



2008
Governor's Public Safety
Awards

*Dedicated to the men and women
of the Georgia public safety community
in recognition of their Acts of Heroism,
Outstanding Deeds and Exemplary Performance
that enhances their profession.*

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Governor of the State of Georgia
October 23, 2008

2008 Governor's Public Safety Awards Ceremony



J. Dale Mann, Chairman
Georgia Public Safety Training Center

Pam Bittick
Georgia Department of Corrections

Lalaine Briones
Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia

Homer Bryson
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Stacey C. Cotton
Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police

David Frazier
Georgia Fraternal Order of Police

Ben Hinson
Mid Georgia Ambulance

Mark C. McLeod
GDPS, Motor Carrier Compliance Division

Lyn Pardue
Georgia Firefighter Standards & Training Council

Molly J. M. Perry
Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

Pete Stuart
Georgia Bureau of Investigations

Courtney Terwillger
Georgia Association of Emergency Medical Services

Craig Tully
Georgia Association of Fire Chiefs

Ken Vance
Peace Officer Standards & Training Council

Joel Vinson
Joel Vinson & Associates, Inc.

Gordy Wright
Georgia Department of Public Safety

Prelude

Air National Guard Band of the South

Welcome

J. Dale Mann
Director, Georgia Public Safety Training Center

National Anthem

Kelli Gilstrap

Invocation

Monsignor Kiernan

Introduction of the Governor

J. Dale Mann
Director, Georgia Public Safety Training Center

Governor's Remarks

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Governor of the State of Georgia

Award Honorees Presentation

The Honorable Sonny Perdue

Narration - Randy Travis, Fox 5 News

Dedication Prayer

Monsignor Kiernan

2008 Governor's Public Safety Awards Honorees

R. L. "Chuck" Kelley
Stone Mountain Park Department of Public Safety

Contribution to Profession

Chuck Kelley is the Chief of Police and Fire for Stone Mountain Park Department of Public Safety. He is a certified Police Officer, Firefighter, and EMT, and has served as an EMT instructor. Chief Kelley is a graduate of the FBI National Academy.



He has served on committees for the 1996 Olympics, GACP Certification Standards, and ALEA Regional Safety Seminars. Through the Georgia-International Law Enforcement Exchange (GILEE), Chief Kelley has hosted delegates from London and Israel at the Park.

He started the Mountain Rope Rescue Team and the Automatic Defibrillator Program at the Park and was personally involved in saving many lives. Chief Kelley oversees the department but also actively responds to calls and stays involved in the daily operations of the Park.

With 35 years public safety experience, Chief Kelley is considered a tremendous asset to his department and community.



STATE OF GEORGIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
ATLANTA 30334-0900

Sonny Perdue
GOVERNOR



To Our Honored Guests:

We are here to recognize the courageous efforts of Georgia's public safety community who are committed to achieve our most basic expectation of government: to keep our neighborhoods and communities safe.

Georgia's public safety professionals protect us from fire, crime and chaos. They are leaders in our communities during times of crisis. They guard us against international and domestic terrorists. They defend our children from being victimized by sexual predators.

Where you find commitment, you will also find sacrifice. As you review the backgrounds and accounts of this year's award recipients, I hope you will note the dedication and courage each have exhibited through acts of heroism and outstanding contributions to their professions.

It is a privilege for me to pay tribute to these public safety professionals. Each of them is individually reflective of Georgia's most admirable virtues.

Sincerely,
Sonny Perdue
Sonny Perdue

2008 Governor's Public Safety Awards Honorees

*Daniel Shane Burke and Duane Owens, Sylvania Fire Department
Trevin A. Moore, Sylvania Police Department*

Act of Heroism



Daniel Shane Burke

Trevin A. Moore

Duane Owens

In the early morning hours of January 24, 2008, a newspaper carrier observed fire coming from an apartment and called 911. Units from the Sylvania Fire Department responded and found heavy smoke and flames coming from the residence. Officer Moore and Firefighters Burke and Owens entered the structure and found a woman unconscious, lying face down.

