

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CUTCHIN WINS SOLICITOR 'S AWARD FOR CHEROKEE COUNTY OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Lieutenant Jordan Cutchin of the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office received the Solicitor Barry J. Barnette Officer of the Year Award for Cherokee County at the annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Dinner on Tuesday. The event is hosted by the Seventh Circuit Solicitor's Office in appreciation of local law enforcement's contributions to the community and to recognize outstanding service.

The event at the Buford Street United Methodist Church Family Life Center was well attended with elected officials, law enforcement members and their families, and the "SASSIES" present for the evening of fellowship. Joan McCraw led the blessing of the meal shared by all before awards were presented.

Solicitor Barry J. Barnette presented the Officer of the Year Award to Lieutenant Jordan Cutchin who has served the community as a member of the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office since 2018. Lt. Cutchin began his career as a Deputy with the Uniform Patrol Division. He was later transferred to the Criminal Investigative Division where he has worked on many cases including larcenies, burglaries, financial crimes, and homicides. Lt. Cutchin was instrumental in starting the Crisis Negotiation Team at the Sheriff's Office. The Crisis Negotiation Team responds to numerous calls including those involving barricaded suspects, suicidal suspects, and hostage situations. Lt. Cutchin received a BMW package for the weekend as well as a compact 9 mm handgun from C&C Ammo and Indoor Range.

Retired Police Chief Jamie Ham received the Trey Gowdy Achievement Award for his contributions to law enforcement throughout his career. Chief Ham served thirty-two years as a law enforcement officer in Cherokee County. The last twenty-six years of his career were spent in his hometown with the Blacksburg Police Department where he served as Chief from 2002 until the summer of 2023. Chief Ham implemented many programs to improve the Blacksburg Police Department during his career such as the Reserve Officer Program. Chief Ham also brought the Meals On Wheels Program into the Blacksburg Police Department with officers delivering meals to citizens in Blacksburg as a way of further community impact.

Gaffney Police Department Officer Toni Coley and South Carolina Highway Patrol Senior Trooper Hershel Phillips were also recognized for their impact in the community. Senior Trooper Phillips is an active member of the Highway Patrol's Civil Emergency Response Team and was noted to arrive early to work every day with a positive attitude. Officer Coley's thorough work and quick responses in rendering aid to a gunshot victim this spring and an overdose situation last fall were commended.

Generous donations by three dozen community and regional leaders helped make the Law Enforcement Appreciation Dinner a success. "I appreciate the community's support of this

worthwhile cause and the ability to shine a light on the good work of our local law enforcement,” Solicitor Barnette said.

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