



# FIRST RESPONDERS APPRECIATION DINNER

Honoring Charles County's firefighters, emergency  
medical technicians, law enforcement officers,  
corporate emergency personnel & more

THURSDAY  
NOVEMBER 10, 2022





# EVENT SPONSORS

## GOLD BADGE



## SILVER BADGE



Waldorf Live

## BRONZE BADGE



## HEROES



## INDIVIDUAL AND COMMUNITY SPONSORS



Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq.  
Charles County Commissioner President





# PROGRAM

## Welcome

Chief Mitchell Lewis, Jr.  
Charles County Volunteer EMS Deputy Chief

## Opening Remarks

Leigh Ann Keller  
2022 Board Chair, Charles County Chamber of Commerce  
Owner, Travel Leaders/Action Travel Tours

## Presentation of Colors

Southern Maryland Volunteer Firemen's Association Honor Guard

## Pledge of Allegiance

National Anthem  
CCSO PO1 Haley Holt

\*\*\*

## BUFFET DINNER

Please wait until your table is called

\*\*\*

## A Message from the Chamber

Bonnie Grady  
President & CEO, Charles County Chamber of Commerce

## Guest Speaker

Tony Rose, Deputy Director  
Charles County Emergency Services

## Presentation of Certificates

Tony Rose, Leigh Ann Keller, Bonnie Grady

## Closing Remarks

Leigh Ann Keller

## Closing Song

CCSO PO1 Hayley Holt  
"God Bless America"



# WITH GRATITUDE

## Message from Charles County Commissioner President Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq.



On behalf of the Charles County Board of Commissioners, I would like to thank our first responders for their bravery, service, and dedication to our community.

Our first responders are heroes who frequently put themselves second in order to provide safety and protection to our residents.

Our county would not be the wonderful and safe place it is today without your efforts and diligence. I know you take great pride in your service, and we are proud of you, too.

You are a vital part of why Charles County continues to be a place that people enjoy living in, working in, and visiting.

Thank you for all you do.

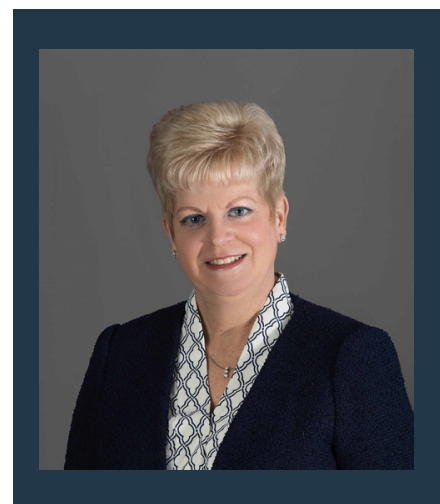
## Message from Charles County Chamber Board Chair Leigh Ann Keller

It is my pleasure to welcome you on behalf of the Charles County Chamber of Commerce, our Board of Directors and our members to the second annual First Responders Appreciation Dinner.

Hosting this event is our way of showing our deepest appreciation to all First Responders and their families for the often thankless work and sacrifice that keeps our community safe.

Your commitment and dedication to service make Charles County a place where people want to raise their families and operate their businesses. It is an honor and a privilege to celebrate all First Responders who sacrifice so much in order to protect and serve the residents and business community of Charles County.

To all First Responders, thank you for your service. I hope you enjoy this evening dedicated in your honor.



Owner, Travel Leaders/Action Travel Tours





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Neither sponsorship nor attendance at a Chamber event by a candidate for elected office should not be construed as an endorsement of the candidate, the candidate's party nor the candidate's political views or positions.



# IN RECOGNITION

## The Maryland General Assembly



### Official Citation

Be it hereby known to all that  
sincerest congratulations  
are offered to

*Charles County's First Responders*

in recognition of

*your efforts in serving the Charles County community.*

*We honor your sacrifice today and every day in keeping citizens safe.*

Presented on this 10th day of November 2022



by Senator Arthur Ellis  
Arthur Ellis

of Charles County - Legislative District 28



# IN RECOGNITION

## The Maryland General Assembly



### Official Citation

Be it hereby known to all that  
sincerest congratulations  
are offered to

*The First Responders of Charles County*

in recognition of

*your heroic efforts in support of the  
public health and safety of Charles County.*