They removed her from the building and Burke immediately began CPR on the victim after no pulse was found. After a few minutes, she regained consciousness. Firefighters searched other apartment units and began fighting the blaze. The victim was turned over to responding ambulance personnel and airlifted to Augusta due to smoke inhalation and burns to her body. Her life was saved by the quick response of these firefighters.

2008 Governor's Public Safety Awards Honorees

*Dr. Robbie R. Friedmann
Public Safety Partnerships, Georgia State University*

Contribution to Profession



Dr. Robbie Friedmann has devoted his life to educating law enforcement professionals and the corporate sector to improve public safety services and develop counter-terrorism protocols to ensure a safer Georgia.

Growing up in Israel and serving as a young Israeli military officer, Dr. Friedmann experienced first-hand the challenges facing a free society. Through his personal experiences and years of study, Dr. Friedmann earned international recognition as an expert on counter-terrorism and Middle Eastern affairs.

In 1992, he created the Georgia-International Law Enforcement Exchange (GILEE.) Many of the security measures learned from our international counterparts were successfully implemented by Georgia law enforcement during international security events such as the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta and the Group of Eight Summit at Saint Simon's Island.

Because of the vision of Dr. Friedmann, hundreds of law enforcement officers are better prepared to continue the fight against terrorism.

2008 Governor's Public Safety Awards Honorees

*M. L. "Bud" Owens
Floyd Hospital EMS*

Contribution to Profession

A lifelong resident of Calhoun, Bud Owens has had a long career in Emergency Medical Services. He has received numerous awards for volunteer service, including Gordon County Volunteer of the Year and Adventist Health System's International Community Service Award.



He led Gordon County Hospital EMS to be named regional, state, and national service of the year in 2001. Owens has been named regional EMS Director of the Year seven times and Georgia Director of the Year in 2004.

He has served in leadership positions with the American Red Cross, American Heart Association, United Way, and the Exchange Club. He has served on the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors for eight years and was chairman in 2005.

He is now the Director of Floyd Hospital EMS and is still very active in Gordon County. Bud Owens' belief in making a positive impact in our world is evidenced by his commitment to service.

2008 Governor's Public Safety Awards Honorees

*Drew Hood, Scott Phillips and Josh Shoemaker
Catoosa County Fire & Rescue*

Act of Heroism



Scott Phillips

Drew Hood

Josh Shoemaker

On September 3, 2007, Catoosa County Rescue Engines were dispatched to a multi-unit apartment structure fire in Ringgold. While en route, the 911 Center reported a woman trapped upstairs in her apartment.

Under extreme heat and heavy smoke conditions, Firefighters Drew Hood and Josh Shoemaker entered the apartment building without the protection of a hose line, made their way upstairs, and found the victim lying beside the bed.

She was extricated out of the building and delivered to a waiting medic unit. Firefighter Scott Phillips pulled a hose line to the front of the apartment and charged it. He placed a ladder to the 2nd floor window and was attempting to enter the window to search for the victim. Firefighters Hood and Shoemaker then used the hose line to extinguish a heavily involved kitchen fire. These three dedicated firefighters are credited with saving this person's life.

*2008 Governor's
Public Safety Awards Honorees*

*Dorminey McCrae
Tifton Police Department*

Act of Heroism

On April 7, 2008, Officer Dorminey McCrae responded to an armed robbery call at the Piggly Wiggly grocery store. The suspect was armed with a handgun, holding a teenage store clerk hostage and trying to exit the building.

The suspect went back into the store office with the hostage. Officer McCrae entered the store and positioned himself on top of a counter where he could see over the top of a wall and into the office.



The 16-year-old hostage remained calm while making eye contact with the officer but not alerting the suspect. She moved her lips, saying, "Shoot him." As she moved away from the suspect, Officer McCrae fired one shot striking the suspect in the forehead. There is no doubt that Officer McCrae's ability to remain calm and patient until an opportunity for a clear shot helped end this incident with no physical harm to an innocent person.

*2008 Governor's
Public Safety Awards Honorees*

*Don T. Cargile
Athens Regional Medical Center EMS*

Contribution to Profession

Don Cargile has been EMS Director at Athens Regional Medical Center since 1983, making him one of Georgia's longest serving EMS Directors.

