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**PRESS RELEASE**  
For Immediate Release  
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**2012 BILLY WILKINS AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN LAW ENFORCEMENT**

Pickens County Sheriff David Stone and Master Deputy Tony Lee of the Greenville County Sheriff's Office were presented the 2012 Billy Wilkins Award for Excellence in Law Enforcement by Retired U.S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals Judge William W. Wilkins, Jr. today in ceremonies held in Pickens and Greenville 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.

Pickens County Sheriff C. David Stone is presently completing his eleventh term as Sheriff of Pickens County, serving longer than any active sheriff in the state of South Carolina. He has won numerous awards during his tenure, including:

- Sheriff of the Year- 1975 and 1981
- Strom Thurmond Award for Excellence in Law Enforcement
- Order of the Palmetto
- President of U.S.C Law Enforcement Officer's Association – 1991-1992

Sheriff Stone has been a leader in exemplifying the highest degree of excellence in law enforcement. His office received the Southern Bell Award for Excellence in Law Enforcement recognizing Sheriff Stone for his outstanding cooperation with, and assistance to other law enforcement agencies.

Locally, Sheriff Stone contributes considerable time to the community including such projects as the hospital fitness trail, the heart fund, Honor Flight and the Sheriff's Scholarship fund for Sheriff's Office personnel and their children.

Master Deputy Tony Lee began his law enforcement career with the Greenville County Sheriff's Office in 1979 and has been there for 34 years. Throughout his career, Tony has shown true dedication to his profession which has made him a role model for all other deputies to follow.

Tony's calm demeanor and meticulous work ethic have served him well as an investigator and SWAT negotiator. He is presently the SWAT Negotiator Team Leader where he serves as a mentor to less experienced team members.

Because of Tony's commitment to the community, he has worked with local media and community members to create the first Crime Stoppers program in Upstate South Carolina. He has served as coordinator of the program since its inception in 1983. During this time, more than 7,800 cases have been solved and over 2,600 criminals have been incarcerated.

"Master Deputy Tony Lee personifies excellence in law enforcement and I believe he is well deserving of the Billy Wilkins Award", stated Greenville County Sheriff Steve Loftis.



Sheriff David Stone receives Wilkins award in Pickens.