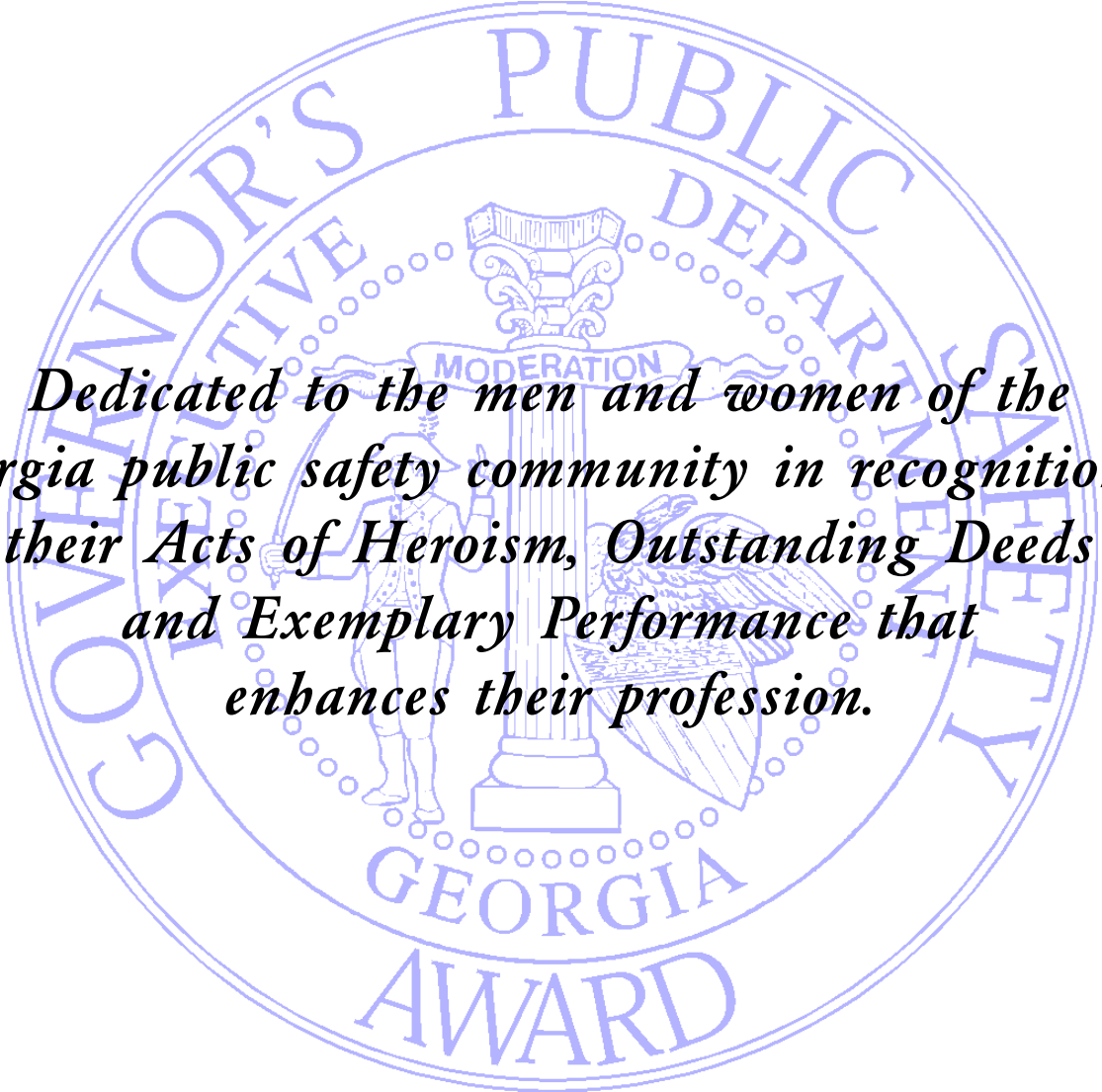


2011 Governor's Public Safety Awards



*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.*

Honorable Nathan Deal
Governor of the State of Georgia
December 13, 2011
2:15 PM

2011
Governor's
Public Safety Awards
Ceremony

December 13, 2011
2:15 PM

Welcome

Tim Bearden

Director, Georgia Public Safety Training Center

Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Rick Lanford

Senior Chaplain for Homeland Security

Introduction of the Governor

Tim Bearden

Governor's Remarks

Honorable Nathan Deal

Governor of the State of Georgia

Award Honorees Presentation

Honorable Nathan Deal

Narration - Randy Travis, Fox 5 News

Dedication Prayer

Dr. Rick Lanford



STATE OF GEORGIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
ATLANTA 30334-0900

Nathan Deal
GOVERNOR



December 13, 2011

GREETINGS:

I am pleased to extend a warm welcome to the 2011 Governor's Public Safety Awards presented by Georgia's public safety community. It is an honor to join you in recognizing the outstanding efforts of public safety professionals across Georgia.