*Thank you for your hard work and dedication on the occasion of this  
2022 Charles County Chamber First Responders Appreciation Dinner.*

Presented on this 10th day of November 2022

by Senator

Michael A. Jackson

of Calvert, Charles, and Prince George's Counties  
Legislative District 27





# IN RECOGNITION

## The Maryland General Assembly



### Official Citation

Be it hereby known to all that  
sincerest congratulations  
are offered to

*Charles County First Responders*

in recognition of  
*your service & dedication to  
Charles County and its citizens.*

Presented on this 10th day of November 2022



by Delegate \_\_\_\_\_

C. C. Wilson

of Charles County - Legislative District 28





# PROCLAMATION



## County Commissioners of Charles County PROCLAMATION 2022-77

### First Responders Appreciation Day

**WHEREAS**, Congress designated October 28 as National First Responders Day in 2017 to honor the professional and volunteer firefighters, police officers, professional and volunteer emergency medical services personnel, emergency management professionals; correctional officers, 911 dispatchers and all those who are first on the scene in stressful situations; and

**WHEREAS**, these courageous men and women are our first and best defense against threats, both foreign and domestic; and

**WHEREAS**, each day our first responders stand ready to aid the residents of Charles County who are in need, often risking their own safety in the execution of their duties; and

**WHEREAS**, first responders undergo extensive education and training in order to achieve the expertise required to respond to emergency situations; and

**WHEREAS**, First Responders Appreciation Day recognizes the heroic men and women who make it their business to take immediate action when disaster strikes; and

**WHEREAS**, First Responders Appreciation Day, sponsored by Charles County Chamber of Commerce, is a time to officially recognize the service and sacrifice of the first responders who make our community the best in which to live, work and raise a family.

**NOW, THEREFORE, WE, THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND**, do hereby proclaim November 10, 2022 as **First Responders Appreciation Day** in Charles County in recognition all emergency responders and commend all residents to acknowledge their value to our community and show appreciation throughout the year for the exemplary services provided by this distinctive group of public servants.



COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND

Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., *President*

Bobby Rucci, *Vice President*  
District 4

Gilbert O. Bowling, III  
District 1

Thomasina O. Coates, M.S.  
District 2

Amanda M. Stewart, M.Ed.  
District 3

Attest:

Carol A. DeSoto, Clerk to the Commissioners





# IN RECOGNITION



## *Town Council of Indian Head*

### **OFFICIAL CITATION**

Be it hereby known to all that  
sincerest congratulations and immense gratitude  
are offered on behalf of the Town Council of the Town of Indian Head to  
***The First Responders of Charles County***  
in recognition of  
your heroic efforts in support of the public health and safety of Charles County.

You are guardians of the public, ever willing to risk life and limb to protect our citizens as well  
as their property.

It is a great privilege and honor to express our gratitude and appreciation to all first responders.  
Thank you for your hard work and dedication.

Presented on this 10<sup>th</sup> day of November 2022

Brandon Paulin  
Mayor

Ron Sitoula  
Vice Mayor

Cassandra Grumbine  
Councilwoman

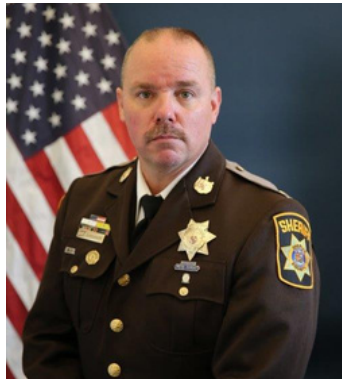




# HONOREES

## CHARLES COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

### LIEUTENANT COMMANDER JOHN "ASHLEY" BURROUGHS HOMELAND SECURITY/INTELLIGENCE



Lieutenant Burroughs became the Commander of HSI in the Fall of 2020 after serving as the Property Crimes Commander in the Criminal Investigations Division for the prior two years. Lieutenant Burroughs was selected as HSI Commander by the Sheriff and was immediately given the task of battling the new onslaught of firearms violations and gun violence that was beginning to plague the region.

At the time of his appointment to HSI, HSI had no sworn personnel assigned to take on this task and no ability to combat the problem. Lieutenant Burroughs began his crusade by forming a new Firearms Investigation Unit (FIU) in his section. Lt. Burroughs developed policy and procedures, located and renovated workspace, fostered federal partnerships, and recruited top notch detectives to be part of his team.

