

Strongest Link in the Chain
Nomination Form

Nominee Name_____Cindy Barton_____ Department_____Archives_____

Your Name_____Kenda Woodard_____ Department_____Main Street_____

Date Submitted_____June 2, 2016_____

Is this monthly nomination? **Yes** No If yes, which month _____May 2016_____

Is this an annual nomination? Yes **No** If yes, which year_____

Department Director Signature_____Toussaint Kirk_____

Reason for the Nomination

Using the program criteria, explain in detail why the employee deserves to be recognized as the *Strongest Link in the Chain*. Use a separate sheet if necessary.

The City of Griffin and Spalding County is very fortunate to have Cindy Barton as its Archivist. Over the last eighteen months, Cindy has spent hundreds of hours digging through old musty, dusty records and obscure web sites gathering information about World War I Veterans from our community. Cindy started this research project based on only a couple small clues that there might be WWI soldiers who died in service during the war, but were never honored in Griffin's Veterans Memorial Park.

In 2014, using rigorous and modern research methods, additional names of fallen soldiers began to be discovered. Slowly and deliberately, the names of these 15 men were uncovered: from 100 year old records accessed with modern digital technology, through cracked old photographs, crumbling newspaper pages, and dusty old books, their stories were revealed.

The service member's sacrifice had gone unrecognized until recently because of a lack of information about their service. However, due to Cindy's due diligence it was learned that some died on the battlefield or in European Base hospitals. It was also discovered that some of these soldiers died before they could join the fight in France: they died in training camp or on transport ships, they died because of accidents or disease – primarily during the Spanish Influenza epidemic of that era, or of the infections that attacked them in their weakened condition. Some may never have seen their families again after leaving Griffin for perhaps the first, and certainly the last time --- the goodbye at the train station on Broad Street was their last glimpse of home. But no matter whether they died in Georgia or in France, these men died as soldiers.

Due to the hard work and dedication of Ms. Barton on Monday, May 30, 2016, during the Memorial Day services held at Veterans Memorial Park, the names of those 15 formerly "Lost Soldiers" 12 of whom were African American, was added to a plaque alongside their comrades at the foot of the Doughboy Monument.

Please consider Cindy as May's Strongest Link.

Human Resources Use Only:

Previous discipline in last 12 months_____

Final Rank_____ HR Signature_____