

March 11, 2009

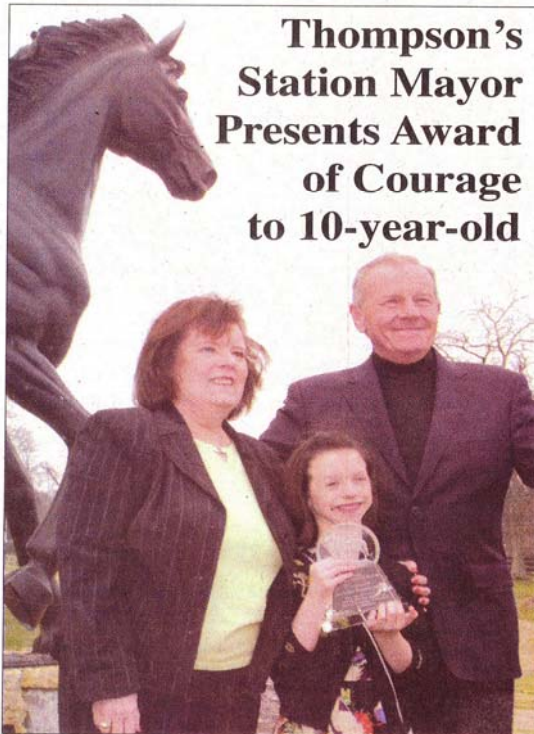


Photo by Ashley Bone

Thompson's Station Mayor Leon Heron presents 10-year-old Maddie Adams with the inaugural Roderick Award of Courage. She saved the life of her grandmother, Jan Adams, left.

Thompson's Station Mayor Presents Award of Courage to 10-year-old

BY ASHLEY BONE
Staff Reporter
abone@c-dh.net

In 1863, a brave steed named Roderick fought his way to his owner after receiving three gunshot wounds during a Civil War battle. The horse received a fourth and fatal wound on his way to his owner and was buried on Thompson's Station property that is now called Roderick Place.

Thompson's Station Mayor Leon Heron announced last year that an annual award would be presented to a Williamson County resident who showed bravery in the face of adversity as Roderick did.

On the 146th anniversary of the battle, last Thursday, March 5, a Franklin girl was honored for mirroring Roderick's bravery. Maddie Adams was the inaugural recipient of Roderick Award of Courage for performing the Heimlich maneuver and saving her grandmother's life.

The award ceremony was held at the life-size bronze Roderick statue, which was unveiled last year at Roderick Place.

Heron shared the courageous story.

"When a piece of food was lodged

► AWARD

CONTINUED FROM P 1

in her grandmother's windpipe and she was not speaking or breathing, Maddie did not waver," Heron said. "She flawlessly performed the Heimlich maneuver four times and Jan Adams is here because of Madeline Grayson Adams."

In the presence of elected town and county officials and residents, Heron and the Roderick Founder's Committee presented Maddie with a crystal trophy and a \$1,000 check. Maddie's parents, Deanna and Craig Adams, her brother Hayden Adams, and her paternal grandmother Jan Adams, whose life she saved,

were in attendance.

Craig Adams said he's thankful that his mother is still alive today.

"And for quality television programming that teaches the Heimlich maneuver," he said. Maddie learned the maneuver from Disney's "The Suite Life of Zach and Cody."

Maddie also addressed the crowd.

"Thank you everybody who has put lots of effort into this," she said. "Thank you for the award and the money. Thank you Mr. Mayor and all the friends and family who came."



Photo by Ashley Bone

Maddie Grayson Adams hugging her grandmother, Jan Adams, after the award ceremony.

Following the ceremony, a luncheon was held at the Thompson's Station Com-

munity Center where Jan Adams addressed the crowd.

"When a mother gives birth to a child, she doesn't expect that her child's child will one day save her life," Jan Adams said. "I thought I would be dying in front of my grandchildren. It was not by coincidence that Maddie was watching "The Suite Life of Zach and Cody" and I'm thankful that the Lord intervened and helped Maddie save my life."

The Roderick Award of Courage will be presented annually on the anniversary of Roderick's death on March 5, 1863.