



SEPTEMBER 2024

The GEORGIA SHERIFF

GUARDIAN OF THE PUBLIC PEACE, SAFETY AND SECURITY



2024 Sheriffs' Summer
Training Conference

An Innovative Approach to Law
Enforcement Recruitment

Youth of the Year
and Alumni

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SEPTEMBER 2024

The GEORGIA SHERIFF

1000 Sheriffs Way
Madison, GA 30650
770-914-1076

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The Georgia Sheriff is the official publication of the Georgia
Sheriffs' Association. Published quarterly, the magazine is
designed to keep our supporters and sheriffs informed about
the Association and Georgia's law enforcement community.

A Message From The President



I am honored to have served the citizens of Crawford County for the past sixteen years as sheriff and twenty-one years before as a deputy, working my way up to Captain of the Patrol Division. Throughout the years, we have seen many challenges which we will continue to meet with the highest degree of professionalism.

It has been an honor to have previously served as President of the Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes, the Association's Region Five Vice President, Chairman of the Training and Standards Committee and Sheriff of the Year for 2020. And, recently at our summer training conference, I was selected by my colleagues to be the President of the Georgia Sheriffs' Association for 2024-2025. This is such an honor, and I remain committed to upholding my oath as the Sheriff of Crawford County and the President of the Association. Further, I will continue to strongly support our Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes and the children we serve.

I also want to take the time to say thank you to the sheriffs who attended the recent summer training conference in Hall County. There was an impressive turnout, with over ninety sheriffs participating in the event. Our sheriffs understand how important their offices are to the safety of all Georgians and were able to attend several mandated training courses during the conference. Further, they were able to meet directly with other sheriffs to share information concerning ongoing matters of public safety from throughout the state.

As sheriffs, we face many daily uncertainties which often come with extreme danger and the loss of life. On February sixth of this year, we experienced our own "Line of Duty Death" when Deputy Timothy Rivers was killed in a vehicle accident as he responded to an emergency call for help. The work we do as sheriffs, deputy sheriffs, jailers and other law enforcement officers is extremely dangerous and there is the never-ending threat of the loss of an officer. We all must remember to tell our families, co-workers and friends what they mean to us and trust in the Lord that we return home at the end of the day.

As elected sheriffs, we are leaders in our communities and must protect the public and meet the many statutory mandates of the Office of Sheriff while going even further to help our citizens in other ways. One such important focus must be directed at our children. We must help address the needs of our children by offering the CHAMPS program in our elementary schools and must also actively support the Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes.

In closing, the public and our sheriffs should know that I look forward to serving as President of the Georgia Sheriffs' Association for the next twelve months. During this time, I will stress the integrity of the Office of Sheriff and insist on the highest level of professionalism, transparency and honesty from those who hold the office. Our public deserves no less.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lewis E. Walker".

Sheriff Lewis Walker, Crawford County
President, Georgia Sheriffs' Association



Chaplain's Corner



Senior Chaplain Bobby Williams

Greetings to everyone,

I hope that everyone has been well since the last time we were together. The chaplains have been busy serving and ministering to our sheriffs' personnel throughout the state. Sometimes, that duty is expanded. In July, Chaplain Graylan Quarterman from Liberty County Sheriff's Office was asked to help the Liberty County Fire Department in the tragic loss of two of their firefighters. He and Chaplain Ronnie Rentz from the Appling County Sheriff's Office and Chaplain Steve Lane from the Bryan County Sheriff's Office joined him, working as a team to provide the Fire Department spiritual support and debriefing sessions for as long as needed. Our prayers go out to them and the 9-1-1 operators, the Liberty County Sheriff's Office, EMS, and everyone who was affected.

The sheriffs held their annual summer training conference at Lake Lanier, and chaplains who were able were in attendance. At the annual Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes dinner, the Chaplains Division presented a check representing the "tithe" of the chaplains for Herrington Homestead, and \$25.00 per child for back-to-school supplies. Our grand total over the years of tithing to the Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes is \$70,390. What a great number representing our commitment to these young people!

We sponsored a breakfast the next morning, and it was well attended by the sheriffs, their staff members and guests. I shared a message, "the roundabout in life" with them from Exodus 13:18, "but God led the people through the way of the wilderness."

As chaplains, we are charged to be responsible to the sheriff's office we serve, as well as the staff and others. We should be committed when called upon, no matter the hour, the weather, or the conditions. It is not our choice when we want to go and serve. It is, however, our choice to commit when called.

**"For even the Son of Man
did not come to be served,
but to serve."**

- Mark 10:45

Sincerely,

Bobby H. Williams Sr.

Pastor Bobby H. Williams, Sr.



Glascow County Sheriff Jeremy Kelley and Executive Director Terry Norris joined with Chaplains Joey Meeks, Ashley Tyree, David Thornton, and Senior Chaplain Bobby Williams, Sr. at the annual Summer Training Conference.



Sheriffs' Summer Training Conference 2024

They gather from all corners of the state—sheriffs and their staffs and guests—to train with their peers, exchange strategies for effective management, discover new tools and techniques, and identify emerging trends in a changing environment.

The Sheriffs' Summer Training Conference is always an anticipated event for its opportunities to learn; elect new officers and conduct Association business; engage and network; and support one another, their Association, and the Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes. This year's conference was held at Legacy Lodge at Lake Lanier Islands.



Georgia sheriffs, staff, and guests gather at Legacy Lodge for the annual Georgia Sheriffs' Association Banquet.



Executive Director Terry Norris presents the Office of the Sheriff Accreditation Program (OSAP) certificate to Newton County Sheriff Ezell Brown. The certificate is in recognition of the Newton County Sheriff's Office' adherence to the OSAP's standards, policies and practices.



Georgia Sheriffs' Association Officers

Peach County Sheriff Terry Deese swears in Georgia Sheriffs' Association officers for the coming year: Crawford County Sheriff Lewis Walker, President; Forsyth County Sheriff Ron Freeman, 1st Vice President; Bulloch County Sheriff Noel Brown, 2nd Vice President; Hall County Sheriff Gerald Couch, Secretary-Treasurer; Newton County Sheriff Ezell Brown, Immediate Past President.



