



The South Carolina Sheriff

Summer 2022

A special newsletter from your South Carolina Sheriffs' Association



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President Ravenell's Remarks

**Sheriff Leroy Ravenell, President
South Carolina Sheriffs' Association**

Sheriff Leroy Ravenell of Orangeburg County was sworn in as the 2022-2023 President of the South Carolina Sheriffs' Association at the Association's Annual Conference. Sheriff Ravenell delivered a powerful speech that challenged and inspired all. Here is a portion of Sheriff Ravenell's comments.

"I am honored and humbled to be standing in front of you today as the South Carolina Sheriffs' Association President. I am privileged to stand with my fellow Sheriffs and continue to represent all 46 Sheriffs with 1 Voice. We must continue to be the standard in our communities and within our profession. This standard does not mean that you are perfect; it does, however, mean that daily you strive to serve with integrity, dignity, and respect of the office in which we have taken our Oath.

We are blessed every day to serve the men and women of our agencies and those that live and work within our counties. Simply put, Luke 12: 48 instructs us that, 'to whom much is given, much is required.'

The requirements do not come without sacrifice. We must be careful that the sacrifice does not cost you, **YOU!** Don't forget the **YOU** behind the badge. The **YOU** that drew you to this profession, The **YOU** that fueled your passion to serve your community, The **YOU** that causes you to be seen as a hero in the eyes of others but a servant at heart. The **YOU** that has a family who cares about you and prays for you every day and night. The **YOU** that needs to realize that your shoulders are not designed to carry the weight of the World. Yes, we are considered superheroes in many regards, but we must know when and how to take the capes off.

This year we will remain focused on the agenda of **LEGISLATION**, concentrating on topics such as deleting the earnings limitation on working retirees, continuing to fight "medical" marijuana, and income tax deduction on all income for first



Sheriff Ravenell, with his family, being sworn in as SCSA President by the Honorable Pandora L. Jones-Glover.

responders.

I encourage each of you to not only focus on the enforcement of your agency's responsibilities that protect your communities but also the victim services units that support the victims of crime within your counties emotionally and financially. Invest in the training of this valuable asset to your agency. These are not just "do-gooders" that you are mandated to have by legislation; they are bridge builders with your community and are an important part of your community policing initiatives.

Every day our guys hear what they aren't, from many who will never take a step in their shoes. We must be intentional about reminding them they are to always represent what **RIGHT** looks like and embody what it means to be integral. We are the good guys and that means something. We are the ones who run to danger when others run away. We are the ones who continue showing up, even where there is no thank you. We are the ones who lay our lives on the line every day for the sake of peace. We understand it will always be bigger than us. My fellow Sheriffs, keep those around you who will question and respectfully challenge the "way it's always been done" and who will not be afraid to redirect to the **RIGHT** thing to do.

I leave you with what has carried me for 30+ years of service - serve with humility, keep God first and always remain firm, fair, and consistent. May God keep us **ALL**."

Not About Ego or Accolades but What's Best for His Community

SCSA's 2022 Sheriff of the Year, Sheriff D. Max Dorsey II of Chester County

"The most important thing that Sheriff Dorsey has done for his community is to make people feel like someone in a position of power actually cares about what happens and will fight to protect them and their families."

—Sheriff Kevin R. Tolson, York County

Sheriff Max Dorsey was nominated for Sheriff of the Year by several of his peers, each recognizing the humility and selflessness he brings in serving each resident of Chester County. Recognized by all as a man who doesn't bring a personal agenda to his work, it's never about ego or accolades with Sheriff Dorsey but what's best for his community. He is keenly aware of the public's scrutiny of law enforcement, and he welcomes that scrutiny, accepting it as a challenge to change the script, to demonstrate that law enforcement is here to serve the public and protect all of those who live in the community. Under Sheriff Dorsey's leadership, Chester County is becoming an example of one of the best and most respected law enforcement agencies in S.C.

Sheriff Dorsey and his office have built connections in the community, encouraging stakeholders to become involved in improving law enforcement's response in the county. He's implemented several community events, Coffee with Cops, fundraisers, and social media channels to deepen community ties and improve communication. He's created and implemented an open-door policy for all citizens to voice their concerns, share ideas, and become vested in the progress of the Sheriffs' Office.

While operating with one of the smallest budgets among his peers, Sheriff Dorsey has been somewhat of a miracle worker—managing to upgrade his office's capabilities and resources, all while coming in under budget two years running. He's secured more than \$2 million in grant money, portions of which went towards adding six new deputy positions, and through other fundraising means, he added another SRO at Lewisville Middle School.



*Sheriff of the Year winner
Sheriff Max Dorsey, with family.*

It was our privilege to recognize Sheriff Max Dorsey as SCSA's 2022 Sheriff of the Year for the State of South Carolina. Congratulations and thank you, Sheriff Dorsey. Your efforts are reflecting positively on the entire South Carolina law enforcement community.

