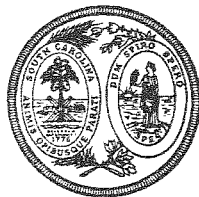


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**PRESS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

**November 18, 2015**

**2015 BILLY WILKINS AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN LAW ENFORCEMENT**

Charles Edward "Chuck" James, Sergeant, Pickens County Sheriff's Office and Captain Donald E. Dickerson, Commander, S.C. Highway Patrol, Troop Three were presented with the 2015 Billy Wilkins Award for Excellence in Law Enforcement today by retired U.S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals Judge William W. Wilkins, Jr., in separate ceremonies held in Greenville and Pickens Counties.

The presentation of this award began in 1984 in honor of former Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor Billy Wilkins, and is presented to individual law enforcement officers who have exhibited outstanding attributes in performance of his or her duties both in the field and in the courtroom.

**Charles Edward "Chuck" James, Sergeant, Pickens County Sheriff's Office**

Chuck James came to work with the Pickens County Sheriff's Office from the Charleston Police Department as a Deputy in 2007. He rapidly proved himself as a first rate deputy to Pickens County Sheriff Rick Clark. He was promoted to Detective in February 2009. In January 2013, he was put in charge of the newly combined Criminal Investigation Division and the Special Operations Division. Later, he was promoted to Sergeant with increased responsibility over the newly created "homicide team," while continuing his caseload in white collar crime and performing all of the forensic cell phone examinations for the Sheriff's office and other agencies who ask for assistance.

"Sergeant James continually exhibits the characteristics I look for in a leader," stated Sheriff Clark. "He is honest, professional, epitomizing what it means to be a team player and always treats everyone with respect."

**Captain Donald E. Dickerson, Commander, S.C. Highway Patrol, Troop Three**

Captain Dickerson, a native of the upstate, began his law enforcement career in February 1978, according to Greenville County Sheriff Steve Loftis, who nominated Captain Dickerson. He has worked for the S.C. Highway Patrol (SCHP) for over thirty-seven years.

After serving on Troop Three for the past eight years, Captain Dickerson was promoted to the leadership of Troop Three as Commander on September 23, 2015. As the leader of the largest troop in South Carolina, the Captain's experience throughout his many years in the SCHP and the upstate has served him well. He has strong leadership skills and has many ties to the upstate.

"Captain Dickerson's dedication and willingness to work and lead, as well as his ability to enforce the laws of S.C. while still showing concern and compassion to all those involved, are qualities that lead me to nominate him for the Billy Wilkins Award for Excellence in Law Enforcement," stated Sheriff Loftis.



Retired Federal Judge Billy Wilkins, Sergeant Charles Edward "Chuck" James, and Solicitor Walt Wilkins



Retired Federal Judge Billy Wilkins, Captain Donald E. Dickerson, and Solicitor Walt Wilkins