The GEORGIA SHERIFF

GUARDIAN OF THE PUBLIC PEACE, SAFETY AND SECURITY

Cherished Moments
The first three months of my tenure as President of the Georgia Sheriffs’ Association have been quite busy, but very enjoyable. I was honored to travel with Lt. Governor Casey Cagle to Hall, Jackson and Gordon Counties on September 11th, joining him for his annual Law Enforcement and First Responder Appreciation events. I then traveled to Jones County for the 3rd annual “Sheriff of the Year” luncheon hosted by Sheriff Butch Reece on September 24th. It was a pleasure to see Chatham County Sheriff Al St Lawrence honored for 56 years of law enforcement service.

As we approach the holiday season, my mind is filled with so many cherished moments. Being raised in a small, southern town in the sixties was magical at Christmas time. There wasn’t a mall; the shops and stores on “the square” provided every need we had. The store fronts were all decorated with lights; Santa’s sleigh and reindeer cheerfully welcomed all who drove by.

Christmas morning traditions that started with my grandparents have now reached a fifth generation. A song my parents sang to my brother and I as soon as we opened our eyes, before opening gifts...“Christmas morning, broad daylight. I bet you can’t guess who was here last night, dressed in fur from his head to his toe. I ain’t gonna tell you, for I bet you know”...is now being sung to my granddaughter on Christmas morning.

Many law enforcement agencies do fundraising to make sure needy children in their jurisdiction have cherished moments to remember during the holidays. In Walker County, our Stocking Full of Love Committee and citizens work year round to make sure there are no disappointed children on Christmas morning.

We appreciate your loyal support and your generosity so much throughout the year. As the Christmas season fast approaches, let’s remember our children living at the Youth Home campuses at Cherokee Estate, MountainView, Herrington Homestead, Pineland and Boys Ranch. Please consider giving an extra gift this holiday so that all the children may have a wondrous and joyful Christmas.

In closing, let us all remember why we celebrate Christmas - the birth of Jesus Christ.

With gratitude,

Sheriff Steve Wilson
Walker County
ON THE COVER

Grandchildren of our co-editor, Kim Slack pose with the adorable Buck.

Editorial Creed: 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.
Just this year, how many riots have broken out? How many school shootings have occurred? How many armed robberies or 911 calls have been made? Do you know the answer to any of these questions? These folks do.

Many of them not only know the answer, but some may actually have laid down their life for it. The Sheriffs of Georgia serve their state, their communities, their citizens and their families day in and day out. Too many times they bear the weight of the world on their shoulders and receive less than a pat on the back.

As we all know, the men and women in law enforcement have earned the right to much more than a pat on the back. Three years ago Sheriff Butch Reece became inspired to honor the Georgia Sheriffs and he envisioned something great. This vision became a reality through an annual event now known as the “Salute to Georgia Sheriffs.” Sheriff Reece sent invitations again this year to all 159 sheriffs as well as colleagues, judges, elected officials and friends, asking them to join him on September 24, 2015. The event was something to remember as Secretary of State Brian Kemp took part in honoring the GSA Sheriff of the Year, Al St Lawrence.

“Thank you for inviting me to join all of you and thank you to the people who worked hard to organize this day. I am honored to speak at this event and to recognize the accomplishments and leadership of Sheriff St Lawrence,” stated Kemp.

Originally from New Hampshire, Sheriff St Lawrence joined the Air Force in 1952 and was stationed at Hunter Air Force Base in Savannah, where he ended up at the Chatham County Police Department in 1959. By 1971 he had been through FBI training and completed a list of other accomplishments along with becoming the Chief of Police. He served in that position for 21 years before he was elected to the Office of Sheriff in 1992, where he has served 21 years. Sheriff St Lawrence has dedicated 56 years of his life to law enforcement and is a respected leader.
What a nice tribute! A poster and a beautiful hand carved piece of art were on display at the Salute to Sheriffs event honoring Sheriff Al St Lawrence. He and his wife Pat were all smiles as they enjoyed the day, and Al was right at home as he addressed his many supporters.

across the state and nation. From programs like Operation New Hope who partner with the Humane Society to assist in inmate rehabilitation to the Jail Break Mud Run fundraising event to benefit children in our Youth Homes, on to community service with the Explorer Post 876 mentoring high school students to the humbling hands-on service of providing Thanksgiving meals to the needy, Sheriff St Lawrence has a list of accomplishments and achievements that reach beyond the scope of Sheriff. Al St Lawrence is loved and respected as a man in addition to a civil servant. He is a devoted friend and a legendary leader. Sheriff St Lawrence has served his state well and it was an honor to Salute him as Sheriff of the Year.

The Sheriffs of Georgia deserve to be saluted and we are grateful that Sheriff Reece, Secretary of State Brian Kemp, and the many other sheriffs and colleagues took time to recognize one another at the Salute to Georgia Sheriffs event this year.
9/11 ... 911 Do you see a resemblance? 911 is a number that we are taught at a very young age to call for help. 9/11 is a day our country called out for help. Two very similar numbers and two numbers we will never forget.

Lt. Governor Casey Cagle takes an active role in remembering 9/11 as he speaks at the Hall County Memorial Service.

There were 2,996 people who lost their lives on that tragic September day. It was a day we saw good and evil at its peak. It’s a day we will forever remember. But let’s bring it even closer to home. “Eighty-three law enforcement officers were killed in the line of duty just this year and twenty-four of them killed in cold blood. That is 83 husbands, wives, mothers, fathers, sons, and daughters who will never make it home again after serving a shift trying to protect each and every one of us”, stated Lt. Governor Casey Cagle. Will those be forever remembered?

While we follow our daily routines and sometimes take for granted the life we live, we need to always be reminded that someone else is out there making sure we still have that option. From sitting on the bleachers watching your little one play to buying your next tank of gas, those are the little things that make the world go round and we should be grateful to each one who protects it. As Lt. Governor Casey Cagle recalled, “On the anniversary of the September 11th attacks, I hope we will all take a step back and reflect on the critical role our law enforcement officers and first responders play in our communities across the state. These brave men and women dedicate their lives each and every day to making sure that our fellow citizens remain safe. I am grateful for their services.”

Lt. Governor Cagle visited Jefferson, Gainesville, and Calhoun on September 11th, speaking at several different venues in order to personally show his honor and appreciation for the law enforcement officers statewide. He, along with several senators and Georgia Sheriffs joined to speak on behalf of those who serve and protect. There have been 683 law enforcement officers in the State of Georgia who have lost their lives in the line of duty. This year alone claimed five of those lives. As we stand together and remember that tragic day of 9/11, let’s also remember those who come when we call 911.

Lt. Governor Casey Cagle, Hall County Sheriff Gerald Couch, and Georgia Sheriffs’ Association President Steve Wilson are pictured here with public safety officers.
Although cancer in its many forms has plagued our nation and taken the lives of many family members and friends, we can report that three of our own have beat this nasty predator.

Three of our sheriffs have had to face that dreadful day; the day the doctor came in with the long face and said, “It’s positive. You have cancer.” Sheriff Stacy Jarrard of Lumpkin County, Sheriff Steve Wilson of Walker County, and Sheriff Dean Couch of Glascock County were each diagnosed with the same type of rare cancer called Multiple Myeloma, a cancer of the plasma cells. Although their stories are each a little different, they all started with the same symptom: pain.

In 2009, Sheriff Steve Wilson started his morning off like any other morning. He reached over to turn the alarm clock off and a sharp pain hit. The pain was intense at first, but lessened later so Wilson dismissed it as a strained muscle and went on with his daily routine. Not long afterwards, the pain became unbearable again and he sought help. At the young age of 52, he was diagnosed with cancer: a rare blood cancer that attacks the bones. After five months of chemotherapy and a very intense stem cell transplant, Sheriff Wilson is now in remission. Although he is still a proud law enforcement servant and has even taken on the role as the President of the Georgia Sheriffs’ Association, he shares that his priorities have changed.

