forney. It was Judy that implemented the idea for the "Shop Forney First" Campaign within the Chamber.



FAMILY & COSMETIC
DENTISTRY

John L. Taylor, D.D.S.

Judy has served in some capacity on the Chamber Auction Committee and then supported the auction financially as well for over twenty years.

Another area that Judy and the Forney Messengers wholeheartedly support is the school district and its student population. Judy has the Messenger reporting on any and everything that is school related. She has many articles that show any accomplishments of the students and not just academics or athletics, but of the good citizenship that students show but don't get credit for.

The greatest accomplishment, I believe, is her unselfish support from the inception of the Forney Education Leadership Foundation. This group works on a yearly basis to supply each graduating student with a scholarship that can be used to attend any form of higher education that the student chooses.

In closing, it is my opinion, that the Forney Community is a much better town and we would have a difficult time finding someone that has supported Forney like Judy has for such a long time.

Judy Griffin is very deserving of the nomination and would represent the past winners of the McKinney Award well.

Sincerely
Dr. John L. Taylor

Ray Pike
President
/COO
Publisher



200 W. Marvin Street
P.O. Box 877
Waxahachie, Texas 75168
Phone: (972) 937-3310
Fax: (972) 937-1139

May 20, 2011

To whom it may concern:
Re: Nomination of Judy Griffin

I am very pleased to nominate Ms. Judy Griffin for such an honor. I have had the privilege of working with Judy for the past five years, which has been my tenure here at the Daily Light. Judy has been a print customer of ours for over the past 15 years and I believe I have come to know her pretty well these past five years. Her skills as a newspaper woman have no equal. It continues to amaze me each week for what she and her husband make happen every week with their publication. Judy acts as reporter – circulation manager – advertising manager / salesperson. For their size publication and with the manpower they have I know of no other operation that does so much for their community. But, Judy doesn't stop with just publishing a paper each week. She is an active community volunteer, from chamber board to Memorial Library board. I wish I knew more publishers who wear all hats like she does.

Respectively,

Ray Pike
Publisher
Waxahachie Daily Light

From: laurie barkham <lauriebarkham@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tue, May 24, 2011 2:48:01 PM
Subject: Emma C. McKinney Award

Dear Sara,

I would like to recommend Judy Griffin for the Emma C. McKinney Award. I have known Judy since I was in High School which has been over 30 years now. I have been the President of the Forney Chamber of Commerce for over 10 years now and Judy has been a very active member in the Chamber since before I was the President, she has served as Treasurer and is currently serving on the Board of Directors, Membership Committee, and Quarterly Mixer Chairperson. She truly cares about what is best for each committee or organization she is involved with. Judy is everywhere. In addition to her Chamber work, Judy is active on the Ellen Brooks West Memorial Library Board where she is also serving as treasurer and is member of the Forney Arts Council. For the Forney Messenger, she regularly covers City Council and School Board Members and sits in on Planning and Zoning Commission.

I think Judy would be a great recipient of the Emma C. McKinney Award and I would appreciate your consideration in giving her the award.

Sincerely,
Laurie Barkham
President
Forney Chamber of Commerce
972-564-2233
lauriebarkham@sbcglobal.net

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