Sheriff of the Year

Ron Freeman | Forsyth County

The Sheriff of the Year award recognizes a sheriff who is an active member of the Georgia Sheriffs' Association and who has made outstanding contributions to the Office of Sheriff, law enforcement, and the community.

Forsyth County Sheriff Ron Freeman was selected as Sheriff of the Year for his "tireless, unwavering commitment to the citizens of Georgia and the Office of Sheriff." Sheriff Freeman, who began his career with the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office in 1987, was nominated by his command staff, who mentioned his "holistic approach to the Office of Sheriff to be inclusive of all divisions of the Sheriff's Office" to make one team, leading with morals, courage, honor and integrity. He serves on many committees and boards in the county and throughout the state, including the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. Sheriff Freeman is very active and visible in the community, creating an advisory board made up of local citizens to address any concerns with the sheriff's office, interacting with students and their parents at school events, and establishing a peer support group and mentorship program at the sheriff's office for his staff. He represents the seven points of the star, his team says, with class and diligence.



Executive Director Terry Norris, Sheriff Ron Freeman, and Sheriff Ezell Brown.



Deputy Sheriff of the Year, Award of Valor

Corporal Phillip Hutto | Effingham County

The Deputy Sheriff of the Year, Award of Valor is presented to a deputy who has demonstrated an act of conspicuous heroism or bravery in the line of duty.

Effingham County Corporal Phillip Hutto was selected for the Deputy Sheriff of the Year, Award of Valor for his actions on a summer night in 2023. Effingham County Sheriff Jimmy McDuffie nominated Corporal Hutto for his calm and vigilant actions following a pursuit of an armed individual who fled from a traffic stop. Corporal Hutto called for backup and maintained contact with the truck, even as the truck entered I-16. During the pursuit, the suspect fired toward Corporal Hutto, who returned fire through his windshield, striking the truck. When the driver lost control and crashed, he continued to fire at Corporal Hutto and the other law enforcement officers who joined at the scene. As I-16 was shut down to protect travelers in both directions, Corporal Hutto and law enforcement officers from the Effingham County Sheriff's Office and other local and state agencies returned fire, and the suspect was killed. There were no other injuries reported. For his quick response, concern for the safety of others, and his decisive actions, Corporal Hutto received the Award of Valor.



Executive Director Terry Norris, Effingham County Sheriff Jimmy McDuffie, Corporal Phillip Hutto, and Sheriff Ezell Brown.



Deputy Sheriff of the Year, Award of Professional Contribution

Corporal Sean Donahue | Gwinnett County

Deputy Sheriff of the Year, Award of Professional Contribution is presented to a deputy sheriff who has made an outstanding contribution to the Office of Sheriff and the community.

Corporal Sean Donahue of the Gwinnett County Sheriff's Office was selected for the Deputy Sheriff of the Year, Award of Professional Contribution. Corporal Donahue was nominated by Gwinnett County Sheriff Keybo Taylor for his investigation into the activities of a criminal street gang operating within Gwinnett County. Part of the Special Investigations Section, Corporal Donahue utilized keen investigative skills; intelligence analysis; superior interpersonal skills; and the years of partnerships built with other local, state and federal agencies to initiate and conclude a lengthy investigation into the gang's activities. Corporal Donahue was able to secure charges against nearly fifty individuals for prosecution, as well as seize United States currency, vehicles, illicit drugs, and weapons.



Executive Director Terry Norris, Chief Cleo Atwater, Corporal Sean Donahue, and Sheriff Ezell Brown.



Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes Banquet



Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes Officers

Jackson County Sheriff Janis Mangum swears in new Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes Officers: Colquitt County Sheriff Rod Howell, President; Worth County Sheriff Don Whitaker, 1st Vice President; Coweta County Sheriff Lenn Wood, 2nd Vice President; Glascock County Sheriff Jeremy Kelley, Immediate Past President. Not pictured is Emanuel County Jeffrey Brewer, Secretary-Treasurer.

Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes Banquet

A casual dinner together during the conference provides an important time for sheriffs to connect with the staff and young people of the Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes, recognize and hear from the Youth of the Year and alumni, and celebrate the many individual and group successes of the previous year. They also install new officers and recognize those sheriffs who have led the most successful fundraisers for the Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes over the previous year.



Platinum Members

Glascocock County Sheriff Jeremy Kelley, left, and Georgia Sheriffs' Association Executive Director Terry Norris, at right, recognize Platinum Members **CorrectHealth** (John Ritter) and **Legacy Commissary Services** (Derek Strickland).



Director of Child Care and Boys Ranch Resident Director Shaun Eilders spoke of the successes of the Youth Homes and the promising future of each Youth of the Year.



Top Youth Homes Fundraisers of the Year

Glascocock County Sheriff **Jeremy Kelley**, left, and Georgia Sheriffs' Association Executive Director **Terry Norris**, right, presented awards to sheriffs recognized as the top fundraisers benefitting the Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes (left to right): Lowndes County Sheriff **Ashley Paulk**, Houston County Sheriff **Cullen Talton**, Jackson County Sheriff **Janis Mangum**, McIntosh County Sheriff **Steve Jessup**, and (back row) Habersham County Sheriff **Joey Terrell**. The powerful works completed on behalf of these young people would not be possible without the hard work, dedication and creativity shown by these special fundraising events. Not pictured: Butts County Sheriff **Gary Long**, Cook County Sheriff **Doug Hanks**, Troup County Sheriff **James Woodruff**, and Columbia County Sheriff **Clay Whittle**.



Crawford County Sheriff's Office Monument Honors Fallen Heroes

The members of the Crawford County Sheriff's Office are no strangers to the loss of comrades in line of duty deaths. They lost Chief Deputy Kay O'Neal in 1975 and Deputy Sam Smith in 2001 in the line of duty. In February 2024, Deputy Timothy Rivers tragically lost his life.

