

ADAM LANDRESS - nominated by Shana Smith

Adam Landress exemplifies the epitome of a remarkable father figure. As a single father of a 13-year-old girl, he has found the balance in being a parent, friend, and girl-dad. He has built a trust and communication with his daughter that is rarely seen, especially when dealing with a teenager. He encourages her passions, helps with homework, and is a pro at taking care of her health. He's the dad who never misses a doctor or dentist appointment. Adam recognizes the importance of fostering meaningful connections. He carves out dedicated time for annual trips with his daughter, creating cherished memories and strengthening their bond through shared experiences. They both love a good rollercoaster. This one-on-one time allows them to deepen their relationship and fosters open communication, laying the groundwork for a strong parent-child connection. Not only is he a wonderful father to his daughter, but he extends his love and support to his fiancée's teenagers as well. He embraces them as part of his family, treating them with the same care and affection as his own children. From picking them up from school to including them in family trips, Adam ensures they feel valued and included, fostering a sense of belonging within the family. Children who have experienced divorce often seek out strong connections with parental figures who provide love, support, and stability, as these relationships help fulfill their emotional needs and provide a sense of security and belonging. Through his love and care, Adam has become a trusted parental figure for all the children in his life, fostering strong connections and creating a supportive environment. In a world where some people struggle to be a good parent to just their own children, Adam has demonstrated that being a great dad (of biological children and/or step-kiddos) is easy if you approach it with love, dedication, and a willingness to be actively involved in every aspect of your children's lives. By prioritizing their well-being, offering unwavering support, and creating lasting memories, Adam exemplifies that being a remarkable father is not about perfection but about showing up and being there for your kids every step of the way.

BILL RUTA - nominated by Avery, Charlotte, Madelyn, & Elsie Ruta

Our dad is the best. He works so hard and is such a great and works on being a patient human. He takes each of us on special day dates - we have four kids in our house! And he lets Mom buy all the plants she wants because it makes her happy! When he comes home from flying trips, he always brings us a present from wherever he goes, and our brother loves airplanes, and he gets him a model from wherever he

goes - it must be hard to find each time! Our dad makes sure to be here for big events, like when I lost my tooth (Elsie) - and took me to get my new bike (Avery and Charlotte) and took me to get my hair cut (Madelyn). Our dad makes time for each of us, tells us he loves us every day, hugs us, and plays with us every day. He is kind and loves playing daddy robot - and he's just THE BEST!

BRANDON CARTER - nominated by Aryanna Carter

There's honestly no one like our dad. Between the two of us, we've done 10-15 different sports, and he learned the rules for all the sports and would practice every single one with us. Not only does he practice with us (literally running hills), but he always makes sure we have everything we need to be successful. He even built me a hurdle out of PVC pipes so that I could practice at home.

Our dad has not only been there for us, but he has also served as a mentor for so many other kids. Anytime he has been asked to volunteer for different things in the community, he has been there. He visited schools to teachers with kids that were getting in trouble, he helped the parents by talking to the kids about the consequences of their actions, and he has helped with fundraisers to help raise money for schools.

Our dad also started a nonprofit to teach kids how to code, and he actually helped White Oak Elementary earn STEM certification.

At home, he is always cooking amazing dinners on his grill named "Blacky" and makes sure we are never hungry. Whatever we want or need, he always makes it possible. He is my Superman. He has a great personality and is always joking around and running around the house and playing with us. He is the best Dad we could've ever asked for.

BRYAN BROWN - nominated by Lorenzo

I want to nominate my pops, Bryan Brown, for the Best Dad in Suwanee award. He's not just an amazing dad at home, but he also dedicates his time to coaching, mentoring, and being a positive role model for our community. When he's not taking care of our family, you'll find him out on the field. Whether it's coaching Peachtree Ridge Youth Football, Peachtree Ridge Baseball, or Peachtree Ridge Basketball, he's always there for the kids in our community. Ask anyone currently from grades 7th-10th, and the likelihood is that they have been coached at some point by "Coach

Brown." He has made a difference in so many lives. What started as him wanting to coach me has turned into a passion for helping the youth in our community. A great dad isn't just someone who guides and directs but also listens, cares, motivates, and instills values and confidence. I'm grateful to have all of this and to be able to share him with my friends and our community.

CANDLER WINGO - nominated by Kelli Wingo

We have a 7-month-old little girl, and Candler has jumped right into being a #girldad. With my early morning work schedule, he does everything in the morning...wake, feed, and take to daycare. Every day he gets home after work, little girl has the biggest smile on her face and gets so excited to see her dad. He makes her laugh so hard and is the most fun. Also dad of the year because he did the 3 am feedings when she was a newborn so I could get a longer stretch of sleep and be "rested" to take care of her while on maternity leave. Their bond is the sweetest. Our baby girl is so lucky to have him as her dad!

