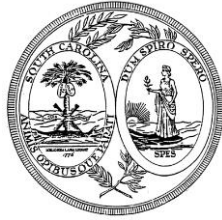


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PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

November 6, 2019

2019 BILLY WILKINS AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN LAW ENFORCEMENT GIVEN TO PICKENS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE SERGEANT

Sergeant James Arthur (Art) Taylor of the Pickens County Sheriff's Office was awarded the 2019 Billy Wilkins Award for Excellence in Law Enforcement today at a ceremony at the Pickens County Courthouse. The award was established in 1984 in the name of former Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor Billy Wilkins to honor law enforcement officers who have exhibited outstanding attributes in the performance of his or her duties in both the field and the courtroom.

Sergeant James Arthur (Art) Taylor began his career in law enforcement when he joined the U.S. Air Force in 1986. He served for six years as a Security Police Officer guarding missile silos. He was hired as a deputy by the Pickens County Sheriff's Office in 1995 and rose through the ranks becoming a detective in 2009. He became an important member of the "homicide team" where he was on-call 24/7. He was involved in the prosecution of the 2011 Pinedale Road quadruple murder and with the Susan Hendricks case for the murder of four of her family members. Both prosecutions resulted in convictions.

Throughout his career, Sergeant Taylor has shown traits that have made him an outstanding officer. He is always available when needed no matter the day or time, which has earned him the name of "Mr. Reliable" by Captain Chuck James. Sergeant Taylor has always consulted and collaborated with the Solicitor's Office and other community agencies as required, seeking information and direction by taking a team approach to prosecution. This approach, first instituted by Judge Wilkins when he was the Solicitor, has resulted in many successful prosecutions.

Art is a graduate of Daniel High School. He has two grown sons and a grandson whom he adores.

Sheriff Clark says that Sergeant Taylor is a model of what it means to be a law enforcement officer: always professional, dedicated, helpful and most importantly, dependable. He exemplifies what the Billy Wilkins Award was meant to honor.



**Retired Federal Judge Billy Wilkins,
Sergeant James Arthur (Art)
Taylor, and Solicitor Walt Wilkins**