Recently, a local paramedic involved in Woodman of World, Forsyth Chapter bestowed to Crawford County Sheriff Lewis Walker a flag and flag pole in recognition of the sacrifice of Deputy Rivers in service to the people of Crawford County. This act of kindness quickly gained momentum, and members of the Crawford County Public Works Department and Water Department, Arriscraft, Atlanta Sand and Supply, Reams Concrete and others from the community joined together to create a memorial not only to Deputy Rivers, but to Deputy Smith and Chief Deputy O'Neal, as well.

What began as a flag pole in honor of one became a monument in honor of all who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the service and protection of the citizens of Crawford County. Sheriff Walker recently held a dedication ceremony for the memorial for the community which included a dedicatory prayer, the ceremonial raising of the flag, and the collective Pledge of Allegiance. He also publicly thanked those companies, county departments and community groups who contributed to its completion. Thanks to this community, this memorial flag pole and monument honoring the fallen heroes of Crawford County became a reality.

Sheriff Lewis Walker and staff stand proudly before the monument to their fallen heroes.

An Innovative Approach to Law Enforcement Recruitment: The College and Career Academy Model

By Catoosa County Sheriff Gary Sisk

When asked to contribute to the development of a College and Career Academy within the Catoosa County School System, I recognized a unique opportunity to shape the future of law enforcement. The Academy's concept of partnering with local businesses to cultivate future employees aligned perfectly with my goal of enhancing the law enforcement profession. Consequently, I worked to establish a Law and Justice pathway within our academy.

Despite our efforts through job fairs and career days, we faced challenges with recruitment and retention. Certified officers from other agencies often left within a couple of years. However, all sheriff's offices have a distinct advantage: we could hire detention officers at 18 and invest in their development through training and mentoring. This approach allowed us to nurture future deputy sheriffs or prepare them for roles in state or federal agencies.

Creating such a program was unprecedented, requiring approval from the Peace Officer Standards & Training Council (POST) and cooperation from the Georgia Sheriffs' Association's Training Division. With collective effort, we secured the necessary approvals and launched the program in the 2022-2023 school year. Initially, the entire curriculum was delivered by our law enforcement instructors over one semester, a considerable undertaking for our team.



Sheriff Gary Sisk enjoys teaching the Academy students in the Law and Justice track.

The 2023-2024 school year marked a significant milestone as the Law and Justice pathway instructor was officially approved by POST to teach the classes. Although we transitioned some teaching responsibilities, our continued involvement ensured strong connections with the students.

The impact of the program has been tangible. From the 2022-2023 cohort, four students were hired as Detention Officers, with three still with us. In the 2023-2024 class, all four students hired remain employed and have also assisted in recruiting additional candidates. Some students exploring college opportunities have expressed interest in continuing their careers with sheriff's offices near their institutions.



2024 Graduates of the Law and Justice component of the Catoosa County College and Career Academy proudly stand with Sheriff Gary Sisk at the end of the school year.

With over 35 years of service and 12 years as Sheriff, I've witnessed the evolution of the applicant pool. Adapting to these changes and investing in young talent is crucial. I strongly advocate for forging robust partnerships with local schools to proactively address future challenges and guide potential recruits into our profession. I frequently remind my staff, "Have you trained your replacement?" Whether on the frontline or in detention roles, it's vital that each of us prepares others to step into our shoes. It is a collective responsibility to ensure we have a well-trained and capable workforce ready to take on future roles.

TRIBUTE PROGRAM

The Tribute Program is a wonderful way to support our organizations while remembering loved ones. Contributions can be used to recognize a friend or loved one who has passed away, acknowledge a birthday or anniversary, send get well wishes or to honor someone.

Georgia Sheriffs' Association donations are placed in the Survivor's Benefit Fund to benefit survivors of any sheriff's office employee who dies in the line of duty.

Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes Foundation donations are used to fund higher education—college or technical school—for Youth Homes residents upon completion of high school.



Tributes Received
APRIL 1 - JUNE 30, 2024

MEMORIALS

Mr. Vickie Adams
Larry & Mary N. Rhodes

Ms. Brooke Adamski
Sheriff Janis Mangum

Mr. William Alford
Sheriff Lenn Wood & Staff

Mr. Jack Alter
Samuel M. Tift

Captain Barney Anglin
Jim & Joanna Puckett

Mr. Cain Anglin
Sheriff Janis & Jerry Mangum

Mr. John D. Bacon
Debbie Bacon

Mrs. Joanne Bagwell
Patricia C. Oettmeier

Mr. Charles Banks
Lt. Eric L. Caminiti

Mr. Harold Bankston
Kinchafoonee Wildlife Club

Mr. Bill Barnett
Linda & Wesley Walraven

Mrs. Willie Jo Bell
Dickey & Rosemary Thaggard

Era & Carolyn Bishop
George Bishop

Mrs. Billie Blalock
Ray & Mary Walker

Ms. Martha Bobbitt
Laurens County Sheriff's Office Staff

Mr. Andy Bowen
Betty Freeman

Mrs. Carolyn Brake
Sheriff Billy Hancock

Ms. Gaila Brandon
Jim & Holly Proctor

Mr. Richard Brown
Sheriff R. N. "Butch" & Mrs. Linda Reece

Deputy Tyee Michael Browne
Jesse Perry
Jim Anderson

Mrs. Dortha Marie Brumbalow
Campground Family – Tony, Lisa, Tom,
Patti, Jerry, Janis, Jud, Christie, Mitch
and Donna