His life now reflects God first, family second, and work third. “The Lord allowed me to have peace about everything,” shared Wilson. Whether his title reads Sheriff, President, father or friend, he has one title that is most rewarding and it is “Survivor”!

Sheriff Stacy Jarrard of Lumpkin County has a very similar story. What he thought was an overactive sciatic nerve causing him severe hip pain, turned into a MRI, bone marrow biopsy, full skeletal scan, and a complete blood chemistry panel. In October of 2013, at the age of 45, Jarrard got the call. “You have cancer.” He began low dose chemo treatments for several weeks, then endured an extreme stem cell transplant, returned back to mega doses of chemo and was put into complete isolation for 40 days. With a lot of faith and a dedicated family by his side, Jarrard was able to fight off the sly disease as it is now in remission. The Sheriff has returned to a “normally” functioning life and has a routine that includes a “maintenance pill”, monthly doctor visits, 5k marathons, and even some basketball coaching. Although he has been in law enforcement for the last 28 years and it was the front-runner in his life, it now plays second fiddle. “Cancer was the best thing that ever happened to me. It reprioritized my life and brought my family closer. It got my dad saved too. My life is now God…family.…then work.” Sheriff Jarrard has taken an active role, not only in his family and church, but he is also the current President of the Georgia Sheriffs’ Youth Homes where he is eager to share his story. He has many hats, but the one that shines the brightest is the one that reads “Survivor”!

Cancer attacks anyone and anywhere; Sheriff Dean Couch of Glascock County was yet another victim. Like many others, his fight started out with back pain. He went through the traditional routes of therapy to include back surgery, injections, glues, and tests, but nothing seemed to help. Finally in June 2013, the answer was revealed: he had cancer. Within one hour of his diagnosis, Couch found himself in an oncologist’s office, and within four hours was receiving his first treatment. Although the news was tragic, he “knew that God was in it” because the doors of help flew open. Six months later, he received a powerful stem cell transplant. Although he still struggles with a low blood cell count and has to continue taking a daily chemo pill, he explained that the four to six
BECOME A MEMBER

SUPPORT YOUR SHERIFF! Get involved. Every membership counts.
Renew your membership today at www.georgiasheriffs.org and join the force to save our future.

Your commitment means you help provide:
• Stronger and safer communities
• Invaluable support for the Sheriffs and their staff so that they can provide protection and security
• Stronger legislative support to provide laws that protect the communities, children, and homes while offering a unified standard for law enforcement

Make your state and your family a priority. Help us help you. Officers sacrifice their lives every single day.
Would you be willing to give up the cost of one dinner and purchase your membership instead?

Annual membership dues are $20 for an honorary membership or $50 for a business membership.
This membership will also provide you with:
• Yearly subscription to The Georgia Sheriff quarterly magazine
• Window Decal
• Bumper Sticker
• Membership Card

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR CLEARANCE SALE.
ALL CLOTHING IS NOW $5.

Christmas is just around the corner. Try shopping for your family while helping provide for another. Shop the GSA Store and take advantage of our clearance section where all clothing is marked down to $5! Visit www.georgiasheriffs.org and click on the Online Store to browse fleece jackets, stainless steel coffee mugs, visors, and much more.
I believe that is one of the most profound unconventional drug-fighting efforts ever seen. It’s certainly thinking outside the box. Sheriff Stephen Jessup of McIntosh County created some waves and a lot of viral roar after he ran an ad in the July edition of The Darien News with those very headlines. The marijuana leaf emblem on the side created a lot of attention as well. “It’s something one of our young investigators, Bobby Gault, came up with,” said Sheriff Jessup. Gault ran across an ad from 20-25 years ago and after making some changes and tweaking it, he presented it to the Sheriff and asked if he could run it. “I’m kind of unconventional and we try a lot of different things that other agencies may not try, so I told him to put my star on it and run it,” said Jessup. The advertisement was placed in the weekly paper at no cost. It not only created some chuckles around town, it also landed Jessup a live telephone interview with NBC News and the focus of many newspaper headlines all over.

Although it is still too early to tell how effective the technique will be, Sheriff Jessup stated, “I campaigned both times on trying to fight drugs and we go after it every day. This is just another avenue of doing that.” When asked if he thinks people will actually respond to his ad, he said, “I really do. I think that they’re going to snitch on each other to lessen the number of dealers so their ability to sell drugs will go up.” Sheriff Jessup summed it up best when he said, “nothing ventured, nothing gained.” He certainly is not afraid to venture out and give something a try. Keep up the good work Sheriff!
He Honors Us All.

Sheriff Mitch Ralston of Gordon County watched his son, Lt. Landon Ralston, receive his gold bar at the formal squadron ceremony on May 27, 2015 in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Lt. Ralston graduated with honors from Sonoraville High School back in 2010 and joined the Air Force right away. He worked hard and endured a grueling four years at the Air Force Academy until he made it through to graduation. Ralston celebrated with 840 cadets who sustained the vigorous academic and athletic program of the academy and graduated as a member of the 57th Graduating Class dubbed as the “Wright Brothers Class”. Ralston was proudly “pinned” 2nd Lieutenant at the ceremony.

It was a great honor to graduate and be “pinned” 2nd Lieutenant as the acceptance rate for applicants into this program is only 13% and of those, approximately 20% of the freshman class drop out each year. The academy is known for its strict military regimen and its unique honor codes. Lt. Ralston was one of very few students who were selected and one of very few students who received appointments into the military service academy by Governor Nathan Deal and US Representative Tom Graves. Lt. Ralston worked very hard and not only earned a 2nd Lieutenant ranking, but also earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Social Psychology with the intent to pursue a career in leadership. He is eager to begin his career as an Air Force officer at the Aerospace Command and shared that he is very excited about serving his country. During the graduation ceremony, Lt. Ralston expressed great appreciation for his family and friends who encouraged him through his four years at the military academy.

Lt. Ralston’s father, Sheriff Ralston, is very proud of his son’s accomplishments and is honored that he, too, will be serving his community (although on a larger scale).

Congratulations Lt. Ralston and thank you!

Pickens County Sheriff Donnie Craig’s son, Tyler Craig, moving forward in his training with the United States Army.

With a desire to serve others, similar to his parents, Tyler Craig has moved into the selection phase for the United States Army Special Forces. Being the son of a Sheriff and a Probation Officer, Tyler Craig has witnessed exactly what it can look like to devote yourself to a life of public service. This desire proved true when Tyler left college at Gardner Webb University and enlisted in the United States Army. In September, Tyler completed his basic training and has since graduated from Airborne training. He is now in the Special Forces selection program at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Sheriff Donnie Craig said that it is difficult knowing the dangers that he may face but “his mother and I could not be more proud of his choice to serve our great nation.”

Please continue to keep Tyler, Landon, and all the men and women of our nation’s armed services in your thoughts and prayers. Their sacrifice is proof that our freedom does come with a cost.
SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT – Kevin Millwood by Kristen Welch

He was just a boy from “small town, North Carolina”. Now he has his very own fan club. Meet Kevin Millwood. This retired professional baseball player is one gentle-natured Georgia icon to follow. After 16 years of being on the road traveling, Kevin laid his glove down and replaced it with a dedication to philanthropy. Although this season of his life doesn’t lend itself to thriving popularity, you would never know the difference as his drive is still the same. Kevin’s enthusiasm to take an active role in helping with fundraising efforts for the Georgia Sheriffs’ Youth Homes is quite impressive. This non-profit organization is statewide and was founded for the benefit of children who have had a rough start at no fault of their own. Some abused, some neglected, and some just need a place to go, the young kids that the Georgia Sheriffs’ Youth Homes support deserve the best just like all others. Kevin is a believer in this cause and he has made it known through his active part in one of the state’s largest fundraisers.