DANIEL CAPUTO - nominated by Caroline Caputo

My dad is the best around. He is funny and knows how to make everyone around him feel special. He cares about everyone so so much. He helps with me and my sisters sports teams, hangs out with us, and so many other reasons why I could not ask for a better dad!

DAVID LOTT - nominated by Christy Lott

David is the Dad who does everything! He starts the mornings by making sure our high schooler makes it to the bus stop on time at 5:55 a.m. Then he brings Mom coffee in bed and helps get the little ones' breakfast while making their lunches for preschool and kindergarten. He makes sure our kindergartener takes her lifesaving chemotherapy pills each morning and then heads off to work in the home office. While he's working his full-time job, he manages to wrangle the preschooler between meetings and work so that Mom can take the kindergartener to the hospital for her leukemia treatments. Sometimes, he even takes over the hospital visits so that Mom can take a break. He's the go-getter that is always willing to run back out to the car in the rain when someone forgets something or steps in to make dinner when Mom is too wrapped up in a project to think about food. He's the Dad who drives our high

schooler to her tennis lessons and makes sure she understands her chemistry and math homework when she is confused about what was taught in class. He's our family handyman, ready to fix any household mishaps and in the midst of leveling the ground and building a playhouse in the backyard for the little ones. I don't think there's anything my kid's Dad isn't willing to do for our family, and he always does it with a smile!

DELOREAN OSTROM - nominated by Darlene Callan

At 37, Delorean is the dad and soccer-softball coach of Luna, 5, and Lily, 3. While their mom, Mandy, was going through chemotherapy, Delorean ran a marathon every month for a year in cities around the country to support her and the cholangiocarcinoma foundation. As a chef, he produced cooking videos to support her and to bring attention to this rare cancer. Since Mandy passed away on January 8, 2024, he has been both parents to his little girls and has taken extra work to support them. Last year, he coached both girls' Suwanee teams, and last week, he began again. So much love. So much sorrow. But he puts his babies first. He is the best daddy I know.

DELOREAN OSTROM - nominated by Lorena Salinas

I would like to nominate Delorean for being an amazing father to his precious Luna & Lilli. He recently lost his wife, Mandy, due to cancer. They fought so hard, and Delorean was an amazing husband and father during the most difficult times. He is the most unselfish person I know. Definitely, he is wearing a superhero cape, raising his two amazing daughters as a single Dad, working and keeping the girls in extra activities such as soccer, and keeping them smiling.

Definitely a role model.

He is a Suwanee resident and running his restaurant business - Southern Grace.

JACOB VANDERVELDE - nominated by Claire Vandervelde

Jacob is the best dad in Suwanee because he works tirelessly to provide for his 3-year-old daughter, Naomi. He is a night shift nurse in the Cardiac Care Unit at Northside Gwinnett, yet he still makes time to give her the best childhood. He builds her playsets, takes her to swim practice, prepares home-cooked meals every night of

the week, and never says no to a park date or bike ride around the neighborhood. Naomi thinks her daddy has hung the moon and says she wants to be a nurse just like him when she grows up so she, too, can take care of people. Jacob is an all-around handyman who is constantly working on home improvement projects around our house. He loved getting his hands dirty at the Playtown Suwanee 2.0 build this fall, but underneath his work boots don't be surprised to find pink glitter nail polish from his most recent toddler pedicure. We know we can depend on our daddio to always come through for us, and that's why I think Jacob is the best dad in Suwanee.

JASON MILLER - nominated by Shilo Miller

My dad is the best in Suwanee. He's been my main protector and provider since I was young and still is there for me. He always helps me but never does everything for me, which helped me learn. He always leads by example. He's amazing. He's the Best Dad in Suwanee.

MATT PENNINGTON - nominated by Veronica Pennington

In a world where giants get a bad rap for being clumsy and sometimes causing chaos, there exists a rare specimen of colossal build. This giant, none other than my husband, Matt Pennington, is not only a towering figure in physicality but also in love and devotion to his family. Matt, with his gentle demeanor and unwavering kindness, casts a warm glow that envelops all who are fortunate enough to be loved by him. The true meaning of living in the shadow of a giant.