Ms. Lila Mae Bunte
Starling Waldron
Lowndes County Sheriff's Office

Ms. Joanne Caldwell
Larry & Tonia Welch

Mrs. Sharon Harms Carter
Tony Carter

Mr. Steve E. Chadwick
Constance Milledge

Mr. Henry Tony Cisneros, Sr.
Sheriff Ashley Paulk & Staff

Mrs. Dot Revels Cloud
Patricia Pafford

Mrs. Katherine Coley
Sheriff R. N. "Butch" & Mrs. Linda Reece

Mr. George W. Conley
The Jett Family-Elizabeth, Pamela &
David

Mrs. Hilda Burgess Cooper
David, Paul & Kathy Wright

Mr. Joe Crenshaw
Sheriff Billy Hancock

Ms. Vicki Williamson Crew
Debra & Johnny Womack

Retired Sheriff Franklin Crook
J. Terry Norris

Ms. Linda R. Crosby
Dale & Patricia Frazier

Ms. Virginia Culpepper
Linda Givens

Mr. Arthur E. Cutter, Sr.
Kinchafoonee Wildlife Club

Mr. Bobby Ray Daniels
Sheriff R. N. "Butch" & Mrs. Linda Reece

Mr. Charles Grayson Day, Sr.
Jim & Holly Proctor

Mr. Walt Dickson
Bob & Jo Lovein

Mr. David W. Dillard
Starling Waldron
Tommy & Nan Stalvey
Allen Wiggins

Mr. Leo G. Donohue
Joe Donohue

Mrs. Barbara Duke
Sheriff Janis & Jerry Mangum

Ms. Cindy Edge
Sheriff Janis & Jerry Mangum

Mr. Emmett Junior Elliott
Keith & Susan McBrayer

Ms. Maxine Janie (Daniel) Ellis
Jerry & Janis Mangum

Norman & Helen Faircloth
Jeff & Mary Faircloth

Mr. William Findley
Alan Gardner

Mr. Donald Finger
Bobby Rooks

Mr. Graham Fiveash
Lowndes County Sheriff's Office

Mr. Smith Foster
Bernita P. Cofield

Mr. William David Galloway, Jr.
Linda Givens

Mr. William Arnold Galyean
Sheriff R. N. "Butch" & Mrs. Linda Reece

Mr. Fred Gay
Mr. & Mrs. James R. Coleman

Rhonda & Jimmy Gibbs
Mike Gibbs

Mr. Chuck Gilbert
Elaine Moorman

Mr. Buddy Jule Glanton
Terrie Kenon
Michele Noble
Organized Marketing
Shannon Family
Air Filter Sales & Service, Inc.
The Nelson Family
Thomas & Debi Glanton
Julie Benadum

Mrs. Judy T. Gordy
Sheriff R. N. "Butch" & Mrs. Linda Reece

Mr. Tip Goza
Sheriff Janis Mangum

Retired Sheriff Ed Graham
J. Terry Norris

Mr. Jake Randall Griffin
Sheriff Ashley Paulk

Mr. James Julian Griffin
Debra & Johnny Womack

Ms. Nancy Hague
Rex Blevins

Mrs. Mary Ellen Hancock
Clyde Ellerbee

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Mrs. Barbara Harms Tony Carter	Ms. Annie Mae Johnson Knowles Sheriff Ashley Paulk & Staff	Mr. Randy Mosley Sharon Mosley	Mrs. Diane Hicks Reeves Johnny & Debbie Womack
Ms. Lois Harper Sheriff Janis & Jerry Mangum	Mr. Jeffrey M. Knowles Johnny & Carol Hawkins	Ms. Joan Neville Bill Morse	Mr. Thomas Sidney “Sid” Renfroe, III Michael J. Lindsey
Mr. Greg Harris Sheriff Rod Howell	Mr. Pam McElhenney Lacey Johnny & Carol Hawkins	Mrs. Linda Lindsey Norman David & Carrie Conway Martha P. Folsom Jo & John Windom-Jill Cross	Mrs. Nelva Roop Sheriff Janis Mangum
Ms. Peggy Harris Mr. & Mrs. James R. Coleman	Mr. Michael Lanier, Jr. Mitchell County Sheriff's Office Staff	Mrs. Judy Murray Norris Sheriff R. N. “Butch” & Mrs. Linda Reece	Ms. Karen Saye Susan & Ronnie Rogers
Turner & Clyde Harris Jeff & Mary Faircloth	Mr. Joyce E. Latson Donald Latson	Mr. Xavier Owen Padgett Sheriff Janis Mangum	Sheriff Frank Scarborough Claudos Spears
Mr. Otis Hiland Sheriff Janis & Jerry Mangum	Mr. Keith Leggett Mr. & Mrs. James R. Coleman	Mr. William (Billy) Fairell Partain, Jr. Captain & Mrs. W. Luther Hires	Mr. Billy Staten Sears Sheriff Lenn Wood & Staff
Mr. Elton Hill Patricia Pafford	Ms. Jacklin Lewis Jim & Holly Proctor	Mrs. Sylvia Ann Parker Starling H. Waldron	Mr. Robert Sewell Linda & Wesley Walraven
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Mr. Jimmy Howard Rex Blevins	Mr. Jeremiah Lumpkin Jane Snider	Rashmikant M. Patel Pritash Patel	Mr. Alfred B. Smith David Smith
Mr. Tim Hunter Sheriff Janis & Jerry Mangum	Ms. Betty S. Maples A. J. Wright & Eula Jo Sheffield	Mr. Chandler Perry Ona McGahee	Ms. Juanita Belcher Smith Ann & Chuck Woodruff
Mr. James Humphrey Rex Blevins	Rev. Curtis Dwight Massey Keith & Susan McBrayer	Ms. Karen Peterson Laure Peterson	Mrs. Maudlyn Ann Smith Sheriff R. N. “Butch” & Mrs. Linda Reece
Mr. Robert J. Hurst Lowndes County Sheriff's Office	Ms. Nancy H. Mathis A. J. Wright & Eula Jo Sheffield	Mr. Walter Phelps Shirley Phelps	Mrs. Evelyn Souther Arthur M. & Gail M. Posey Betty Freeman
Mrs. Betty Nell Johnson Andy Thompson	Ms. Joy Matthews J. R. Matthews	Mr. Bobby Poole Kathy Wright	Mr. Gary Sowell Keith & Susan McBrayer
Mrs. Betty P. Johnson Buddy Johnson	Nolan Madison McDonald Sabrina Shumans Beth Sayers	Mr. Tom Pritchett Dickey & Rosemary Thaggard	Retired Sheriff Bobby Sparks J. Terry Norris
Sheriff Leonard Johnson J. Terry Norris Constitutional Officers Assoc. of GA Sheriff Scott Chitwood	Mr. Gary P. McElhenney Johnny & Carol Hawkins	Ms. Iona Proctor Jim & Holly Proctor	Mr. Howard Stanford, Jr. Phyllis Tucker
Guilbert M. Jones Bunny Jones	Mr. David “Igor” Edgar Meadows Sheriff Lenn Wood & Staff	Ms. Joann Hall Pruitt Martha Vawter	Mr. Gene Stephens Sheriff Billy Hancock
Mrs. Martha Jones Mr. & Mrs. James R. Coleman	Mr. Hoyte David Merrell Anita & William Holland	Mr. Craig Puntervold Sheriff Janis & Jerry Mangum	Mr. Frank Stewart Sheriff W. E. Bozeman
Mr. Russell (Pat) Jones Eula Jo Sheffield & A. J. Wright & Family	Mr. John David Miles, Sr. Charles David Sikes	Mr. Hollis O. Ray Tim & Connie R. Love	Bernice C. & Tom P. Strickland, Jr. Keith, Ellen, Chase & Beth Parmer
Mr. Bernard L. Kazienko Charles Kazienko	Mr. Ronnie Miller Sheriff R. N. “Butch” & Mrs. Linda Reece	Mr. Stan E. Reaves Atkinson Family Starling Waldron Wayne Pittman Sheriff Janis Mangum Jerry & Brenda Prophett	Mr. Sterling Wilhoit Sumner Sheriff R. N. “Butch” & Mrs. Linda Reece
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Mr. William David Killingsworth Michael Fordham	Mrs. Brenda Joyce Mitchell Sheriff R. N. “Butch” & Mrs. Linda Reece		Mr. Kip Tomlinson Frank & Lynn Heard
Lt. James Kimble J. Terry Norris	Ms. Linda Mitchell Jerry & Janis Mangum		