Held in Rockdale County, the Kevin Millwood Celebrity Golf Classic has been ongoing for four years and has grown to be a success. With the hard work of many and the help of Kevin’s energy and fame, the fundraiser now draws in a number of celebrities and participants. Some that have participated include former Atlanta Braves players Marty Perez, Ryan Klesko, Phil Niekro, Javy Lopez, Brian Jordan, Chief Knockahoma, and State Representative Dewey McClain. This past September, the event had an astonishing 30 teams to participate with proceeds benefiting the children in the Youth Homes. The Georgia Sheriffs’ Youth Homes hope that it will continue to evolve annually and inspire others to host such events in their areas. Each year, the exciting tournament runs smoothly and with the help of people like Kevin and Marty Perez who do the “leg work”, the end result is very positive.

One may ask, “How did Kevin Millwood get involved with this one particular fundraiser?” Well, I asked him that very question and his answer was somewhat shocking. “I became involved four years ago because I saw how hard Mike Leathers worked on behalf of this organization and how passionate about this fundraiser he was. That in itself made me want to know more about it and then want to be a part of it. I also knew I wanted to give back in some way and Mike made it easy to choose this organization. Everyone wants to do something to help kids, ya know, and this fundraiser helps provide a way to give these children a home. It gives the kids a solid chance to grow up to be productive when they may not have had that chance elsewhere.” On the flip side of the more serious purpose behind the golf tournament, I asked Kevin what is his personal favorite part of the event. His answer was priceless: “Because golf is just FUN! (Laughing out loud). No really, the groups of participants and sponsors are a lot of fun. We have a great time... and the dinner the night before, Oh man! It’s really great just getting to hang out with everyone and eat some good food. That’s probably even the most fun.”

Not only is he famous with his picture plastered all over the world, but Kevin is super down to earth and very giving. Yes, Kevin Millwood, the retired Seattle baseball player is as phenomenal outside of that diamond shaped field as he was on it. In his own words, “I just treat people the way I want to be treated. I have a connection to Georgia as the most memorable time playing ball was my six years with the Atlanta Braves. Now my world revolves around my two boys, KJ and Conley and anything with them is what I’m all about. So I want to help other kids have that same kind of love and support, too. The Georgia Sheriffs’ Association and Georgia Sheriffs’ Youth Homes do a great job! I would really like to see more people get on board with them. It would be great to see even more kids get an education for a better chance in life. This golf tournament is a great way to get people involved, not because it’s fun, but because of its purpose! I hope I can influence other people to see what I see.” From the very mouth of a man that has seen the world, traveled the nation, and met all kinds, he has a vision for the future and a heart for our children.

Will you join him?
“What Christmas Means to Me”
From the Hands and Hearts of Our Kids

For some, Christmas means big gifts and Santa Claus. For others, it means cooking meals and Christmas plays. But there are some that Christmas has the simple meaning of family time and a warm hug. The holiday season is special for many different reasons and it holds a place in each of our hearts for something very dear. Below are some hand written letters from a few of the children in our Youth Homes. Enjoy reading as they share what Christmas means to them.
ABOUT THE COVER

How many times do our “not-so-picture-perfect” moments turn out to be some of our most cherished? It is the “real” part of life that truly becomes the most valuable. We all have photos that depict our perfect little family or our perfect lives, but we know that behind those photos are a thousand words of how we got there. Life is about the journey, not the destination. Often times we find ourselves so focused on a goal, on a reward, on a promotion, that we miss the beauty of the mission. At the end of the day, photos like the one on the cover become dear to our hearts because we know there is a story behind that photo and most likely one we will remember. So take a moment to cherish the “not-so-picture-perfect” moments while you continue to enjoy the ones that are.
As they described, they came from a poverty stricken home with a lot of uncertainty. They lost their father early to a homicide and their mother was unable to make ends meet afterwards. “There were times we didn’t know what we were going to eat and we saw a lot of abuse regularly but it was all we knew at that time in our life. Our grandfather knew we needed something better but realized he was not able to provide for us. He was a huge supporter of the Georgia Sheriffs’ Youth Homes so he made arrangements for us to head down to Hahira to the Boys Ranch,” said Blake. “We had no idea what to expect and it was a little nerve-racking the first time we drove under that arch and up the driveway, but our initial impression of the Ranch was positive. It was more than anything we had ever seen. We realized very quickly that having 500+ acres, horses, a pond, basketball courts, and 48 brothers was going to be awesome. We went from nothing...to something that resembled a summer camp that never ended,” Blake described.

Both of the men, Blake now 30 and Jarod 29, were very appreciative and very enthusiastic when speaking about their time with the Georgia Sheriffs’ Youth Homes. I, like many, when talking with them wondered if they were giving me the “watered down version” or if it was real. So, being the editor that I am, I just came right out and asked them: “Ok, so tell me the truth. I want the hard-core, give-it-to-me straight sort of story. Don’t tell me what you think I want to write, tell me what it was like.”
Yet again, I was caught off guard with their response. Jarod sharply said (behind his chuckle from my forthright question), “This is the truth. The place was home. It was family. It was a blessing and I am fortunate to say I am from there. When we first arrived, I was only seven years old and I really didn’t understand why we were there. I remember the day we pulled up: there were sporting things everywhere. But beyond that, I remember the companionship, the brotherhood. Very quickly we had family – a real family. There was no judgment there, just people loving you and caring for you. The opportunities were endless. We were given more than the “norm”. I remember having kids in school being jealous of us...rather than it being the other way around.” Jarod, now a father himself, said he can relate even more on an adult level. From a parental standpoint, he recognizes things now that as a resident there he never really knew to appreciate. Things like doctor’s appointments or dental care, the amount of help he had with homework and after school assistance, the free and always available entertainment and “childcare”. “These were things that were just available. We never had to worry about them - we never worried about not having someone to help us after school or coming home to an empty house. We didn’t worry about not having food or clothes or for that matter, even something to do. All these things were just available. Now that I am a father, I realize how important and how much of a responsibility those things are and that “someone” had to take care of them. I find more and more that I’m thankful for.

The Boys Ranch provided any and everything; they took care of all of this.”

As ironic as it sounds, one of the main points that the two brothers made sure to address in our conversation was “life skills”. They wanted to make it a point to tell me how appreciative they were for being taught these basic necessities. They gently laughed as if they were looking at one another reminiscing, and I knew there were stories that surround this subject. Fortunately, they shared. Blake began with, “Their structure (the Boys Ranch) gave me the ‘key’ skills. Key life skills, I mean. I learned how to be a man. The chores that we were taught to do were the very life skills that I use today.” Jarod added “Yeah, I echo what Blake said. I have had some experiences when dating that made it evident not everyone is taught how to cook and clean, wash their own clothes, and make their own decisions” (as the two chuckled together). “The Ranch (as a whole) takes care of you. They supervise, they help, they care! You feel secure and they make you feel you can progress at anything. Again, they make you feel like your opportunities are endless,” emphasized Jarod.