This year's event commemorates those who have made significant contributions to the public safety profession. They continue to reflect the commitment, sacrifice and courage we have come to expect from those in uniform. On behalf of the State of Georgia, it is a privilege to recognize the heroic acts of this year's recipients. Whether it is protecting the public from fire, crime, chaos or providing critical leadership during times of crisis, Georgia's public safety community has a strong tradition of excellence and commitment to duty. Undeniably, the safety of our communities is a direct result of the dedicated service of these men and women. We also honor the families who provide crucial support to these individuals.

I speak for all Georgians as we offer our thanks to these brave men and women for their service. This state will always honor their commitment to peace and civic duty. I commend the Georgia public safety community for organizing this ceremony and for making Georgia a more secure place to live.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nathan Deal".

Nathan Deal

2011 Governor's Public Safety Awards Honorees

***Jonathan Barton
Hall County Fire Services***

Act of Heroism



Jonathan Barton

On August 7, 2010, at approximately 6:00 p.m., Firefighter Jonathan Barton and his wife and friends had decided to go to Tybee Island to dinner after the Firefighter competition to celebrate the team's first place win. After dinner, they decided to go to the beach and relax and just watch the sunset. They had been there no more than 15 minutes when they heard a woman

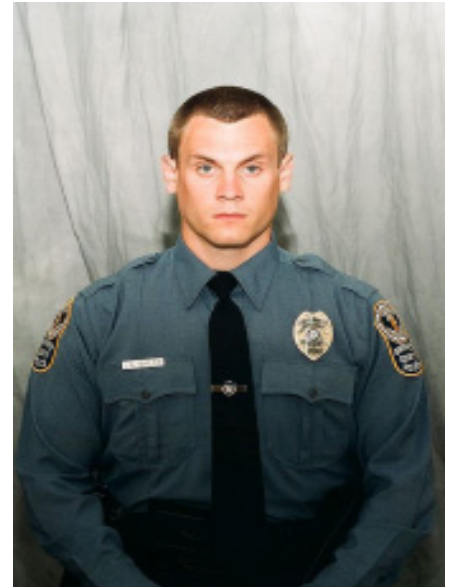
hysterically screaming "Someone call 911". They asked her what was wrong and the woman frantically said her two daughters were drowning out in the water. Jonathan looked out and saw two teen girls a little over 100 feet from the shoreline, and they seemed to be in distress. As his wife was calling 911 and giving them information, Jonathan was already swimming out to the girls. One of the girls was clearly in more distress than the other. He instructed the swimming girl to stay close to him and swim as he pulled the distressed sister in. Half way to the shore, another man [unknown person] entered the water and helped the swimming girl. The girl had swallowed a good deal of ocean water and was, at this point, in shock. Though she could barely hold her eyes open and was struggling to breathe, Jonathan put her on her side and calmly instructed her to breathe deeply and cough up the water. After about 7 minutes, the first responders arrived; Jonathan stayed very calm and told them her symptoms and her information. He helped them secure her onto the stretcher, hook up the oxygen, and load her into the ambulance.

2011 Governor's Public Safety Awards Honorees

***J. A. Bailey and D. J. Mitchem
Gwinnett County Police Department***

Act of Heroism

On July 12, 2010, Officers Bailey and Mitchem responded to a residential fire on Stone Mountain Highway. Officers arrived on the scene before the Gwinnett County Fire Department Officers observed heavy smoke and large flames coming from the house. The homeowner advised the Officers that her husband was still trapped inside the house and was unable to escape the fire because he was disabled. Officers had to quickly formulate an action plan because the Fire Department had not yet arrived, and flames were quickly overtaking the house. Officers Bailey and Mitchem made the decision to enter the house to rescue the disabled, elderly man. Officers entered the house through the front door, and had to use their flashlights to see through the dense dark smoke. Officers located the elderly man sitting in a chair. Officer Mitchem grabbed the man and started pulling him to safety. Officer Bailey assisted Officer Mitchem by placing his hands on his belt and guiding him backwards towards the open door. By the time the officers reached the porch, it was on fire and the victim had to be taken to the yard to safety. The officers and residents all made it out safely as the roof started to collapse.