Ms. Rosa Anna Tribble
Sheriff R. N. "Butch" & Mrs. Linda Reece

Mr. Richard Vanlandingham
Jet & Demetrius Cox

Ms. Staci Vann
Sue Holton

Mr. James Doug Vincent
Keith & Susan McBrayer

Mr. Glen Walker
Ray & Mary Walker

Ms. Sarah Jean Wall
Robert & Mitzi Campbell

Ms. Ann Watson
Jane Snider

Mrs. Anne Groover Williams
Keith & Susan McBrayer

Ms. Flora Jean Wood
Kareem Rea

Mr. William Worsham
Sheriff R. N. "Butch" & Mrs. Linda Reece

HONORS

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Anne Lamb
Georgia Patterson

Sheriff Scott Chitwood
Anita & William Holland

Mr. William M. Crews
Earlene Crews

Sheriff David Davis
Jim Settles

Mr. Shayne Goddard
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Mr. Curtis Herbert
Chad Herbert

Ms. Glenda Herbert
Chad Herbert

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Sheriff Janis Mangum
James Otis & Linda Toney

Sheriff Logan Marshall
Gail Newsome

Sheriff Bill Massee
A. J. Wright

McDuffie County Sheriff's Deputies
Gail Newsome

Sheriff Jimmy McDuffie
Doris Derrick

LeeVon Payne
Cindy Payne

Justin Rannick & Holly Peterson
Morris A. Nunes, Attorney

Sheriff Carlton Powell
Moultrie Lunch Bunch

Josh & Amber Ridley
Sarah Farmer

Mr. Josh Ridley
Donna Lee

Jack & Mary Robinson
VFW Auxiliary Old Campbell County
Post 6449

Sheriff Kevin R. Sproul
Shirley Phelps

Sheriff Cullen Talton
Zell Shaw Blackmon

Sheriff Joey Terrell
Judith Norris

Sheriff Lewis Walker
Jacqueline S. Poole

Bill & Joyce Walton
Mary Ellen Wilson

Sheriff Don Whitaker
Ray & Mary Walker

Sheriff Lenn Wood
Dan & Lois McFarland

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Mrs. Marianne Orlet
Hermann Orlet

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Ms. Lisa Johnson
Nancy Smith

Sheriff Janis Mangum
Don & Jan Elrod

Mrs. Melinda Pate
Randy & Shelda Covington

Mr. Ronald Wilson
Gail W. Norman

*We are proud to honor your heroes and are very
grateful for your generous contributions.*



TRIBUTES • HONORS • BIRTHDAYS • ANNIVERSARIES



Director's Corner

Anthony McCastle
Herrington Homestead

Sonya Goddard
Pineland

Nikita Jordan
Cherokee Estate and MountainView

Shaun Eilders
Boys Ranch

As I write this, we have recently returned from the annual summer training conference for the sheriffs. It is during this conference that the annual Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes banquet is held. This is a time for Youth Homes staff, sheriffs, and our supporters to gather and celebrate the accomplishments of some of our most outstanding residents. As you are reading through this edition of the magazine, you will be introduced to some of these young people. They are recognized for their outstanding work ethic, perseverance in the face of adversity and reaching the goals they have set for themselves throughout the year. Their successes are the cumulation of many people's efforts and support, including yours. For that we are truly thankful.

Some of our Youth of the Year were able to graduate from high school in 2024. This is always an accomplishment to be celebrated. Often, children who come to live at one of our five campuses are behind academically. School achievement is not a priority when living in an abusive and neglectful home situation. Through the support of our staff, which includes social workers, houseparents and academic tutors, our children are given the resources and tools to reach their academic potential. In earning their high school diplomas, our children are then able to pursue any number of life goals moving forward in their lives.

The Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes is one of the few residential childcare providers in the country that will support a student's secondary education pursuits. Some of our 2024 graduates will begin on

that path in the coming month. So, as one chapter closes, a new one begins. During my 23 years of working with the Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes, I have seen young people take full advantage of the educational opportunities and become leaders in their fields. In fact, we have a former resident of the Boys Ranch serving as the resident director of our Herrington Homestead campus. Not only have they achieved so much in their educational and career paths, they have become good husbands and wives, mothers and fathers and contributing members of many communities across not only Georgia but the entire United States. This is something of which we can all be proud as supporters of the Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes.