Soon the FIU was born. This newly developed unit consisted of a Detective Sergeant and 3 senior detectives. One detective would be a Federal Task Force Officer, working hand in hand with the ATF on large scale issues while the other detectives would focus on street level issues. Since the unit's inception and operational launch in 2021, gun violence in Charles County has been significantly curbed. Hundreds of firearms have been seized since the formation of the FIU. Many of these seizures are due in large part to the FIU's activities and the leadership of Lt. Burroughs.

Lt. Burroughs was able to form this productive unit while also completing the Northwestern School of Management and Leadership. This is an intensive higher education program for law enforcement executives. Lt. Burroughs was able to complete this course while working full time, commanding his section.

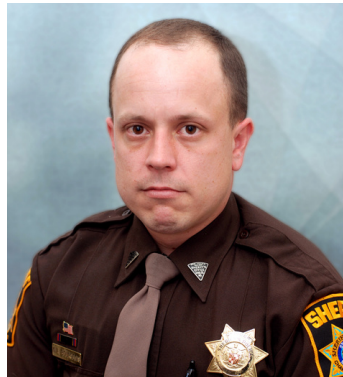
Congratulations to Lt. Burroughs for a job well done. His leadership in developing a new and innovative firearms investigation unit has helped make Charles County a safer community.



# HONOREES

## CHARLES COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

MASTER CORPORAL MARK BOURGEOIS  
COMMUNITY RELATIONS UNIT



Corporal Mark Bourgeois is being honored for his dedication and commitment to the Project Lifesaver Program and the Volunteer Registry Program.

The Project Lifesaver Program uses radio frequencies to locate persons with conditions such as Alzheimer's or Autism who have wandered from their homes. The program has been a remarkable success, with a 100% safe recovery rate.

Corporal Bourgeois became the Project Lifesaver Coordinator after inheriting the program from a transferring sergeant. He then made it his mission to improve the system's technologies and processes.

Working with IT teams and securing a sizable donation from the Greater Waldorf Jaycees, Corporal Bourgeois was able to expand the program to serve more residents. He is now the Project Lifesaver Administrator for CCSO.

The Volunteer Registry Program is a new program for the Charles County Sheriff's Office. This program is designed to provide First Responders a safety caution when responding to a call for service when an occupant of the household has some type of mental disorder (such as Alzheimer's, Dementia, Autism, PTSD, or others.) The registry helps First Responders by providing insight into what may cause an episode for the identified citizens.

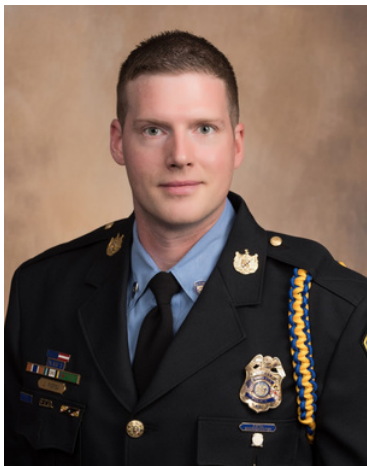
When Corporal Bourgeois learned the Sheriff's Office did not have a program like the Volunteer Registry, he proposed creating one and oversaw its implementation.



# HONOREES

## LA PLATA POLICE DEPARTMENT

### CORPORAL JOHN PIERSA



In September 2022, Corporal John Piersa received the prestigious Exceptional Police Performance Award from the Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA). Only three police officers in the State of Maryland receive the award annually. The award is competitive, with officers from around the state being nominated by their agencies to the MCPA's Awards Committee. The Awards Committee, made up of senior law enforcement officers, select the award recipients.

Although Corporal Piersa's nomination covered numerous significant events and arrests, one incident stands out. In August, Corporal Piersa responded to a call for service about an individual brandishing a firearm on Pomonkey Way in La Plata. Moreover, it was reported that the individual aimed a firearm at a small child. As officers approached the area, it was broadcasted that the individual had entered a sedan and fled. Corporal Piersa observed the vehicle and with the assistance of two other La Plata police officers, a high-risk traffic stop was conducted.

The involved individual was secured without incident. Located in the vehicle were two firearms, a loaded polymer 9 millimeter "ghost gun," and an AR-15 assault weapon with a loaded 30 round magazine. A ballistics test on the "ghost gun" found it had been used in a previous homicide.