Like life, their story is beautiful, but there have been some twists along the way. There is always a bridge to cross or obstacle to overcome and even in this amazing success story, Blake and Jarod both have had to face some hard times throughout their 20 years with the Georgia Sheriffs’ Youth Homes. Getting these young gentlemen to share that side was more like pulling teeth, but they did open up and discuss. The most challenging part of being a resident in a youth home for them was visitation: when their biological family would visit during holidays and/or special functions, the boys realized that life outside of the home still existed... just not with them as a part of it. They explained that no matter how amazing the Ranch was, when their blood relatives would come, it was a reminder that they still had family outside of that 500 acres. They had cousins growing up and making memories, but they were not making memories with them. “Recognizing that you will not be with your family again even though you have developed new relationships and bonds - is just hard. My brothers (all 48 of them) and my parents at the Ranch were absolutely amazing, but the lack of contact and connection with my extended biological family was tough at times. Fortunately, that was not something we dealt with consistently. The great thing about the Ranch, was that there was so much to do, so many things to keep you busy and content. You were able to move forward and find happiness,” said Blake. “Without the Ranch, we wouldn’t be who we are! They blessed us. I mean really blessed us and we want to make sure they know that we appreciate it. We wouldn’t have what we have or be the men we are today if we had not had the chance to grow up there. They took us from 2nd and 4th grades and cared for us all the way through five years of college each. Not everyone gets that opportunity. We were the fortunate ones!

They are absolutely right. These two men had a rough start, but through the love and support of the Boys Ranch, they are both successful with an inspiring story and a bright future ahead. This is truly what the Georgia Sheriffs’ Youth Homes are all about: taking negative situations and turning them into life blessings. Thank you sheriffs and supporters, staff and volunteers for making it possible to give children just like Blake and Jarod a chance. Thank you for giving them a shot that they may never have been able to take!
THIS TIME OF YEAR IS A GOOD TIME TO REVIEW THE STATUS OF YOUR FINANCIAL GOALS, BOTH PERSONAL AND PHILANTHROPIC.

Georgia Sheriffs’ Youth Homes Foundation, Inc. has four educational brochures that you might find helpful.

Five Planned Giving Options
What a Will Can Accomplish
Estate Planning Beyond Your Will
Review Your Financial Plan

To request any of the brochures listed or to discuss additional opportunities with our Development Staff:

Call: 1-800-321-9191
Email: GSYHFoundation@georgiasheriffs.org
Website: www.georgiasheriffsyouth.org/GSYHFoundation
Cast your nets, boys! Several of the Ranch residents were excited to help with the fish removal project after two fishery biologists recommended all the fish be extracted from the pond. Later in the year, the ponds will be restored with a healthier fish population.

Moody AFB Airmen not only shine in the sky, but they also lend a hand at the Ranch. Two units from the base joined in to help with pond cleanup and tree/stump removal. Both units were scheduled to deploy in mid-September yet still found the time to help their community neighbors. A big “hoorah” to the Airmen!

Racing floats and rafts? Now that’s thinking outside the box. Mitchel County Sheriff W.E. Bozeman and Baker County Sheriff Dane Meade joined together and hosted the Flint River Poker Float and Raft Race. Held at the Rocky Bend Flint River Retreat Center on July 25th, this water race was one to watch. From homemade rafts to poker floats, it was a super soaking, side splitting success.
It’s all fun and games until someone gets stung! What a day it was at the Georgia Tech stadium watching the Yellow Jackets play some ball! The college stadium holds 55,000 people and the experience of sitting in one of those seats is exhilarating. The boys from Pineland enjoyed some pre-game fun tailgating and playing corn hole until it was time for the “Ramblin’ Wrecks” to kickoff. Go GT!
Dollywood. Enough said. The boys and girls of Cherokee Estate and MountainView were treated to four days in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. From the exciting, wet rides of Splash Mountain to the entertainment and dinner at the Dixie Stampede and on to the famous Dollywood Park, it was one wild event after another. The vacation was a blast and the youngsters were super excited. Even Christopher, who was ever so close to the “law”, was able to come home with some tall tales.

The Indian Trace Golf Course sponsors an annual golf tournament to help raise money for the educational opportunities of Cherokee Estate and MountainView. This year it was held on August 28th and as usual, it was a hole in one.

Pictured are Murray County Sheriff Gary Langford, GSYH Development Officer Mike Leathers, Walker County Sheriff Steve Wilson, Cherokee Estate Resident Director Nikita Jordan and Whitfield County Sheriff Scott Chitwood.
That smile is priceless. There is just something about a Tea Party and getting to paint your own tea cup. The Swainsboro library hosted a Tea Party and as you can tell, the girls were thrilled.

Making a Civil War folder for a school project became exciting when the boys were able to go to the Library Resource room and work together. Just because you have to stay quiet doesn’t mean you can’t have fun.

Who would have thought that studying in the library would be so amusing? The Herrington Homestead boys know how to have a good time wherever they go.

For something so simple as a ribbed, round, orange piece of fruit, who would think that people would drive all over to enjoy the sights of a pumpkin patch.

The Methodist Church in Swainsboro hosts a Pumpkin event each year and half of the proceeds are donated to Herrington Homestead. Several of the campus board members attend this church and are proud participants. The children enjoy painting the pumpkins and all the excitement the event brings. Pumpkin patches to pumpkin spice, it’s definitely fall fever.

“This is how you do it.” Schwabe Motors of Swainsboro took the time to go over a few “car buying tips” with many of the Herrington Homestead youngsters. Mayor Schwabe explains what to look for when considering a vehicle. He walked them through the steps in a sales procedure to show each one how much a car would cost with tax, tag, and title fees. They followed up the car lot adventure with a stop by an insurance agency and a bank to get a feel for the entire car-buying process.

AJ thinks he has found “the one”… he’s checking out this sharp little 4x4 Jeep Sport.

The harvest season is here and even the scarecrows have to work.
It’s been 44 years and she’s still like an “energizer battery” that just keeps going and going. At the young age of 20, an upbeat energetic young lady by the name of Beth was introduced to the Boys Ranch in Hahira. It was simply supposed to be a “first job” sort of thing for the summer, but more than four decades later, it is safe to assume that it became her lifetime career.

Beth started out in fundraising at the Ranch. She was attending college at Valdosta State University working towards her undergraduate degree. Like many gals in college she became smitten by a handsome local boy, but this fella brought a little twist to the situation. He was a previous resident of the Boys Ranch and thus her perception of her “summer job” took on a shade of a different color. It brought the cause closer to home. As she continued in college, earning her Bachelor’s Degree and then her Masters in Sociology, Beth stayed with the Georgia Sheriffs’ Youth Homes and worked her way up to Director of Child Care/Director of the Boys Ranch.

“I just worked my way up. I’ve been here my whole adult life. I guess you could say my job became my life…and my life became my family. Knowing early on what a difference this place made gave me a more intimate connection; it gave me even more purpose to be so devoted. The children alone – just making a difference in their lives – makes it all worthwhile. Family is important to me and they are family,” shared Beth.

When asked what the hardest part about her 44 years on the campus has been, Beth gave a glimpse into her core and heart. “The toughest part of my time here has not been within the Ranch; it was learning the transition between my family here and my family at home. That was hard. They become so intertwined even when they shouldn’t. I had to learn to leave the Ranch…at the Ranch. And that was difficult!” said Beth. It was obvious this subject was very dear to her heart and something that the course of 44 years has taken time to mold and take shape. Beth fondly credits her husband John and two sons who have always supported and encouraged her throughout her career.

Although Beth Tillman is the epitome of longevity and devotion, with a heart the size of Texas, she is also known around the campus for just telling it like it is. It’s no surprise to hear Beth say, “Put ya big boy or big girl panties on and go on – tomorrow is another day.” That’s the talk only real family shares! And in her own words, “Family is, was, and will always be the most important thing in life whether that is traditional family or not. Family is just family…and this is my family.”
FUNDRAISERS

They’re locked and loaded. Long time Youth Homes supporters, Don and Pam Head are ready to hit the road at the Hall County Bike Ride. They will cruise around the Chattahoochee National Forest, take in some of nature’s beauty, then end their stroll with a down-home cookout at Laurel Park.

