

Presentation to Commissioners' Court
for the Vital Statistic 5-Star 'Exemplary'

Award March 8, 2022

In 2002 the Texas Department of State Health Services began their 5-Star Award Program.

Eight years later, I took office in 2011 and that year the County Clerk's office received the County's **FIRST** 5-Star Award!

This year marks ten years the Smith County Clerk's Vital Statistic Department has obtained this outstanding distinction!

Nine of the past ten years we have had the honor of being awarded the prestigious 5-Star "Exemplary" Award, and we have earned this award again this year.

Our Vital Statistics Department consists of two full-time Deputy Clerks, Jimmie Alaniz and Tammy Toles, as well as a host of back-ups which includes Robin Holland, Tammy Platzer, and Nathaniel Fields Jr. Instrumental in obtaining this award in the past have been some amazing Deputies - Rebecca Armbruster, Veronica Arteaga, and Brenda Folmar.

Once again this year, the department as a *whole* pulled off another win for the citizens of Smith County.

Each of the deputy clerks who work in this department consider it their paramount duty to ensure all citizens receive excellent customer service in an efficient manner and always with a smile.

Each Clerk also works to achieve excellence in the dept on a daily basis which has allowed the County Clerk's office to obtain an award in this field for ten years.

Unfortunately, because of the pandemic in 2020, the State did not offer the award to any county in Texas.

There are 325 local Registrars in the State. This year Smith County was 1 of 19 local registrars to receive the prestigious 5-Star EXEMPLARY award.

I'm extremely proud of each one of my deputy clerks and the work they do for Smith County and for my office.

Each one of these amazing deputies have a strong desire and an unrelenting drive to achieve the highest award available.

I love each and every one of you. And today I say, you each are so deserving of the 2021 'Exemplary' Five Star Award and Ribbon! You should be very proud of yourselves.

Congratulations to all!!

Karen Phillips
Smith County Clerk