Anytime an illegal firearm is removed from the street, it is impossible to know what future crime of violence has been prevented.





# HONOREES

## MARYLAND STATE POLICE

### TROOPER FIRST CLASS RONALD THOMAS, II

Trooper First Class Thomas is a well-rounded Trooper, who is always willing to provide guidance and assistance to his peers. He never hesitates to assist shift partners or provide backup. TFC Thomas always has a positive attitude towards patrol, and regularly works additional shifts to support the La Plata Barrack.

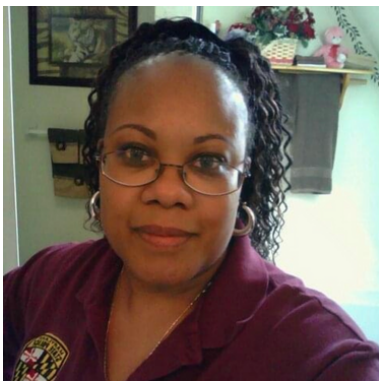
TFC Thomas' production has consistently been above the standards set for the barrack, and he was nominated for the 2021 MADD Maryland Inaugural Law Enforcement Recognition for his outstanding performance in DUI arrests.



TFC Thomas always exceeds the goals set by his supervisor. He has been extremely proactive in traffic enforcement and has quickly become a leader. He comes to work every day eager to learn and ready to work. He requires no direction or motivation to actively patrol. He does not hesitate to answer calls for service, and he never complains.

TFC Thomas has distinguished himself by contributing to the overall mission of the department while working at the La Plata Barrack. During 2021, he has produced the following: Traffic Stops: 1096, Citations: 779, Warnings: 542, SERO's: 96, Civil Citations: 41, DWI arrests: 36, Gun Seizures: 8, Adult and Warrant arrests: 46, Adult CDS arrests: 13, ARs: 111, CIRs: 18, and IRs: 41

### ANGELA CANNADY-PROCTOR STATE POLICE EMERGENCY DISPATCH SUPERVISOR



PCS Cannady-Proctor is being nominated based on her outstanding performance, tenacity, self-motivation, reliability and commitment to the goals and objectives of the Maryland State Police. She effectively completes all responsibilities and assignments as Communications Supervisor while balancing a regular rotation on the radio console.

She quite often works longer shifts to cover the overtime slots at the barrack as a result of manpower issues. Time and time again, PCS Cannaday-Proctor is held in high esteem as the "go to person" to task with any undertaking that is critical to the mission of the successful operations of the La Plata Barrack.

*Continued on next page*





# HONOREES

## MARYLAND STATE POLICE

*Cannady-Proctor Continued*

Her attention to detail, reliability, and thoroughness in her assignments is indeed unsurpassed. PCS Cannady-Proctor has helped coordinate warrant sweeps for the barrack. This extra duty directly supports one of the barrack's missions to close the open warrants in the county.

PCS Cannady-Proctor has been recognized for her many abilities and attributes and what she brings to the workplace each and every day. She is held in high esteem by her superiors for her ability to make sound, logical decisions, as well as her infectious positive attitude and magnetic personality. She is frequently sought for advice and guidance, not only from the newest trooper, but from barrack command staff, PCOs and civilians assigned to the barrack.

### SAMANTHA BEATTIE STATE POLICE EMERGENCY DISPATCHER

Maryland State Police Emergency Dispatcher II (MSPED II) Samantha L. Beattie displays the attributes a Police Communications Operator should encompass, such as: determination, selflessness, enthusiasm, fairness, integrity, and dedication to duty. Her dedication to her position, the barrack, and the department are beyond reproach.



Police Communications Operator II Samantha L. Beattie sets a model for quality productivity in warrant entries, validations, and Report Management System entries. In addition to her regularly assigned duties, MSPED II Beattie has stepped into the role of supervisor and executed those tasks in a timely and well-organized manner.

Her efforts substantially contributed to the ultimate success of the La Plata Barrack Troopers to perform their duties safely and efficiently. MSPED II Beattie continues to perform while flawlessly completing her collateral duties.

Maryland State Police Emergency Dispatcher II Samantha L. Beattie's knowledge and hard work exemplify the high standards of the Maryland State Police and the Emergency Dispatcher profession. She can be relied upon by command staff, supervisors, fellow troopers, and coworkers.