As we look ahead, a new school year will have already begun by the time this edition reaches you, and the cycle begins anew. New challenges await our children and new goals will be achieved. None of this would be possible without the sheriffs and their dedication to the Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes, our dedicated staff who have committed their lives to serving our children, and your continued support for such a worthy cause.

Until next time, thank you for all that you do.
God Bless.

Shaun Eilders

*Director of Child Care and
Boys Ranch Resident Director*

Youth of the Year

We are honored to present our Youth of the Year from the campuses of the Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes. They were honored at the Youth Homes banquet at the Summer Training Conference for their hard work, exemplary behavior and helpful attitudes with others. Here, in their own words, are the speeches they delivered to sheriffs, their families, and guests at the Youth Homes Banquet.

Taylor

BOYS RANCH

My name is Taylor and I have lived at the Boys Ranch for five years. I am the only one in my family to graduate from high school and that makes me proud. When I lived at home, I went through some hard times. Living at the Boys Ranch has helped me feel better about myself. I am thankful for all the support that has been given to me. I also appreciate the sheriff's office for bringing me to the Boys Ranch where I am safe.

I have been given many opportunities since I came to the Boys Ranch. I went to the Special Olympics three years where I played different sports. I went on several trips with my cottage, including Universal Studios, River Aquarium in Albany, Savannah, Wild Adventures and Jekyll Island. These are things that I never would have been able to do without your support.

I also enjoy the annual Christmas parties, Classic Car Club events and visits from the churches. These events have showed me that other people care about me.

I want to thank Mr. Shaun for always making me feel supported and the fact that he understands me. Ms. Traci always listens to me, and I can tell her anything. Ms. Angela and Mr. Darron make sure that I go to all of my appointments and events. Mrs. Ambrosia and Mr. Fred are the best house parents ever! They have helped me cope with school and family. Ms. Jobeth is like my grandma! She plays board and card games with us.

Thank you to all the sheriffs and supporters for giving me the best life ever!

"I am the only one in my family to graduate from high school and that makes me proud."





Tony

BOYS RANCH

I'm Tony, and I am a resident at the Boys Ranch in Hahira. I have been there since April 14, 2022. When I first got to the Boys Ranch, I was nervous about everything that was happening. I was taken away from my family and placed with strangers, and that was scary for me. Soon those strangers became my family as well. I had a rocky start my first year at the Boys Ranch. I was getting into trouble a lot and not doing well at school. I was not promoted my first year of high school because I slacked off and did not give it my best. Thanks to the tutors, Mr. Shaun, and Ms. Angela, I started to care about what was happening to me and what will happen with my future if I don't start turning things around. Ms. Angela made me give her an educational goal for the school year and she made me stick to it.

I started staying out of trouble and studying more at school. My teachers started bragging about me and making me believe that I can maintain passing grades if I put forth the effort. Right before my own eyes, I saw something in myself that had been hidden for so long. I started flourishing and meeting personal and educational goals.

I am not getting into trouble at the Boys Ranch anymore and have started earning incentives which still keeps me motivated today. I plan to graduate high school and attend college to study business. I want to one day own my own business. I also want to become a mentor for other youth with the same experiences. I want to thank the Boys Ranch for ensuring my safety and well-being during this journey.

"I started flourishing and meeting personal and educational goals."





Marcus

HERRINGTON HOMESTEAD

I would like to thank everyone at the Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes for the privilege of staying at Herrington Homestead for the past eight years. I came into foster care at the age of eleven. I was scared and didn't know what foster care was or why I was even in care. Upon entering the Frank Cottage I was greeted by two house parents, Ms. Emma and Mr. Vann. These house parents raised me for five years. They taught me how to be a responsible young man and they loved and cared for me like I was their child.

My first year at Herrington was the hardest year of my life. I was forced to adjust to a whole new place surrounded by people I didn't know, but as time went on Herrington Homestead showed me how good people can be.

After high school graduation, I will attend Georgia Southwestern University to pursue a bachelor's degree in criminal justice to become a detective. Herrington has provided so much for me for a long time and I know I wouldn't be able to achieve any of this without them.



"As time went on Herrington Homestead showed me how good people can be."

Karen

CHEROKEE ESTATE

The journey for foster children does not start the moment we enter foster care. For some it begins years before, for others only months. The journey consists of a culmination of hurdles, frustrations, and struggles, but also the love and support we receive from those we make connections with. All of this contributes to the people we become. In order to truly understand the enormous impact that Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes has had on my life, we must start at the beginning of my journey. My name is Karen and when I was 14 years old, I traveled alone from my country of origin, Guatemala, to the United States. Due to family discord, I was forced to leave, and my only option was to travel to the United States in hopes of finding a safe place and to continue my education.

In October 2018 I left home for America. It was a long and arduous 10-day journey that consisted of many stops. The reason why I traveled so far, knowing everything that I would face along the way and the changes that would occur by living in another country, is because I wanted a better life for myself. Unfortunately, when I arrived here in the United States, I had to live with an abusive relative with whom I suffered greatly. For that reason, I came to live at Cherokee Estate.

The Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes has done a lot for me, and if I made a list, I'm sure it wouldn't end. During these five years, Cherokee has provided me with counseling to overcome my traumas. They helped me learn the language, since when I came into their care I didn't speak any English. When I turned 17, they gave me the opportunity to move to a transitional living cottage where I learned to be independent. In addition, they helped me find a job and apply for scholarships, of which five were awarded to me. Cherokee Estate also made one of my dreams come true: I went on a school trip this year, to Washington, DC and New York. I cannot be more grateful to my house parents, staff and especially to the Director, Ms. Nikita Jordan, since she has believed in me and my potential. For me, Cherokee Estate is my family and wherever I go I will have their love and support.

Now, I am preparing to continue with my education at Dalton State College because I believe it will be the best place to acquire new skills, explore my potential, and expand my horizons. My goal is to be able to study and pursue a career in medicine. I hope someday to be able to help a lot of people live a better quality of life. From a small child to an older adult, I want everyone to be able to do their normal activities again and feel capable of doing something. My dream has always been to make a difference in the world of health science and to help others see



the possibilities of their futures, even when all they can currently see are the barriers to their dreams.