If we sound familiar to you, three years ago, Matt used the sheer power of the written word to secure me the title of Best Mom in Suwanee. Now, it's time for me to return the favor and shine a spotlight on the man who stands as a beacon of strength and love in our family's universe. Logan, our 9-year-old, idolizes Matt with a fervor that borders on obsession. And who can blame him? Matt embodies the essence of fatherhood, going above and beyond to provide for us in every conceivable way. Financially? Check. Emotionally? Double check. Spiritually? You betcha. And there's more! Matt's fatherly duties extend beyond his human offspring. He's feline fine as a cat dad, showering our two preciouses, Pepper and Gizmo, with love, treats, and enough catnip to make Willie Nelson jealous.

Candidly, behind Matt's strength and unwavering support is a human who battles daily with pain from a rare autoimmune disease. Despite this, Matt powers on,

refusing to let it detract from his role as a father. He'd gladly bear this weight tenfold if it meant shielding Logan from any harm. And therein lies the essence of Matt's character – a giant not in stature alone but in his infinite capacity for love and sacrifice.

So, here's to the gorilla of a man whose heart is as vast as the ocean and whose love knows no bounds. May you forever be celebrated as the first-ever Best Dad in Suwanee, a title befitting of a giant among men.

NICK KLIMETZ - nominated by Leeza Klimetz

Little league soccer coach, video game partner, storyteller, chef and grill master, Lego engineer. And that just begins to describe Nick. Being a Dad is his favorite job, and even when his job as an Operations Manager takes him away from the fun, he comes back ready to hop on the trampoline or play at the playground. Being a Dad means he gets a chance to be a kid again, and he takes full advantage! Raising two little boys, I know they will grow into great men with their dad by their side. Nick is extremely interactive with the boys, an amazing role model, and the most deserving of Best Dad in Suwanee 🥰

QUBI CAMPBELL - nominated by Rukiya Campbell

Qubi Campbell epitomizes the essence of an exceptional father in Suwanee, embodying dedication, service, and leadership in every facet of his life. As a lieutenant within the City of Atlanta Fire Department, he personifies bravery and selflessness, commuting 31 miles daily to serve the community where he was born and raised. His commitment to safeguarding lives extends beyond his professional duties, as he coaches a 10-year-old flag football team, mentors youth, and educates future emergency medical personnel as an adjunct professor at Gwinnett Technical College.

Qubi's role as a father transcends mere familial obligations; it is a cornerstone of his identity. Despite the demands of his career and community involvement, he prioritizes his role as a parent and husband above all else. His family consists of three children, all boys, each demonstrating remarkable achievements under his guidance. With one child (23) already a college graduate and music producer, another (18) college-bound and poised to graduate high school soon, and a 10-year-old excelling academically and athletically, Qubi's influence is palpable.

What sets Qubi apart as the epitome of Suwanee's best dad is his unwavering commitment to leading by example. He doesn't just preach values of dedication, perseverance, and compassion; he lives them daily, inspiring not only his children but also those around him. Through his multifaceted roles as a firefighter, educator, mentor, coach, and, most importantly, father and husband, Qubi leaves an indelible mark on his community.

In recognizing Qubi as Suwanee's best dad, we would honor not only his individual achievements but also the profound impact he has on shaping the next generation. His legacy extends far beyond his professional accolades; it lies in the hearts and minds of those he touches with his selflessness, guidance, and love. Qubi embodies the essence of fatherhood, serving as a beacon of inspiration and an exemplary role model for all.

SLADE MEHAS - nominated by Leigh Mehas

Slade Mehas is a husband and a father of 2 children who attend White Oak Elementary in Sugar Hill. He is an outstanding police officer, detective, and SWAT team operator. He's been recognized by MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) for his dedication to getting drunk and impaired drivers off the road. He is also the president of a local law enforcement motorcycle club, and he saved his own son's life by donating his kidney after the then 4-year-old was admitted to the ICU with total renal failure. You'll not meet a more dedicated and deserving father and community hero.

TREVOR GILLIAM - nominated by Kelly, Theo, Raye, Lily, & Noelle Gilliam

Our 7-year-old son says this about his dad, "I am thankful for my dad. I am thankful for my dad because he plays with me. I am thankful for my dad because he plays flag football with me. I am thankful for my dad because he plays soccer with me. I love my dad." Our son's words are just a small glimpse into the kind of dad, husband, and man Trevor is. As the leader of our family, Trevor truly is the best guy we have ever known! He not only started his own business last year so he can have more flexible hours to serve us, but he also loves us incredibly well, plays with the kids whenever they ask (almost ;)), coaches our son's soccer team (during his busiest work season might I add: tax season), and grills a mean burger when we're hungry. Trevor truly is the best dad in Suwanee, and our four kids will never let you forget that!