It was a beautiful day on the greens. The annual Steve Byrd Memorial Golf Tournament held on October 5, 2015 at Houston Lake Country Club was a great success! The four-person teams as well as the hole sponsors made the event “the place to be”. The fundraiser was created to benefit the Georgia Sheriffs’ Youth Homes and all involved hope that each year it will continue to grow.

With only 24 hours to answer the challenge, rain or shine, several brave supporters took the Plunge. Brantley County Sheriff Jack Whisenant hosted the Polar Plunge Challenge fundraiser on behalf of the Georgia Sheriffs’ Youth Homes. Although the plunge was breath taking and ice cold, the participants were warm at heart to donate their time and money to the cause.

Kickstands up at 10 a.m.!! Sheriff Gary Gulledge of Paulding County hosted the 12th annual motorcycle benefit ride on September 19, 2015. The ride began and ended at the Community Center and as usual, the participants and sponsors had a great time. There’s just something about that rumble.

“Jeepin N Georgia”. The Jackson County Sheriff’s Office hosted a benefit Jeep ride through the mountains on October 24, 2015 to help raise money for the Georgia Sheriffs’ Youth Homes. The Jeeps started at Beef O’Brady’s at 10 a.m. and ended with a cookout at the campground aside the Tallulah River. The fundraiser had a big turnout and a lot of happy campers. Sheriff Janis Mangum of Jackson County along with Sheriff Chuck Smith of Meriwether County are proud to be among this group of supporters.

“IT was a “thumbs up” kind of day! Emanuel County’s 19th Annual Bill Drew Herrington Homestead Fundraiser was rainy but fabulous! Rain or shine, the participants and sponsors enjoyed their free lunch, exciting prizes and a great day of golfing to help raise money for Herrington Homestead.
During Labor Day Weekend, Sheriff Donnie Craig and the Pickens County Sheriff’s Office hosted the annual “Crawl for the Kids” event to raise money for the Georgia Sheriffs’ Youth Homes.

The small town of Jasper, Georgia was invaded by close to 2,000 registered Jeeps during Labor Day weekend to support our kids. The Pickens County Sheriff’s Office began a unique fundraising event 5 years ago by capitalizing on a community that is known for Jeeps. After learning how passionate the Jeep community is, they began hosting a multi-day event known as “JeepFest”.

Over the course of the weekend, participants enjoyed an obstacle course featuring a large bounty hill and a wide variety of other obstacles, close to 2,000 acres of trails, a Jeep Show, live concert, helicopter rides, a church service and much more. Each year, the JeepFest has increased by 50%, leading this to be one of the largest Jeep events held in the southeastern United States, if not the country.

JeepFest serves as a fundraiser for the Georgia Sheriffs’ Youth Homes, the Sheriff’s Foundation of Pickens County (that serves local children’s organizations throughout Pickens County) and the Joy House, a youth ministry focused on reaching troubled teens. This year’s event proved to be another very successful fundraiser for these organizations.

When asked about the success of this event, Sheriff Craig said, “This is what it looks like for a community to come together and make a difference.” Since taking office in 2009, Sheriff Craig has remained very passionate in his support of the Georgia Sheriffs’ Youth Homes and served as the 2014 President of the Youth Homes. Craig went on to say, “I am so proud of how our team has pulled together to have an impact in the lives of kids.”

If you would like to learn more about JeepFest, visit www.sheriffsjeepfest.com or check out the JeepFest Facebook page.
The Georgia Sheriffs’ Association represents the Office of Sheriff and sponsors the Georgia Sheriffs’ Youth Homes, providing residential care for abused, abandoned and neglected children. The Tribute Program is a wonderful way to support these organizations while remembering loved ones. Contributions may be made to these funds to recognize a friend or loved one who has passed away, acknowledge a birthday or anniversary, send get well wishes, or to honor someone. All contributions made to the Georgia Sheriffs’ Association will be used to promote the Constitutional Office of Sheriff, while contributions made to the Georgia Sheriffs’ Youth Homes will be used for higher education of our graduating seniors or for capital improvements.

CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED JULY 1 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2015

GSYH TRIBUTES

Mr. Charles C. Abernathy
W. G. Overby
Mrs. Colleen S. Adams
Bobby Adams
Mr. Bud Akins
John Cody
Ms. Brenda Alexander
Bob Davis
Mr. David Allred
Thelma Cleet
Mr. Jimmy “Log” Anglin
Jerry & Janis Mangum
Mr. William L. Argo, Jr.
Jim & Holly Proctor & The Girls
Bishop Hugh D. Arnold
William & Dianne Denton
Mr. David Baddour
Marvin Dorminey
Mr. Frank Baker, Jr.
Sheriff & Mrs. Neal Walden
Mr. Jimmy Baker
Harold Gowder & Family

Ms. Mary Jo Barbaree
Fred A. Mayfield & Company
Mr. Charlie Belk
Ralph & Shari Dorminey
Ms. Betty Jane Bell
Mary & Ray Walker
Ms. Norma Bell
Mike Leathers
Beth Tillman
Mr. Bobby Bennett
Ralph & Shari Dorminey
Mr. James P. Bergen
Rhoda Bergen
Mr. Harry Birch
Sheriff Bill Harrell & Staff - Laurens Co. S.O.
Mrs. Georgia Bollinger
Linda & Wayne Dykes
Mr. Raymond C. Braddey
Mr. & Mrs. Johnny Underwood
Betty N. Johnson
Annette Braddy
Shizuko Breen
Christopher Breen
Mr. Dorsey Brooks
Jerry & Janis Mangum
Mr. Harold Brown
Harold Gowder & Family
Mr. Jeffery Brown
Bill & Connie Harrell
Mr. Edward Burns
Jerry & Janis Mangum
Mr. Sam Burns
Harriet Crum
Mr. Francis Lee Byrne, Sr.
Andy Thompson

Mr. Lance Callaway
Larry & Wanda Lewis
Ms. Bonnie Crosby Campbell
Johnny & Donna Lipsey
Mr. Ricky Canterbury
Glenda & Lamar Hughes
Ms. Farrah Johnson Castleberry
Paul & Rosa Preskitt
Mr. Robert Causey
Sheriff Cullen & Peggy Talton
Mr. Steve E. Chadwick
Constance U. Milledge
Mr. Elmer “Buddy” Chapman
Linda & Wayne Dykes
Mrs. Arzetta Chatman
Sheriff Billy & Mary Ellen Hancock
J. Terry Norris
Sheriff Janis Mangum
Sheriff Bill & Connie Harrell
Ms. Stephanie Clements
Moultrie Woodmen of the World Lodge 104
Ms. Amanda C. Colley
Jim & Holly Proctor & The Girls
Mrs. Sue Cooler
Jim & Holly Proctor & The Girls
Mr. William A. Cooper
Sheriff Neil Warren
Mr. Loyd Craven
Jerry & Janis Mangum
Miss Lynda May Cribb
William & Dianne Denton
Ms. Jaqueline Hardree Crisp
Ann & Bill Morse
Ms. Susan Canterbury Cross
Glenda & Lamar Hughes
Cleo Crumley
Joyce & Sonny Mathis
Mrs. Carolyn Kinnebrew Daniel
Ed & Sally Feagin
Mr. Parks Daniels
Bill & Connie Harrell
Mr. Bobby Davis
Sheriff Billy & Mary Ellen Hancock
Larry & Wanda Lewis
Gloria W. Dixon
Mr. Robert Dawson
Dr. Kirk Krueger
Mr. Richie Demott
Steve & Debra Stanfill
Ms. Rena Deriso
Paul & Rosa Prescott
Mr. David H. Drake
Sheriff Janis & Jerry Mangum
Ms. Dahlia C. Doyle
Shirley Shields
Adrian Turpin Dudley
Rena T. Cobb
Mr. Carl Duke
Peggy Haralson
Mr. Mitchell Ely
Sheriff Bill Harrell & Staff - Laurens Co. S.O.
Mr. J. R. Evans
Johnny & Beth Noble
Mr. James Kenneth Evans
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Harvey