I know this would not be possible without the help of each of you. Thank you sheriffs, donors, members of any contributing institution, and to anyone who has supported Cherokee Estate and the other Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes. Thank you very much for your unconditional support, your prayers and your hard work. God bless you all and your families.

"Cherokee Estate is my family and wherever I go I will have their love and support."



Trevor

It is a huge honor to be standing here. I have been a part of the Boys Ranch for ten years now. I remember just like it was yesterday, going to the Boys Ranch. I was just a fourteen-year-old boy facing several challenges in life. I remember just praying and asking God to please give me a better life. I remember telling God I would do anything. Well, what I didn't realize was, God answered that prayer for me before I even asked it. He answered that prayer by putting me at the Boys Ranch. I realized that God knew what was best for me all along. I was just too angry to realize it. I got to thinking and thought to myself that this place could be the miracle I needed in my life. So, I decided to give it a chance and see what it was all about. I did. The Boys Ranch has been the biggest blessing in my life. Over the course of my four years in High school, I received several awards and honors and scholarships, and was able to build relationships and friendships with some wonderful people.

After graduating high school, I received an opportunity that I never imagined. I was so used to believing what my dad had always told me, and that was that I would never amount to anything in life. I used that as my ambition to achieve my goals. I was able to attend Valdosta State University to chase my dreams of furthering my education. In December I graduated with a



bachelor's degree in criminal justice. In April I received a wonderful opportunity to achieve another life goal, getting accepted into the Columbia County Sheriff's Office Police Academy as a Pre-Service Candidate, graduating in July. At graduation I had the special honor of having my badge pinned on me by Mr. Terry Norris. Now I am chasing my dream job as a Special Agent with the Georgia Bureau of Investigation.

I have two more life goals that I plan to achieve, to obtain my master's degree in criminal justice, and to become more involved with the Youth Homes. They will forever have a special place in my heart. Because of them, I have a chance in life. There is no telling where I would be today if it were not for the youth homes. I am also extremely thankful for all the supporters. None of this would be possible without you. Thank you for all that you do!

Update: Trevor is moving forward in his dream of working with the GBI. He continues to be grateful for the work of the Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes.

*"Not only did they give me a start,
they gave me a new life."*



Scarlett Gibson, Awards Luncheon Chairman; Lynne Tate, Georgia State President; Josh Ridley, National Outstanding Teacher of American History; Amber Ridley; Dianne Cannestra, President National, and Sandra Wallis, Historian National.



The National Society United States Daughters of 1812

presented its first national Outstanding Teacher of American History award at its annual meeting in Washington, DC on April 5, 2024 to Josh Ridley, a Middle School history teacher in Monroe County, Georgia. Josh was sponsored by the Major Philip Cook Chapter NSUSD 1812 in Macon, Georgia. His application was judged by peer teachers and the State President, and he was selected as Georgia's Outstanding Teacher of American History.

President National Dianne Cannestra heard Josh's story and chose to recognize him at the National Associate Council meeting. Mr. Ridley and his wife were invited to Washington, DC to receive the award as guests of the National President and of the Georgia State Society.

Outstanding teachers are recognized for their subject matter expertise but, first and foremost, they are honored for their commitment to teaching and to the young people they teach. For Josh, making a difference in the lives of the young people he encounters every day is his number one priority.

Josh's own experiences help form his interactions in the classroom. His family life was chaotic to the point that he entered the foster care system at the age of 12. He was fortunate that a family friend took him in; however, after two years, she passed away of cancer. Josh was then returned to the foster care system while he was in 8th grade. His life was on a downward spiral as he shuffled from foster home to foster home. He attended five different middle schools that year and went to two of them twice. In the autobiography he submitted with his application, Josh indicated that his middle school years were his most difficult and emotional years. He stayed in trouble, lost motivation to excel in school, and had no sense of belonging.

Following that year, he agreed to be moved to the Boys Ranch in Hahira, a campus of the Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes. There, Josh really came into his own. His house parents, Allen and Serrena Chance, treated him as their own. They, along with other adults at the Boys Ranch, really invested in him, which

in turn made him want to invest in himself. They helped him begin to value education and start to visualize what he wanted for his future.

Through the support of the Youth Homes, he attended college and ultimately decided to become a teacher. He chose middle school as that had been the hardest period in his life. He noted, *"I wanted to be the teacher that gave them possibly the only smile they would give or receive that day. I wanted to give them something to look forward to by letting them know someone was in their corner. I wanted to be the teacher to inspire them to believe they can one day be where I am in life."* He concluded his autobiography by stating, "I hope that is the impact I am still making today."

Mr. Ridley's application was accompanied by testimonials from students who noted how he engaged them with projects and activities and stimulated an appreciation of history for them. The students noted that he was one of the best teachers they ever had and that he had made history and social studies memorable for them.

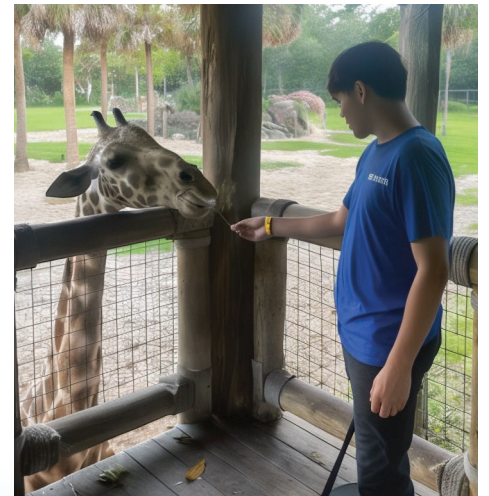
Josh shared his personal story at the luncheon where he received his award. All of those present were moved by his story of overcoming personal tragedy and making a difference in the lives of young people.

Update: Josh began a new job as an Assistant Principal at a school in Butts County in July. He expresses his gratitude for the work of the Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes, and particularly for his relationship with Allen and Serrena Chance, who had such a powerful impact on his life. "I am very proud and honored to have my story of success told," he says. "I hope it helps inspire others to give."

