



# MEDIA RELEASE

OFFICE OF COUNTY MAYOR GLENN JACOBS

400 Main Street, Suite 615, Knoxville, TN 37902

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 29, 2021

Contact:	Mike Donila	Abbey Harris	Mary Pom Claiborne
	865-306-1177 cell	865-215-4579 office	865-215-8767 office
		865-705-1681 cell	865-650-4146 cell

## **Knox County Archives and Doris Martinson Receive 2021 Distinguished Service Award**

*KNOXVILLE, Tenn.* — The Knox County Archives is receiving national recognition for its longtime work to save important records and provide them to the public.

The Society of American Archivists (SAA) announced the Knox County Archives and its former manager, the late Doris Rivers Martinson, are the recipients of the organization's [2021 Distinguished Service Award](#). The SAA is headquartered in Chicago, Illinois, and credited Knox County for the “many steps to preserve and make accessible its records to residents.”

The Knox County Archives preserves local court records going back to 1792. It also saves and organizes wedding records, deeds, school records, and other important documents people may need. Employees said one of the best parts of the job is helping people who have been desperately searching for an item.

“We have people come to us for records the need to receive Social Security when they retire. They may need documents for the new Real ID. We help people find records for researching their family history and genealogy,” said archives manager Eric Head. “Sometimes it can be emotional. I've had people literally cry on the floor when we were able to find something that they were looking for a long time.”

Head said the staff is honored to be recognized with former manager Doris Martinson. She retired in February 2020 after a 33-year career with the Knox County Archives. Martinson died January 27, 2021. The Knox County Archives Reading Room on the second floor of the East Tennessee History Center is named in Martinson's honor.

“Doris set a standard of excellence. All the different courts have their own way of doing things. She was able to compile and bring them together from their separate places to make this a ‘one stop shop.’ She focused on serving people and organizing the archives so we can quickly find what you need,” said Head.

You can see a video version of this Knox County Archives [story on YouTube](#).

**Note for television stations:** You may download a VO/SOTVO and PKG version of this story at the links below. Follow the links and a download button will appear in the top-left of your browser to save the zip file to your computer. The zip files contain mp4 videos and a pdf copy of the script.

**Link:** [Download VO/SOTVO zip \(mp4s and script\)](#)      **Link:** [Download PKG zip \(mp4 and script\)](#)

###