2022 Legislative Champion Awards Presented

The Board of Directors of SCSA selected 13 South Carolina legislators to receive the Legislative Champion Award for 2022. These individuals went above and

beyond the call of duty to ensure the concerns of South Carolina's Sheriffs were expressed during the legislative session.

Thank you for advocating for the law enforcement community!

Senator Thomas Alexander (Senate President)

Senator Lawrence "Larry" Grooms

Senator Greg Hembree

Senator Kevin Johnson

Senator Sandy Senn

Speaker Murrell Smith, Jr.

Speaker Pro Tempore Thomas "Tommy" Pope

Representative Bruce Bannister

Senator Harvey Peeler

Representative Micah Caskey

Representative Sylleste Davis

Representative John McCravy

Representative Chris Wooten



SCSA Executive Director, Jarrod Bruder, left and 2022 SCSA President, Sheriff Kevin Tolson, far right, with the SCSA Legislative Champions Representative John McCravy, Representative Sylleste Davis, Senator Thomas Alexander (Senate President), Senator Greg Hembree and Representative Bruce Bannister, left to right.

Exemplary Investigative Teamwork in Closing Cold Cases

SCSA's 2022 Deputy of the Year, Master Deputy Jason Cox and Master Deputy Jonathan Howard of Greenville County

"Although this award is typically given to a single deputy for exemplary performance during the course of the last year, I would like to nominate both Investigator Jason Cox and Investigator Jonathan Howard for SCSA Deputy of the Year. I could not nominate one of them without the other."

Investigator Jason Cox and Investigator Jonathan Howard are currently assigned to the Cold Case Homicide Unit of the Greenville County Sheriff's Office within the Criminal Investigations Division. Both have been in this position over the past year and their partnership and teamwork have been exemplary during this period. They have developed an outstanding working relationship and have worked together in unison to bring several cold cases to closure.

Investigating more than 90 active cold case homicides, some of which date back to the 1960s, Investigators Cox and Howard have put their training, experience, and hard work ethic to use in finding answers. They have picked up cases where they were left by other investigators and hit the ground running, reviewing the case file, reviewing evidence, re-interviewing witnesses, searching for any new additional evidence and witnesses, adding to the work of the original investigators to develop enough evidence to make arrests. In the past year, they have cleared five cold case homicides. These cases date as far back as 2001.

—Sgt. Mike Jarvis, Greenville County Sheriff's Office

Investigators Cox and Howard have each served 13 years in law enforcement. Their stellar efforts this past year in building upon the efforts of earlier investigators and closing cold cases is not only exemplary police work, but also demonstrates perseverance and determination to bring justice for cold case victims and closure for their loved ones, many of whom have expressed their sincere appreciation to Investigators Cox and Howard.

Please join your SCSA in recognizing and congratulating Investigator Jason Cox and Investigator Jonathan Howard, our two 2022 Deputy of the Year recipients.



Sheriff Lewis Hobart, Greenville County, far left, and Allen Durham, United Badges, far right, with the Deputy of the Year recipients, Master Deputy Jonathan Howard, left, and Master Deputy Jason Cox, right.

Life Saving Awareness & Action

SCSA's 2022 Detention Officer of the Year, PFC Philip Vaughn of Berkeley County

"I am pleased to nominate PFC Philip Vaughn for SCSA's 2022 Detention Officer of the Year. Mr. Vaughn has worked in the Hill Finklea Detention Center in Berkeley County for just over a year. In that time, he has distinguished himself by his exemplary performance of his duties."

—Sheriff S. Duane Lewis, Berkeley County

In just over a year that PFC Vaughn has been with the HFDC, he's proven to be an asset in the supervision of our inmates, having written or been involved in some twenty-nine incidents. PFC Vaughn has observed the passing of and intercepted contraband. Observing an inmate's strange behavior on a video monitor, Officer Vaughn moved to interrupt a suicide attempt, saving an inmate's life and getting him the help he needed. On still another occasion, Officer Vaughn was feeding inmates in an overcrowded housing unit when he was jumped by a mentally challenged inmate. He was able to fight the inmate off to the extent he was able to broadcast a garbled call for assistance. With the help of another inmate, Officer Vaughn was able to handcuff and hold the assailant at bay until help arrived. Although physically injured in the altercation,

Officer Vaughn returned to work—still bruised.

Officer Vaughn has clearly established himself as a valuable member of the team in Berkeley County, and he's demonstrated courage, valor, and professionalism in his work at the Hill Finklea Detention Center. We recognize PFC Vaughn for the exemplary performance of his duties, and we invite you to join us in thanking and congratulating him.



Detention Officer of the Year, PFC Philip Vaughn, left, with Sheriff Duane Lewis, Berkeley County, right.



Show Your Support for SCSA!

NEW official SCSA merchandise has been added to our store, with shirts, jackets, accessories, even kid's items. Great gift ideas, too.

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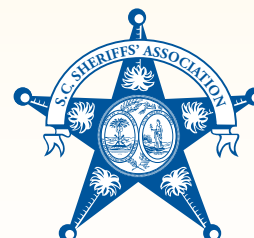
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