

NP Bethanie,

Being a national officer is one thing. Being the partner of a national officer is another. But being the partner of a national officer while planning a wedding, running and becoming mayor, and continuing to serve in an advisory capacity for a state organization is something entirely different. That is exactly what Scott did this year, and it is why I proudly nominate him, without hesitation, for the Rob Ray Memorial Award for Special Partner. This nomination isn't made lightly.

This year required sacrifice in ways that I could never have fully anticipated. At one point, I was gone six weekends in a row, right in the middle of planning a wedding, with no real time for us in between. January started with constant travel, sometimes together and often apart. Whenever we were, Scott stepped in when members needed support. He had his own calls, his own questions to answer, and did so without expectation or recognition. But as important as that service was, this award is about something deeper.

This award is about the person who keeps the home fires burning while their partner is out chasing dreams or, more often, sitting in a small office trying to carry the weight of responsibility as well. Scott did that every single day.

In the middle of this year, I also faced serious health scares. We had moments where doctors were whispering the word cancer. It was terrifying. Scott showed up to appointments without hesitation, held the fear with me, and helped keep me grounded. At the same time, he understood that throwing myself into Jaycees work, while also navigating a new job, was one of the few things that helped calm my anxiety. He never questioned it. He never asked for anything from me. He simply made space for me to cope in the way I needed, while making sure I never felt alone.

We spent our only Valentines Day as an engaged couple apart, as I was attending another state's convention. That weekend, Scott received a middle of the night phone call that I had totaled my car in a snowstorm in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Not exactly a storybook Valentines Day. He immediately booked last minute flights, showed up without hesitation, and never once made me feel like a burden or inconvenience.

Throughout the year, he listened to hours of venting, frustration, and overwhelm. And every time the weight felt too heavy, he calmly reminded me, "How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time." Those silly words grounded me more times than I can count.

While I was serving, Scott was quietly holding everything else together. He kept the house running. He took care of my princess of a cat. He kept my calendar straight. He drove me to and from more trips than I realized we would go on. He made sure that life continued to function while I focused on serving this organization and its members.

We closed out the year still Jayceeing together, spending our honeymoon in separate cabins in Tennessee so we could continue to fulfill the commitments we had made and support the people we signed up to serve. And even then, never once did he make me feel alone. Never once did I question whether he was in my corner.

I honestly do not know how Scott managed everything he carried this year. What I do know is that he did it with patience, steadiness, humor, and unwavering support. He never asked me to choose between my role and our life together. Instead, he stood beside me and made it possible for me to do both.

That is what this award represents. And that is why Scott is so deeply deserving of this honor.

In Jaycee Spirit,

Morgan Tedder
2026 JCI USA NVP