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PRESS RELEASE
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2018 BILLY WILKINS AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN LAW ENFORCEMENT GIVEN TO GREENVILLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE INVESTIGATOR

Investigator James Phillip Perry of the Greenville County Sheriff's Office (GCSO) was awarded the 2018 Billy Wilkins Award for Excellence in Law Enforcement today at a ceremony at the Greenville County courthouse. The award is jointly made by the Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor's Office and the Greenville County Bar Association as part of Law Week celebration. It 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 performance of his or her duties in both the field and the courtroom.

Investigator Jim Perry began his career in 1974 after graduating from Clemson University when moved to Palm Springs, California to work for the California Division of Forestry as a Wildland Fire Fighter. In 1976, he returned to Greenville to work for the Greenville Police Department where he made Detective in 1977. In 1983, he was awarded the Jaycee's Young Police Officer of the Year. From 1985 until 1993, he pursued a career as a private investigator, but returned to law enforcement work with the Greer Police Department. In 1995, he became a Deputy with the GCSO. In 2000, he began working with the Criminal Investigation Division as a White Collar Investigator. With the increased need for analyzing computer evidence in crimes of all types, in 2002 he was designated to start the Computer Crimes Unit. In 2003, the Sheriff's Office joined the ICAC (Internet Crimes Against Children) Task Force with Investigator Perry as the sole GCSO member. As his skills increased, in 2004 he began working on-line predator chatting cases and made his first case in downtown Greenville. The subject came from Charlotte, NC to meet what he thought was a 13-year old female, but was, in fact, Perry's undercover person. In the last year, the Computer Crime Unit has increased to five persons to combat the use of cell phones and computers in the high-tech land of digital media. In his career, Investigator Perry has done over 307 computer forensic exams and over 1,000 cell phone examinations. In addition, Investigator Perry has served as a guest instructor for Computer Forensics at Greenville Technical College. In 2017, Investigator Perry took part in the GCSO round-up of 17 child predators. All suspects are awaiting trial.

Despite working for several different law enforcement agencies, Investigator Perry has always had the goal in mind: to do the best job possible and to always set an example for others. The work

ethic and commitment to the job that Investigator Perry shows on a daily basis is, and always will be, a quality that others strive to achieve.

Investigator Perry and his wife Shirley have two grown daughters and six grandchildren.



Solicitor Walt Wilkins, Investigator James Phillip Perry, Retired Federal Judge Billy Wilkins, and Jennifer Breaux Howe, President of the Greenville County Bar Association



Investigator James Phillip Perry