His many outstanding accomplishments include working with the medical staff at the University of Georgia Health Services to coordinate medical coverage for over 92,000 spectators attending the home football games at UGA.



He served as the First Responder Coordinator for medical responders

and ambulances covering the soccer venue for the 1996 Olympic Games. Cargile worked with Senior Paramedics and Social Workers in the development of a follow-up program for frequent users of the EMS system and assisted in the development of a very successful injury prevention program.

He has received numerous awards and accolades across the state. His 36 year career is exemplary and his professionalism is unquestioned.

No finer example exists of an individual who has made stellar contributions to public safety and public health than Don Cargile.

2008 Governor's Public Safety Awards Honorees

James M. Huth
Gwinnett County Police Department

Act of Heroism

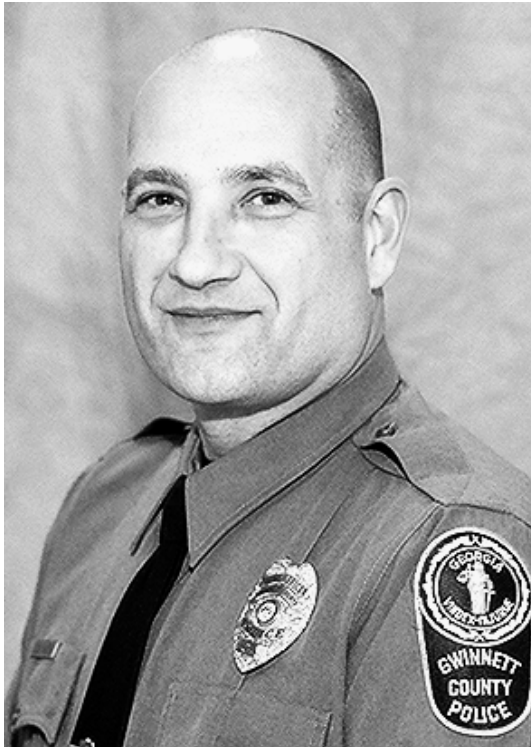
On January 3, 2008, the Gwinnett County Police Department's North Precinct Community Response Team went to a residence in Sugar Hill to serve felony warrants.

Sgt. McKeithan and Cpl. Hoch went inside the residence and up the stairs to the suspect's bedroom. When they were at the top of a flight of stairs, the suspect opened fire on them with a high-powered rifle, severely wounding both officers.

Officer Huth heard the shots from outside and went into the house. He exchanged gunfire with the subject, striking the gunman in the arm and forcing him to withdraw to his bedroom.

Officer Huth then carried one of the wounded officers out of the house. Outside, he provided cover while the wounded officers were moved to a safer position where they could receive medical attention.

Officer Huth risked his own life to rescue his fellow officers.



2008 Governor's Public Safety Awards Honorees

Stacy Prater
Life Force III

Act of Heroism

While driving home from work on July 18, 2007, Stacy Prater noticed flames coming from the bottom of the car in front of him. Paramedic Prater tried to notify the driver by blowing his horn while he called 911.

When the vehicle stopped, the undercarriage was engulfed in flames. The female driver got out and pulled two children out. She ran away from the car screaming that another child was still inside.



Prater could see the child strapped inside and entered the heavily involved car to get the child out. His first attempts were unsuccessful so he used his medical shears to cut the straps on the seat, rescuing the child.

Prater's quick and brave actions prevented what could have been a tragic ending for these four people.

*2008 Governor's
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*Frank G. Rhodes
Georgia Department of Corrections*

Act of Heroism

On July 26, 2007, Surveillance Officer Frank Rhodes, along with Probation Officers Benn Dunn and Wes Yawn, were traveling on Aviation Drive in Thomaston when they noticed smoke coming from a nearby trailer.

Officer Yawn called 911 while Rhodes and Dunn approached the trailer while heavy smoke and flames were coming from the front. Rhodes observed a man inside trying to break a window with his fist. Rhodes broke the glass with his flashlight.

While the occupant was trying to crawl out, a propane tank inside the trailer exploded, sending shrapnel flying and knocking Officer Dunn off his feet. Officer Rhodes ran back to the window and pulled the man out and away from the fire.