Mr. John Evans
Dan & Vanita Anderson
Dr. Malone “Gator” Ewing
Kay E. Smith
Ms. Julia Fields
Bob Davis
Mrs. Dene Findley
Barbara Harms
Ms. Mary Helen Flatt
Barbara Harms
Mr. Henry Lee Gary
Jerry & Janis Mangum
Mr. Gary A. Gibson
Edd & Carol Cheney
Ms. Edna G. Giddens
Mitzi Campbell
Mr. Mark Gillis
Bob & Faye Davis
Mr. Tony Goodin
Larry & Judy Wilkinson & Betty Powell
Mr. James Goronto
Martin Motors
Mr. Neil Graham
Turner County Stockyards, Inc.
Ms. Dorothy Graves
Moultrie Woodmen of the World Lodge 104
Ms. Verne M. Griffin
Martha Dasher
Ms. Jane Webb Grimes
Van & Julie Murphy
Perry & Dolores Conger
Ray & Mary Walker
Mr. Paul Gurlay
Jerry & Janis Mangum
Mr. Don “Frog” Haire
Tommy Hester
Deputy Richard Allen Hall
J. Terry Norris
Mr. Virgil L. Hamilton, Sr.
William & Dianne Denton
Mr. Donnie Haralson
Peggy Haralson
Mr. Tim Harbin
Dan & Marie Branch
Ms. Ina Harper
Thelma Cleet
Mr. Wayne Harrington
Linda & Wayne Dykes
Ms. Doris Jeannine Havard
Bill & Connie Harrell
Laurens County Sheriff’s Office Staff
Ms. Joyce W. Hawkins
Wesley & Linda Walraven
Mrs. Murleene Haymons
Jewell, Tracy & Chris Stucky
The Security State Bank
Dr. Charles W. Haynie
George & Bobbie Haynie
Ms. Ruth Herrington
Betsy Freeman & Family
Mr. Spencer Herrington
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Vann
Ms. Rose Mary Hester
Annette H. Black
Ms. Geneva W. Hill
Frances Noland
Mr. Joe E. Hines
Lofton & Murlene Haymons

Mrs. Eddie Mae Hogan
Jerry & Janis Mangum

Mr. Alfred Hogg
Dan & Marie Branch

Mr. Roger Holloway
Turner County Stockyards, Inc.

Mrs. Linda S. Horn
Jim & Holly Proctor & The Girls

Ms. Mary Ernest Houston
Joyce & Sonny Mathis

Mr. Chris Hulett
Harold & Grace Gower

Mr. LeRoy F. Humphries, Jr.
Trudy Shelton

Mr. Otis Hurst
Ralph & Shari Dorminey

Mr. Dick Jarrell
Marcellene Jarrell

Mr. Ed Jarrett, Sr.
Towanda Anthony & Sheran Anthony, Jr.

Ms. Betty V. Johnson
Fred A. Mayfield & Company

Mr. Charlie Paul Johnson
Bill & Connie Harrell

Ms. Judy Johnson
Jerry & Janis Mangum

Mr. Larry Johnson
Sue Lewis

Mrs. Clara Dell Key Jones
North Georgia Community Action, Inc.

Mr. David Jones
Dr. & Mrs. Krueger

Mrs. Julia Dianne Jones
Carol Ann & Buddy Horne

Mrs. Mildred Doss Jordan
Jerry & Janis Mangum

Mr. James “Buddy” Kennedy
Sheriff Bill Harrell & Staff - Laurens Co. S.O.

Ms. Marilyn King
Leroy & Jo Beth Little

Mr. Brett Kirkland
Clay & Joann Joiner

Mr. Donald S. Ladson
Michael J. Lindsey, Linda L. O’Briant
Neil & Hope Norman

Mr. Barry Lavender
Jerry & Janis Mangum

Mr. Thomas Lee
Sheriff Neil Warren

Mr. Mike Lewis
Arthur M. & Gail M. Posey

Tency Lewis
Carolyn Kimbrel

Mr. Larry Dean Long, Sr.
Electric Wholesale Supply

Ms. Martha Ann Long
Mary Killingsworth

Mr. William “Bill” David Looney
Jean Memory

Helen Joyner

McCrosky Construction Company, LLC
Art & Sylvia Graves & Family

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Sheffield
Mrs. Betty Coile & Family

New Hope United Methodist Church
Shafeekah Brown

Ms. Carol Klett Mann
Sheriff H. W. & Mary Ellen Hancock

Mr. Robert Hugh Manning, Jr.
Johnny & Donna Lipsy

Mr. Eugene Marr
Jim & Holly Proctor & The Girls

Sheriff J. Don Martin
The Polly E. Martin Family Charitable Fund

Mr. Jack Martin
Helen Vickery

Ms. Judy Martin
Steve & Debra Stanfill

Mrs. Denise Matheson
Kathleen D. Hayes

Ms. Deborah A. May
Sheriff Neil Warren

Mr. Charles Maynard
Brenda Maynard

Mr. Jerry Ellis “Moe” McClung
Sheriff Neil Warren

Mr. Will McCracken
Beth Tillman

Martha Dasher
Harnel Crum

Mr. Roy Lee McCurley
Bullock Fertilizer Company, Inc.
The James Adams Family
Morgan Concrete Company, Inc.

Carol Stephen

Mrs. Sarah Lee Palmer McKinnon
Sheriff Chris Prine & Staff

Mr. Ronnie Merritt
Merck Retirees Flint River

Mr. Frank Moore
Sheriff Janis Mangum

Ms. Sue Moore
Pat, Todd, & Carrie Crumbley & Sara Boyd

Mrs. Virginia Morgan
Sheriff Janis & Jerry Mangum

Ms. Glenda Rogers Morris
Johnny & Donna Lipsy

Ms. Nora Moseley
Tom & Elaine Moseley

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Nash
George Worthy

Mr. Bryan Nicholson
Tifton Post Office Employees

Mrs. Peggy Nobles
J. Terry Norris
Jim & Holly Proctor & The Girls

Mrs. Myrtle Nolen
Don & Jean Parrish

Sheriff Ladson L. O’Connor
Sheriff & Mrs. Neal Walden
Cross Timbers Baptist Church

Ms. Angela O’Kelley
Thelma Clett

Deputy David Cameron O’Neal, Jr.
Sheriff Janis Mangum

Mr. Jerome Oglesby
June Cultherton

Jeanette Clanton & Mike Clanton

Mr. & Mrs. Rose Overby
Dan & Marie Branch

Mr. A. C. Owney
W. G. Overby

Mrs. Hazel Ellis Palmer
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Harvey
Kenneth W. Phillips

Bobby & Helen Miller
Scott & Kim Pounds
Roy & Glynda Wurtz

Mr. Sherman Parker, Jr.
Ray & Mary Walker

Mrs. Louise Parnacott
Tom & Glenda Digby

Ms. Nancy Wainer Parrott
Employees of Parrott Medical Clinic
Mr. & Mrs. Phil Parrott

The Slocum Family - Phoebe, Cindy, George, Andy & Christy

Mr. & Mrs. Heyward B. Clarke

Ms. Kristi Patel
Mr. & Mrs. Phil Alday

Sheriff Van Peavy
Linda Davis

Mr. Freddie Peete
Sheriff Chris Prine & Staff

Ms. Ruth S. Perry
Anne & Lynwood Suber

James & Betty Saunders

Mr. J. T. Phagans
George & Lenda Kirkland
Ann Hancock & Joey Hancock

Mr. William Lester Phillips
Towanda Waters

Mr. Gay E. Prigden
Henry Prigden

Sheriff Lee Douglas Ragland
J. Terry Norris

Ms. Betty S. Ray
Frances Noland

Mr. Daniel Stephen “Danny” Ray, Sr.
Sheriff R. N. “Butch” & Mrs. Linda Reece
LouAnn Watson & John Watson
Wimberly & Marc Treadwell

Staff & Employees of Volumatic, Inc.

