



PHOTO BY WILL HARRIS

*The Focus' own Mike Steely was recognized by the East Tennessee Historical Society last week.*

an archive program which was established in 1982. The "History in the Media Award" is presented to someone in the field of broadcast, print, media or internet for outstanding contributions to the promotion of the region's history. "In his busy career as

Steely has written about the history of many neighborhoods throughout Knox County and also stories about surrounding counties.

"The Knoxville Focus deserves a lot of credit for giving the space in the

columnist, and reporter. Mike's experience spans nearly 50 years and covers all roles of the newspaper business including owner, publisher, reporter, columnist and sales. Mike's integrity and dedication are second to none. His

Tennessee goes back to 1782," he pointed out. "My forefathers settled in upper Cumberland County when it was still considered Kentucky. I've been interested in history ever since my grandmother started telling

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## SUPPORTING EACH OTHER



## Cultural competency, bathroom policy addressed at board of education meeting

**By Pete Gavella**

Last Wednesday evening's meeting of the Knox County School Board was a time when citizens gathered to express their opinions on the emotional and controversial issues of cultural competency and the district's bathroom policy concerning transgender students. Many of the speakers received applause from the large audience and some even received standing ovations. There were 13 people signed up to speak in the public forum portion of the meeting. However, some of those 13 were not present to speak when their name was called.