Thanks to Officer Rhodes, the occupant only suffered minor injuries and was saved from the fire.



*2008 Governor's
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*Jason Elliott
Brunswick Police Department*

Act of Heroism

On March 2, 2008, Sgt. Jason Elliott responded to the Sidney Lanier Bridge in reference to a male standing over the rail of the bridge. The decking of the bridge is approximately 250 feet above the river.

It appeared the man was distraught and was possibly going to jump. Sgt. Elliott assured him he was there to help, calming the man while stepping cautiously toward him.



The man slightly turned his body and began looking down at the water below. Sgt. Elliott moved into position, grabbed and pulled him over the guardrail and onto the bridge decking. He was able to subdue and control the person until an emergency squad could arrive to transport him to a hospital.

Thanks to his heroic and selfless actions, Sgt. Elliot saved a life.

*2008 Governor's
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*Michael Dahnke
Columbus Police Department*

Act of Heroism

On March 27, 2008, the Columbus 911 Center received numerous calls and immediately dispatched officers to a shooting incident at the Doctor's Hospital. A gunman had shot and killed two persons on the 5th floor and was leaving the hospital.

The suspect shot and killed a man sitting in a truck next to his car, then got into his vehicle and began driving away.



He fired several shots at Deputy Marshal Alicia Davenport who had just pulled into the parking lot. While doing so, he was confronted by Officer Johnathan Goodrich and Officer Greg Anderson, and they too came under fire.

Detective Michael Dahnke stepped out from behind cover and ordered the gunman to stop. The suspect turned to confront him and Dahnke shot him in the right shoulder, ending the shooting spree.

Dahnke acted above and beyond the call of duty and at the risk of his own personal safety when he stepped out of cover to confront the shooter.

*2008 Governor's
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*Sammie Joe Cephus
Montezuma Fire and Emergency Services*

Act of Heroism



On September 29, 2007, at 10:00 p.m., Captain Sammie Cephus, while off duty, came upon an automobile accident in Montezuma. The vehicle had struck a tree and had started to burn. Two of the four passengers were trapped inside the vehicle.

Captain Cephus entered the rear seat, and with no available equipment and no protective clothing, moved the front seat to the rear, allowing police officers to remove a passenger from the vehicle. He reentered the front seat and removed the driver from the burning vehicle and pulled him to safety.

He then helped fellow firefighters extinguish the burning vehicle. Both passengers were taken to the Burn Center in Augusta. Due to Captain Cephus' efforts, both survived.

*2008 Governor's
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*Scott Short
Georgia State Patrol*

Act of Heroism

Sgt. First Class Scott Short was on his way home on January 23, 2008, when he came upon a head-on collision between a passenger vehicle and a log truck on GA Hwy 98 that had occurred just minutes earlier.

He learned that the driver of the log truck was trapped in the cab of the vehicle off the roadway and that the vehicle was on fire. Grabbing a fire extinguisher, SFC Short, along with a civilian, ran to the truck.

There, two fires were spreading – one under the cab and another at the fuel tank that had ignited the logs. Short climbed under the cab and extinguished the fire.

He and the civilian were able to partially open the cab door and pull the driver to safety while the fire from the fuel tanks and logs continued to grow. Because of Short's brave actions, the truck driver escaped the crash with only minor injuries.



*2008 Governor's
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*R. S. Caviness
DeKalb County Police Department*

Act of Heroism



At approximately 4:30 p.m. on May 11, 2008, Sgt. Rick Caviness responded to a vehicle accident on Peachtree Industrial Boulevard. Upon arrival, he found a truck down an embankment, with two occupants in the truck and the cab on fire.

A passenger was unable to escape because of his injuries. Sgt. Caviness extricated the passenger and moved him to safety. He returned to the truck, where the fire was growing, and found the driver was semi-conscious and unable to help himself.

At great risk to his personal safety, Caviness freed the driver as the vehicle became fully involved in fire. After moving the driver to safety, Sgt. Caviness administered first aid to both injured victims until Fire Rescue arrived.

Due to his quick response and willingness to face danger, Sgt. Caviness saved the lives of the two occupants of the vehicle.