J. A. Bailey



D. J. Mitchem

2011 Governor's Public Safety Awards Honorees

***Jeremy Battle, Chad Phillips, and Josh Cochran
Gordon County Sheriff's Office***

Act of Heroism



Jeremy Battle



Chad Phillips



Josh Cochran

On September 5, 2010, at approximately 5:15 a.m., Deputy Battle was the first to arrive to a one-vehicle wreck on I-75 South in Gordon County, near Exit 317, which soon escalated to a fiery inferno with a victim trapped inside. He used his fire extinguisher to try to put out the flames, which were blazing 6 to 7 feet in the air. He noticed that passenger, Dan Gloth, appeared unconscious as he continued to battle the blaze. Soon after, Deputies Phillips and Cochran arrived to assist, on what was Cochran's second night on his job. They could not get the door open to Gloth's vehicle, and the smoke and flames continued to fill the car. They both exhausted their fire extinguishers while Deputy Battle commandeered another extinguisher from a passing truck driver. They used five extinguishers, but every time they tried, the fire exploded back to life. Finally, these three deputies, who were dangerously close to the fire and breathing in the thick black smoke, managed to break the passenger side window, and Phillips and Cochran pulled Dan Gloth to safety. Gloth escaped with only minor injuries.

2011 Governor's Public Safety Awards Honorees

Eric Wilkes
Georgia Department of Public Safety

Act of Heroism

On January 20, 2011, at approximately 11:30 p.m., Trooper First Class Eric Wilkes observed a vehicle leave the travel lanes of I-16 in Bulloch County. The vehicle entered the wood line, struck several trees, and immediately burst into flames. Two occupants were able to remove themselves from the vehicle, but a nine-year-old boy in the back seat was panic-stricken and unable to free himself. TFC Wilkes took immediate action, freed the child from the vehicle, and carried him up the hill, away from the danger. Shortly after removing the child from the vehicle, it became fully engulfed in flames.



Eric Wilkes

2011 Governor's Public Safety Awards Honorees

Jeff Shoemaker Hall County Sheriff's Office

Act of Heroism



Jeff Shoemaker

On December 25, 2010, Sergeant Jeff Shoemaker and his family were travelling to visit his family for Christmas. There was a winter advisory for all of North Georgia that day, and the snowfall increased steadily as they drove further into the mountains. While taking an alternate route due to a missed turn, Sgt. Shoemaker noticed a set of vehicle tracks that left the roadway, ran off the shoulder of the road, and disappeared out of sight. As they passed by a small creek, they saw a small passenger car overturned and submerged in the creek, down a 20-foot embankment. He pulled over to call 911, and while speaking to the operator, he heard muffled sounds coming from inside the vehicle.

Sergeant Shoemaker slid down the embankment and assisted the driver, who was visibly shaken and had several cuts and wounds, in emerging from the car. Sgt. Shoemaker asked if there was anyone else in the car and she told him her son was still inside. After repeated attempts, Sgt. Shoemaker was finally able to reach through the door and pull the young boy out of the water. Both victims were very pale with visible injuries and they were shivering from the intense cold. While Sgt. Shoemaker was assisting the two victims in the car, his family threw ropes down the embankment, and prepared towels, coats, and blankets. The Fire/EMS Units arrived a few minutes later followed by Captain Henderson of the Murray County Sheriff's Office. Captain Henderson thanked Sgt. Shoemaker and his family for their heroic actions, and both mother and son expressed their thanks as they were transferred to the ambulance.

2011 Governor's Public Safety Awards Honorees

***Jimmie R. Murkerson
Early County Sheriff's Office***

Contribution to Profession

Sheriff Murkerson was elected in 1984 and began his first term as Sheriff in 1985. He has served the citizens of Early County faithfully since that day, beginning his seventh consecutive term in office in January 2009. Realizing early on the lack of available resources in the county, he began to look into the consolidation of county and city law enforcement. Understanding that small communities must come together fiscally for the betterment of the community as a whole, the framework for consolidation began, and was successfully



Jimmie R. Murkerson

accomplished, under his leadership and progressive thinking. Then, in 2002, Sheriff Murkerson worked with the County Commissioners of Early and Calhoun counties, and a mutual aid agreement with Early County Department of Public Safety was signed to provide enhanced 911 services for citizens of both counties.