Collison Specialists, Inc.
First Assembly of God, Inc.
A. H. & J. B. Perry
Greg & Buddy Leger - Leger & Son, Inc.

Joe Batchelor
Walker, Hubert, Gray & Moore, LLP

Jim & Dottie Harden

Sheriff Cullen Talton
Ret. GSP 196 - Arthur M. Posey
Ret. GSP 135 - Pat A. Posey
O’Neal & Brown, P.C.

Mr. Joe Ray
Bill Ray

Theilda Register
Woodmen of the World - Chapter 104

Mrs. Deanie Richardson
Jerry & Janis Mangum

Sidney Blake Richardson
Jim & Holly Proctor & The Girls

Mr. Payne Ricketson
Martin Motors

Mr. Itha “Petie” Roberts
Shirley Merritt

Ms. Rose Overby
Dan & Marie Branch

Mr. A. C. Owney
W. G. Overby

Mrs. Hazel Ellis Palmer
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Harvey
Kenneth W. Phillips

Bobby & Helen Miller
Scott & Kim Pounds
Roy & Glynda Wurtz

Mr. Sherman Parker, Jr.
Ray & Mary Walker

Mrs. Louise Parnacott
Tom & Glenda Digby

Ms. Nancy Wainer Parrott
Employees of Parrott Medical Clinic
Mr. & Mrs. Phil Parrott

The Slocum Family - Phoebe, Cindy, George, Andy & Christy

Mr. & Mrs. Heyward B. Clarke

Ms. Kristi Patel
Mr. & Mrs. Phil Alday

Sheriff Van Peavy
Linda Davis

Mr. Freddie Peete
Sheriff Chris Prine & Staff

Ms. Ruth S. Perry
Anne & Lynwood Suber

James & Betty Saunders

Mr. J. T. Phagans
George & Lenda Kirkland
Ann Hancock & Joey Hancock

Mr. William Lester Phillips
Towanda Waters

Mr. Gay E. Prigden
Henry Prigden

Sheriff Lee Douglas Ragland
J. Terry Norris

Ms. Betty S. Ray
Frances Noland

Mr. Daniel Stephen “Danny” Ray, Sr.
Sheriff R. N. “Butch” & Mrs. Linda Reece
LouAnn Watson & John Watson
Wimberly & Marc Treadwell

Staff & Employees of Volumatic, Inc.

Collison Specialists, Inc.
First Assembly of God, Inc.
A. H. & J. B. Perry
Greg & Buddy Leger - Leger & Son, Inc.

Joe Batchelor
Walker, Hubert, Gray & Moore, LLP

Jim & Dottie Harden

Sheriff Cullen Talton
Ret. GSP 196 - Arthur M. Posey
Ret. GSP 135 - Pat A. Posey
O’Neal & Brown, P.C.

Mr. Joe Ray
Bill Ray

Theilda Register
Woodmen of the World - Chapter 104

Mrs. Deanie Richardson
Jerry & Janis Mangum

Sidney Blake Richardson
Jim & Holly Proctor & The Girls

Mr. Payne Ricketson
Martin Motors

Mr. Itha “Petie” Roberts
Shirley Merritt

Ms. Jewell Roberts
Patricia Terry

Mr. Clarence Robinson
Sheriff Neil Warren

Retired Sheriff Bill Hutson

Mr. David Robbin
Sheriff H. W. & Mary Ellen Hancock

Helen & Lamar Rountree
John & Vivian Rountree

Mr. Gene Rowland
Joyce & Sonny Mathis

Mrs. Eleanor Russell
Jim & Holly Proctor & The Girls

Ms. Annie C. Rylas
Lila K. Hart

Wendy & Christopher Ledbetter

Douglas & Linda Watson

Wendell L. Clements & Family

Mr. Dewey Doyle Sapp
Bill & Connie Harrell

Mr. Will Seagraves
Sheriff Janis Mangum & Staff

John Cody

Mr. Wiley Sears
Jim & Holly Proctor & The Girls

Ms. Barbara Sharp
Betty Freeman & Family

Mr. Thomas Joseph Shults
Richard & Hilda Shults

Mrs. Beulah Smith
Jerry & Janis Mangum

Mr. Charlie A. Smith
Jim & Holly Proctor & The Girls

Mr. Clarence Smith
J. Terry Norris

Bret Tillman

Shayne Goddard

Ms. Cora Lee Tillman Chatman Smith
Bill & Connie Harrell

Laurens County Sheriff’s Office Staff

Ms. Gloria Smith
Frank Boyd

Mrs. Earline Snider
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Harvey

Mr. Clint Scales
Margree Meeks

Mrs. Mary Nell Sorrells
Jerry & Janis Mangum

Mrs. Janet Standridge
Jerry & Janis Mangum

Mr. William Day Stanford
Glenn Fox

Lin & Jo Ann Stanford

Joe E. Anderson
Dr. Frances Roberson

Cassie H. Tanner

James & Claire McClean

Hub and Lillian Chase Family

Mr. Vic Stansberry
Betsy Stansberry

Mrs. Becky Stowe
Jerry & Janis Mangum

Mr. Wilbur L. Streut
William & Dianne Denton

Mr. William Streutman
Bobby & Helen Miller

Sheriff Noah Strickland
Brenda & Angela Strickland
Mr. Mike Tabb  
Jerry & Rachael Jolly

Mr. Paul Tate  
Ralph & Shari Dorminey  
Mark & Alba Blair  
Mary D. Blair

Flavel Tawzer  
The Househ, Echois  
& Waggoner Families  
Frances Nolan

Mr. Marion Kenneth “Buck” Taylor  
Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Hartman

Mr. Wallace Taylor  
Sheriff Bill Harrell & Staff -  
Laurens Co. S.O.

Mr. John L. Thomas  
Lofton & Murlene Haymons

Mrs. Laverne Thomas  
Sheriff Chris Prime & Staff

Mr. Claude Thompson  
Dan & Marie Branch

Mr. Joe Lee Thompson  
Sheriff Neil Warren

Mr. Virlyn Toney  
Johnny & Beth Noble

Mr. Steve Volf  
Philip Ayers  
Steve Volf Family

Ms. Jane Davis Wade  
Jacquelyn S. Roberts

Ms. Hazel B. Waldrip  
Robert Allen & Allison Maddox  
Robert & Rosie Clary

Mr. Bobby Wallace Walker  
Betty & Jimmy Hitchcock  
Ray & Mary Walker

Ms. Janie Walker  
Jeannette Finch

Ms. Ruth Ward  
Bob & Faye Davis

Retired Sheriff Lorin L. Waters  
J. Terry Norris  
Chris Slate  
Shirley Long  
Mary Waters & Family

Ms. Fran I. Watkins  
Teresa & Gary Wrye

Ms. Eloise Weaver  
Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Dougherty

Reverend Henry Webb  
Jerry & Janis Mangum

Mr. Dick Weir  
Tumar County Stockyards, Inc.