CAMPUS NEWS



Summer is a time to celebrate graduations, prepare for the next school year, and also . . . have fun! The young people from the campuses of the Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes did all of that this summer, and more! Thanks to your help, they were treated to zoo visits, amusement parks, boating and swimming, games and, yes, celebrating the wonders of summertime. Now, back to school. Thank you for making it all possible!



SPECIAL EVENTS



Georgia Street Rod Association National Collector Car Appreciation Day Cruise

The Georgia Street Rod Association - GSRA - hosted the GSRA National Collector Car Appreciation Day Cruise to benefit Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes from Madison to Milledgeville ending at the Dogwood Barn. Over 100 cars participated. Thank you to Vice President GSRA David Riser and GSYH Development Officer Mike Leathers for

all the hard work they put in to make this event happen. Also, a big thank you to all the sponsors, participants and the escorts, Morgan County Sheriff's Office, Greene County Sheriff's Office, Hancock County Sheriff's Office and Baldwin County Sheriff's Office and some police departments. It was a beautiful day for a ride!



Jackson County Joins In Belk Charity Sale

Jackson County Sheriff Janis Mangum extends "A special thank you to Belk in Athens, Jennifer Payne and Kelly Lane, Sales Team Managers, and Lauren Thomas, the store manager of Belk. Back in April, they brought to my attention the \$5 Belk Charity Sale coupons, with 25% off of more store items June 7th, 8th, and 9th. The proceeds from the sale of the coupons could go to the Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes. Thank you to my Georgia Sheriffs' Association buddy Mike Leathers, Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes Development Officer, for meeting me at Belk in Athens to present the \$360.00 donation, along with a \$100 gift card.

And to top all that, I got my grandson school clothes for \$56. You can't go wrong in buying this \$5 coupon. You get it right back. It's a WIN-WIN for all!

Now, if I can get all the Georgia sheriffs to sell these coupons twice a year, we can raise some serious money for the Youth Homes."



Colquitt County Golf Tournament

Sheriff Rod Howell hosted the 35th annual Colquitt County Sheriff's Office Boys Ranch Golf Tournament at the Sunset Country Club in July. We would like to thank all the players for coming out and supporting the Boys Ranch.



Bryan County Touch-A-Truck

The Bryan County Sheriff's Office sponsored a Touch-A-Truck at a local park to support the Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes in June, a unique event which featured decorated and decked out trucks, boats and other vehicles, including emergency vehicles, tow trucks, and even food trucks!

SPECIAL EVENTS



Cook County Golf Tournament

Thirty-eight teams joined Sheriff Doug Hanks for the 16th annual Cook County Golf Tournament on a hot day in August. Meeting at the Circlestone Country Club, the group enjoyed lunch and a silent raffle at the end of the tournament. Thank you, Sheriff Hanks and teams, for playing to benefit the Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept 17 Habersham County Golf Tournament
Sept 19 Kevin Millwood & CWA 3205 Fish Fry
Sept 20 Kevin Millwood & CWA 3205 Golf Tournament
Sept 28 Stephens County BushBond 10K/5K
Sept 30 Houston County Golf Tournament (1 event)

Oct 1 Houston County Golf Tournament (2 events)
Oct 4 Spalding County Golf Tournament
Oct 5 Effingham County Duck Derby
Oct 12 Jackson County 5K Run
Oct 18 Cherokee Estate & MountainView Golf Tournament
Oct 26 Jackson County Jeep Ride

Nov 23 Chatham County Shooting with the Sheriff

Dec 7 Holiday Boat Light Parade
Dec 14 Toys for Boys and Girls Herrington Homestead Bike Ride

For information contact Mike Leathers at (770) 914-1076.

You are invited to participate in or host a fundraising event.

The Magic of the Gift Annuity

What would you think about an arrangement that:

- pays you cash income for life (some of it tax free);
- allows you an immediate charitable income tax deduction;
- gives you the satisfaction of helping in a meaningful way?

A charitable gift annuity can do these things, and more.

With a gift annuity, in exchange for your gift of money or securities, the Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes guarantee to pay you (or your named beneficiary) a set income for life.

Gift annuities are also remarkably flexible.

You can: fund your annuity with cash or securities; arrange your own schedule of payments (annually, semi-annually, quarterly or however you wish); begin the payments immediately or defer them until a later year; arrange the annuity during your life or by will; and name yourself or someone else as income beneficiary. You even can name two beneficiaries if you like.

We think there is something truly "magical" in an arrangement that can do all these things!



For more information, please contact Shayne Goddard at 770-914-1076 or sgoddard@georgiasheriffs.org.



GEORGIA SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION, INC. | GEORGIA SHERIFFS' YOUTH HOMES, INC.

Administrative Office • 770-914-1076
1000 Sheriffs Way, Madison, GA 30650

J. TERRY NORRIS, Executive Director

SAFETY CORNER

Safety Corner is a reprint from the June issue with a correction to the web address for the Internet Crime Complaint Center.



The FBI Atlanta Division is warning the public about a telephone scam claiming the recipient failed to report for jury duty.

During the call, the scammer impersonates a law enforcement officer or officer of the court. The caller may threaten criminal prosecution or jail time, and tells the victim that he or she can avoid arrest by paying a fine immediately. They may request payment information or other personal information. The scammer also may request that the victim purchase a prepaid card or gift card for payment.

TIPS to avoid becoming a victim

- **Always be suspicious** of unsolicited phone calls.
- **Never give money or personal information** to someone with whom you don't have ties and did not initiate contact.
- **Trust your instincts:** if a caller pressures you or says things that don't sound right, hang up.
- **Report the call** with a description of the caller and any available caller ID information to **local law enforcement** or to the **Internet Crime Complaint Center** at www.ic3.gov.



*People summoned for jury duty who fail to appear will receive correspondence by **U.S. Mail**, not by phone or e-mail.*

If you are concerned about a caller's claims, verify the information with the appropriate law enforcement agency or court officials.