During his tenure as Sheriff, he has served as President of the Georgia Sheriffs' Association from 1997 to 1998, President of the Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes from 1993 to 1994, served on the Children's Youth Coordinating Council, Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, the Georgia Peace Officers' Standards and Training Council, and Leadership Georgia Foundation, along with providing leadership in numerous other civic organizations. He has been a two-time recipient of the Georgia Sheriffs' Association Distinguished Humanitarian Award, and was honored as the 2011 Georgia Sheriffs' Association Sheriff of the Year.

Sheriff Murkerson has traveled the state making presentations on the consolidation of Law Enforcement in Early County, and frequently speaks for local clubs and organizations. He is now serving his last term as Sheriff of Early County, as health issues beyond his control have helped to make his decision to retire after this term ends. Early County will be losing a great sheriff but the legacy he has put in place, his passion for his community, and compassion for his fellow man, will continue long after he has taken off his badge for the last time.

2011 Governor's --- --- **Public Safety Awards Honorees**

Tim Brogdon **South Georgia Medical Center**

Contribution to Profession



Tim Brogdon

Tim Brogdon has served the EMS profession for over four decades. Tim joined the EMS staff of South Georgia Medical Center in 1971, and was one of the first EMTs (# 00057) and Paramedics (#00034) in the State of Georgia. He became Nationally registered as an EMT in 1973, and has served as EMS Director in Lowndes County for almost 37 years, as one of the longest serving Directors in Georgia.

During his tenure as Director, Tim has worked with several agencies in developing programs for the enhancement of the EMS System in his South Georgia service area. His EMS Service has always been very progressive and was one of the first in the state to have ECG telem-

etry equipment on board each ambulance. Tim has been a positive EMS role model, while serving on numerous boards and associations. He served ten years as a member of the Georgia EMS Advisory Council, and has worked with the Georgia Office of EMS in revising the Rules and Regulations for Ambulance Services. He is a Charter Member of the National Association of EMTs, and the Georgia Association of EMS, where he has served as vice-president. He has also served as President of the Southwest Georgia EMS Directors' Association, and has been a long-standing member of the Southwest Georgia Region 8 EMS Council.

On the local level, Tim has been a member of the Lowndes County 911 / Emergency Communications Advisory Board for over twenty years, and has been Chair of the group since 1996. He has also been actively involved in fundraisers for many community agencies, including Habitat for Humanity, United Way, American Heart Association, and American Cancer Society. He has represented EMS very well, while working with local elected officials and healthcare administrators to educate them on emergency response training, capabilities, and needs. In 2008, during the State EMS Banquet, Tim was the recipient of the prestigious John B. O'Neal, III, MD, EMS Pioneer Award for his unselfish contributions to the development of Georgia's EMS System.

2011 Governor's Public Safety Awards Honorees

***John E. Harrison
Georgia Department of Public Safety***

Contribution to Profession

Captain John E. Harrison, Region 2 Commander for the Motor Carrier Compliance Division of the Georgia Department of Public Safety, retired September 1, 2011 after a 34-year career of law enforcement service in Georgia. While his law enforcement service was concentrated in commercial motor vehicle enforcement and commercial motor vehicle safety, his career began 1980 with the Georgia Public Service Commission. In 1984, he attended the first regional Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance in Nashville, Tennessee when the CVSA began expanding to the east coast. Since that time, he has served the CVSA in such positions as President, Region President, Region Vice-President, and Vice-Chair of the Information Systems Committee, as well as being a member of the Hazardous Materials Committee. In 2002, he was appointed to chair the alliance's Ad Hoc committee on new entrants, which subsequently led to the formation of the Programs Initiatives Committee within CVSA. He also represented the State of Georgia as a contestant in the first North American Inspectors Championship in 1993 and 1995.

During his term as President of CVSA, he had the distinct honor of being called twice to testify before Congress on matters relating to commercial vehicle safety; once before the United States Senate, and again before the United States House of Representatives. Capt. Harrison has several published articles, worked with numerous state and national safety organizations, and is a recipient of the Melvin Jones Fellowship Award from the Lions Club International for outstanding humanitarian service. He is an honor graduate of Albany State University, and currently resides in the North Georgia mountains with Pamela, his wife of 28 years.