Mr. Dale Westfall  
Barbara R. Westfall

Blan Whisnant  
A. J. Wright

Robert & Regena Whitaker  
Margaret & Jerry Whitaker

Mr. Charles Wiggins  
Tumar County Stockyards, Inc.

Mr. Gus Wiggins  
Tumar County Stockyards, Inc.

Clozelle W. Wilkins  
Harold & Patricia Harbin

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HONORS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Sheriff Frank Andrews - Rabun Co. S.O.  
  Barbara Cantrell
| Levi Barber - Eagle Scout  
  Sheriff R. N. "Butch" & Mrs. Linda Reece
| Captain Larry Bruce - Camden Co. S.O.  
  Vaxter G. Hammond
| Sheriff John Carter - Wayne Co. S.O.  
  Laverne Thomas
| Sheriff Joe Chapman - Walton Co. S.O.  
  Janet M. Spillman
| Mrs. Sally Jones  
  Mr. & Mrs. John B. Meehl
| Zane Kent - Eagle Scout  
  Sheriff R. N. "Butch" & Mrs. Linda Reece
| Sheriff Janis Mangum & Staff  
  of Jackson Co. S.O.  
  Robert & Wanda Purcell  
  Cecelia G. Paulson  
  Bill Legg
| Mr. Anthony McCastle & Family  
  F.H. Vollbeer Financial Services
| Eli Nelson - Eagle Scout  
  Sheriff R. N. "Butch" & Mrs. Linda Reece
| The Patterson Family  
  James V. Williams
| Sheriff Donnie Pope - Jasper Co. S.O.  
  Mr. & Mrs. Gerald F. Bailey
| Sheriff Peter Smith & Instructors  
  of Ladies Gun Class  
  Betty D. Pope
| Talbot County Retired Sheriffs  
  A. Davis
| Sheriff H. Cullen Talton - Houston Co. S.O.  
  Laverne H. Purser  
  Charles L. & Pamela J. Wysowski
| Sheriff Joey Terrell - Habersham Co. S.O.  
  Judy & Bill Norris
| Sheriff & Mrs. Neil Warren - Cobb Co. S.O.  
  Mr. & Mrs. Scott Sikes
| Sheriff Donnie Haraldson  
  Gail D. Hammock

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BIRTHDAYS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Mr. Michael Crump  
  Joan Aldridge & Cindi Leathers
| Mr. Ken Hall  
  Joel & Carolyn Baker
| Mr. Charles E. Standridge  
  Mr. & Mrs. Donald Rhodes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GSA TRIBUTES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| All Deceased Georgia Law Enforcement Officers  
  Dr. Theron G. Snider, III
| Mr. James Waverly Brittain, Jr.  
  Sheriff R. N. "Butch" & Mrs. Linda Reece
| Mr. Winston Royce Brown  
  James D. Brown
| Mr. James Ulric "Ricky" Canterbury  
  Mr. & Mrs. Dale Brown & Family
| Mrs. Arzetta Chatman  
  Sheriff R. N. "Butch" & Mrs. Linda Reece
| Mr. Osell Clampitt  
  Sheriff R. N. "Butch" & Mrs. Linda Reece
| Mr. Philip Conner  
  Hilda J. Ferguson
| Mrs. Sue Rawls Cornwall  
  Marjorie McRee & Family
| Mr. Cory Cortez  
  Mr. & Mrs. Joe Cortez
| Mrs. Carolyn Daniel  
  B. T. & Ann Johnson
| Mrs. Dorothy K. Detamoore  
  Deputy Sheriff Lewis Cazenave
| Ms. Lorena Deriso  
  B. T. & Ann Johnson
| Adrian T. Dudley  
  B. T. & Ann Johnson
| Mr. Joe Genone  
  Azalea City Bonding Company, Inc.
| Mr. Ronald "Ron" Lee Graham  
  Sheriff R. N. "Butch" & Mrs. Linda Reece
| Dr. Hubert Greene  
  B. T. & Ann Johnson
| Sheriff Donnie Haraldson  
  Gail D. Hammock

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GSA HONORS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Georgia Sheriffs’ Association  
  Marion P. Anderson
| Sheriff Steve Wilson -  
  GSA President - Walker Co. S.O.  
  Debbie Overby

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UPCOMING EVENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Although the needs of children never cease and the necessity of fundraising doesn’t either, we realize that the holiday season is demanding and time consuming for most. We respect that our sponsors and donors need family time, so we will not be hosting any events during the winter months. Our fundraisers, benefits, and activities will resume in the early spring. Please keep an eye on the Georgia Sheriffs’ Youth Homes Facebook page and website for current and upcoming information.
Those who participated in one of the many special fundraising events benefitting the Georgia Sheriffs’ Youth Homes during the past fifteen or so years likely noticed a tall stately gentleman working quietly in the background. His gentle presence gave comfort to the sheriffs, their employees and the many volunteers who worked hard to see that the event went smoothly and to ensure the appropriate gratitude was shown to the participants who saw the importance of their time and contribution to Georgia’s many deserving children.

Sid Roberts began his career with the Georgia Sheriffs’ Youth Homes in 2000 after concluding a stellar twenty-five year career in law enforcement. It all began in 1975 when Sid became a jail officer with the Gordon County Sheriff’s Office, thirteen years later he became the Gordon County sheriff where he served until his retirement in 2000. In 2001, Sid came to work as a special events coordinator and development officer with the Georgia Sheriffs’ Youth Homes where he worked tirelessly with sheriffs to spread the word about the needs of Georgia’s abused and neglected children and to organize and conduct special fundraising events such as golf tournaments, sporting clay shoots, Jeep rides, motorcycle rides and other events.

“Sid Roberts retired for the second time a couple of months ago, but that hasn’t lessened his commitment to our sheriffs and the children they support,” said Terry Norris, Executive Director of the Georgia Sheriffs’ Youth Homes. “I have a feeling he and his wife Pat will continue their involvement in some capacity,” he continued. In the end though, Sid said it best. “It is through my fellow sheriffs’ trust in me, and their desire to make a difference in the lives of the children that I felt I was successful in making a difference.” Sid and Pat Roberts have touched many lives during the past fifteen years and they will be remembered and forever appreciated.
It’s that time of year and as the holidays roll in, people begin to put a smile on their face and their best foot forward. Unfortunately, so do the scam artists. Financial predators go into attack mode during this season and it becomes more important that "givers" know where their money goes.

Did you know that there are hundreds of online organizations that have “cancer” in their names and four of those known names came under fire earlier this year for fraud? Have you ever heard of the National Children’s Leukemia Foundation, Breast Cancer Society, Children’s Cancer Fund of America, or the Cancer Support Services? They all sound legitimate to the online donor, but instead of donations going to support cancer patients through these organizations, many of the donations went to individuals behind a fraudulent name. In some cases, it has been reported that tens of millions of hard earned dollars were being sent to some basement in a big city.

This is unfortunate to the many legitimate groups that are in need of financial help and support of charitable Americans as there are genuine cases of need all over our country. Scam artists bring a dim outlook to the fundraising community, but we would like to shed light on the subject to ensure “givers” can feel secure in donating to nonprofit organizations like ours.

Here are a few simple and easy steps to take before donating:

• Educate yourself on the organization that you are considering.

• Verify the charity is trustworthy and/or legitimate by making sure they have a legitimate 501c3 number.

• Never send cash donations. For security and tax purposes, it’s best to pay by check — made payable to the charity — or by credit card.

• Never wire money to someone claiming to be a charity. Scammers often request donations to be wired because wiring money is like sending cash: once you send it, you can’t get it back.

• Do not provide your credit or check card number, bank account number or any personal information until you’ve thoroughly researched the charity.

Don’t fall victim to a scam. Use your Charity Checklist. Be a “Giver”, but don’t be “Taken”.