

Jon Edens and John Meredith presented with distinguished service award

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By **newsdesk**
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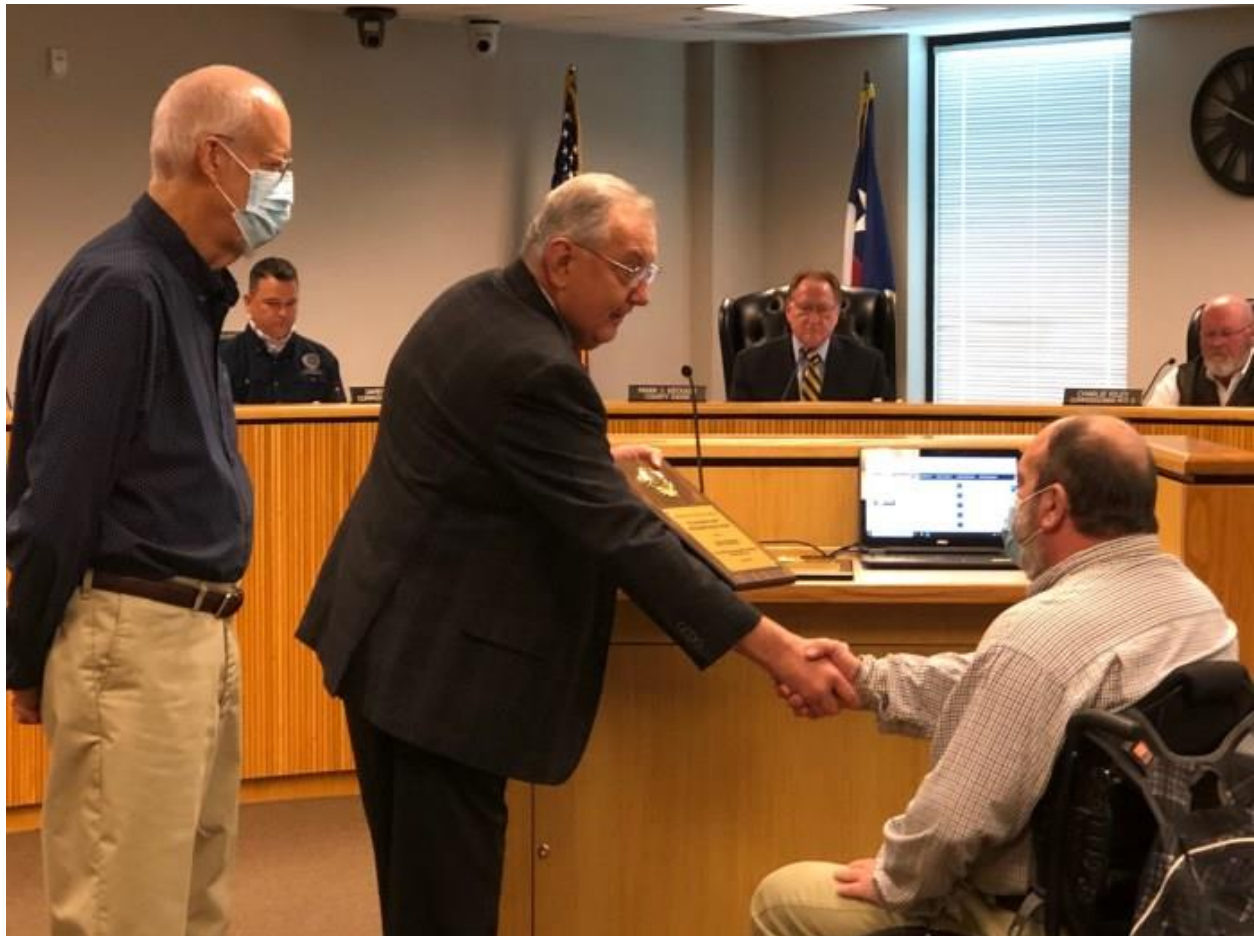


Montgomery County Historical Commission Chair Larry Foerster, John Meredith, Jon Edens in the front. Behind them is the Commissioners Court; Precinct 4 Commissioner James Metts, Precinct 3 Commissioner James Noack, Montgomery

County Judge Mark Keough, Precinct 1 Commissioner Mike Meador and Precinct 2 Commissioner Charlie Riley.

Jon Edens and John Meredith, who have devoted their time and energy into restoring the Conroe Community Cemetery, were presented with the William Harley Gandy Distinguished Service Award.

They were presented the award by the Montgomery County Historical Commission during the regular Montgomery County Commissioners Court meeting on November 10.



Montgomery County Historical Commission Chair Larry Foerster presenting Jon Edens award. John Meredith and Commissioners Court are also pictured.

Historical Commission Chair Larry Foerster said this award is presented to those special individuals, corporations or organizations, who have exhibited distinguished leadership, initiative and dedication in the preservation of the history of Montgomery County.

“Many of you have been following the work that’s been done by the 501c3 non-profit organization called the Conroe Community Cemetery Restoration Project,” said Foerster. “It was started through the vision of a man named Jon Edens, who is with us today and one of the recipients of the award. He contacted me 12 to 13 years ago, and told me about this lost African American Cemetery buried deep in the woods in East Conroe. He did most of the leg work; I gave him a little bit of guidance.”

Foerster said one of the things Edens did was create the Conroe Community Cemetery Restoration Project (CCCRP).

“From that, there’s an amazing group of individuals from around Montgomery County, who have captured the vision of preserving this historical cemetery, where we have a Buffalo Soldier buried, who I’m pleased to say will be recognized by Montgomery County and the County Veterans Commission tomorrow morning (November 11), with the recognition of the bridge going across Alligator Creek, which will now be called the Sergeant Luther James Dorsey Bridge,” said Foerster.



Jon Edens talking at Commissioners Court after receiving award.

Foerster said after Jon Edens founded the CCRP, a man came forward named John Meredith, who has an incredible talent related to archaeology, geology and so forth.



Montgomery County Historical Commission Chair Larry Foerster presenting award to John Meredith.

"John told me that he's been out to the Cemetery 98 times in the last year or so, most of the time helping with the cutting down of all the undergrowth and so forth that's there," said Foerster. "Today, I'm proud on behalf of the Historical Commission to recognize these individuals with the William Harley Gandy Distinguished Service Award. William Harley Gandy was the first Chairman of our Commission; my predecessor by a number of people."