John E. Harrison

2011 Governor's Public Safety Awards Honorees

Mark C. McLeod Georgia Department of Public Safety

Contribution to Profession



Mark C. McLeod

Chief Mark C. McLeod retired December 1, 2010 as the Commanding Officer, and Chief Law Enforcement Officer, of the Motor Carrier Compliance Division within the Georgia Department of Public Safety. Chief McLeod embarked on his career with the State of Georgia in April 1981 as an employee of the Department of Transportation, beginning with his initial position of Equipment Operator within the Maintenance Division. Chief McLeod transferred to the Enforcement Division of the Department of Transportation in March 1982, thus launching his long-standing career in the field of law enforcement.

Through his many years of employment with the Department of Transportation Law Enforcement Division, Chief McLeod expanded his career through the ranks of Major. In December 1999, Major McLeod was appointed to Colonel — the highest-ranking position within the Department of Transportation's Law Enforcement Division. With the formation of the Department of Motor Vehicle Safety by former Governor Roy Barnes, Colonel McLeod assumed the position of Chief Law Enforcement Officer for the Department of Motor Vehicle Safety's Law Enforcement Division.

In 2005, the agency was once again divided, and the enforcement division was brought to the Georgia State Patrol. During his career with the Department of Public Safety, Chief McLeod was the liaison to the Georgia General Assembly on legislation that related to commercial motor vehicle enforcement and commercial motor vehicle safety.

Chief McLeod, a native of Thomaston, Georgia, is a graduate of the Law Enforcement Training Center of Middle Georgia, the Georgia Association of Police Chiefs' Executive Training Class, and a member of the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police. In addition, Chief McLeod has also served on various law enforcement committees, and is active in numerous law enforcement organizations.

2011 Governor's Public Safety Awards Honorees

Frederick D. Snellings, Jr. Georgia Department of Public Safety

Contribution to Profession

The Georgia Board of Public Safety confirmed Lieutenant Colonel Fred Snellings' appointment by former Governor Perdue as Deputy Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Public Safety on February 14, 2008, continuing his contribution to more than 32 years in public service. After serving his country in the military, Lt. Col. Snellings joined the Georgia State Patrol, where he served from 1972 to 1983, attaining the rank of Sergeant. In May 1983, Lt. Colonel Snellings joined the Federal Bureau of Investigation as a Special Agent, and upon completion of New Agents' Training, was assigned to the Atlanta, Georgia, FBI Field Office.



Frederick D. Snellings, Jr.

After numerous promotions, which included service in various states, Lt. Colonel Snellings was promoted to Assistant Special Agent in Charge (ASAC) of the Atlanta, GA FBI Field Office in April 1999. There he functioned as the second-in-command of all the FBI's Criminal Operations in Georgia.

After serving as ASAC of the Atlanta Field Office, Lt. Colonel Snellings was appointed in April 2002 by FBI Director Robert Mueller to the New York FBI Field Office as Special Agent in Charge. He served as Executive Manager, responsible for all criminal operations in New York, the FBI's largest field office. Lt. Colonel Snellings retired from the FBI in 2005.

Prior to his appointment as DPS Deputy Commissioner, he was the Senior Manager for an international security company in charge of the Atlanta branch. Lt. Colonel Snellings graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Morehouse College; a Master's degree in Public Administration from Brenau University; Session 128 of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia; and the Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University, Chicago, Illinois. Lt. Colonel Snellings passed away unexpectedly on January 8, 2011. He is survived by his wife and two adult children.

Georgia Public Safety Training Center Forsyth, GA

Governor's Public Safety Award Plaza



The Governor's Public Safety Award Plaza, located in the main academic building of the Georgia Public Safety Training Center in Forsyth, acknowledges the exemplary accomplishments of selected public safety officers and officials each year. The awards for Acts of Heroism and Outstanding Job Performance are bestowed annually in a ceremony conducted by the Governor.



2011 Governor's Public Safety Awards Committee

J. Dale Mann, Chairman

Georgia Public Safety Training Center

Charley English

Georgia Emergency Management Agency/Homeland Security

Cindy Franklin

Georgia Public Safety Training Center

David Frazier

Georgia Fraternal Order of Police

Mike Jones

Peace Officer Association of Georgia

Bill P. McKenzie

Georgia Prison Warden's Association

Lyn Pardue

Georgia Firefighter Standards & Training Council

Walter Rabon

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Eric Sellers

Georgia Department of Corrections

Joe Stiles

Police Benevolent Association of Georgia

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Georgia Association of Emergency Medical Services

Ken Vance

Peace Officer Standards & Training Council

Keith Wages

DHR/Emergency Medical Services

Gordy Wright

Georgia Department of Public Safety



2011 Governor's Public Safety Awards