Due to her dedication to the job, troopers and coworkers are confident in her ability to relay essential and potentially life-changing information expeditiously and accurately.



# HONOREES

## MARYLAND NATURAL RESOURCES POLICE

### OFFICER FIRST CLASS JAMILL ELLIOTT



Officer First Class Jamill Elliott has been employed with the Maryland Natural Resources Police since February 2018, having four years of dedicated service to the agency.

Officer Elliott is one of the agency's most reliable officers, and he can always be counted on to respond to any situation with good judgment and professionalism. Officer Elliott regularly responds to high-stress search and rescue incidents and has performed admirably. He is always willing to do what it takes to support the agency's mission, even if it means taking on extra responsibilities.

Officer Elliott's enforcement of deliberate violators of Maryland's conservation laws has served the citizens of Maryland by ensuring that the state's rich natural resources thrive for many years to come, and for everyone to enjoy. Officer Elliott is a true asset to the Maryland Natural Resources Police.



# HONOREES

## MARYLAND TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY POLICE

### OFFICER CODY ROBERTSON



Officer Robertson is being recognized this year for the work that he does to help keep Charles County Safe. Whether that be the several hundred traffic stops he has made this year or the drugs that he has removed from vehicles going through the county.

Officer Robertson has written numerous civil citations and arrested multiple suspects this year. Some of the most notable are:

- a driver in possession of a stolen vehicle
- a driver in possession of over 10 grams of marijuana with intent to distribute
- a driver in possession of a handgun, carried illegally
- a \$53,000.00 copper wire theft, pending investigation, suspect identified

On top of Officer Robertson's enforcement in the county, he also represents the Transportation Authority at numerous community events throughout the year.



# HONOREES

## CHARLES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

### VENOMOUS SNAKE TEAM

ALISON BUDD, ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER  
JEFF GUSTAFSON, ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER  
KATY ROSCHE, ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER  
JEFF THOMAS, ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER  
ALDO ZAMBRANA, HEALTH AND SAFETY OFFICER



Over a two-day period, a team of Emergency Services personnel removed 123 snakes from a residence in Charles County. 95 of these snakes were venomous and illegal to possess in Maryland.

These snakes consisted of Green Mambas, Spitting Cobras, Forest Cobras, Gaboon Vipers, (Gaboon Vipers have the longest fangs and volume of venom of all vipers) a variety of rattlesnakes, and various types of pythons (some exceeding 14 feet in length!)

With detailed planning and bite treatment protocols in hand, all these snakes were removed without incident or injury and relocated to properly licensed rescues.

This call originated when the owner of the snakes was found dead in his home. His death was later verified as having been from being bitten by one of the venomous snakes- likely one of the Forest Cobras.





# HONOREES

## CHARLES COUNTY VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD



### EVELYN BOWLING EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN

Evelyn Bowling has been a member of the Charles County Rescue Squad since 2021. Evelyn enrolled in and successfully completed the Charles County Fire and Rescue Cadet Program, graduating with numerous certifications including Firefighter 1, 2, HAZMAT, and her EMT. Evelyn is a constant fixture at the station and she is an honored member.

### KELSEY WINSOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN

Kelsey Winsor has been a member of the Charles County Rescue Squad since 2019. Since joining, she has become one of our top responders and has obtained her EMT certification. Kelsey goes above and beyond in assisting with extra station duties such as standbys, fundraisers, and miscellaneous projects around the station.



### ALEXUS WOODLAND EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN

Alexis Woodland has been a member of the Charles County Rescue Squad since 2021. She is one of our top responders and has recently completed her EMT certification. Alexis is always eager to learn and is extremely compassionate in the care she provides as an EMT. She helps out around the station with numerous activities and always goes the extra mile.





# HONOREES

## BRYANS ROAD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT AND RESCUE SQUAD

### CHRIS HILL FIREFIGHTER/CHIEF ENGINEER

Chris has been a member of our department for just over two years but has over 25 years of dedicated Fire/EMS service. He currently serves as Chief Engineer. In a very short time, he has become instrumental in implementing change to our maintenance program. He spends countless hours at the station ensuring our apparatus and the equipment on it are in an operational state of readiness.

The department was recently awarded a FEMA grant to replace our existing SCBA. He was the lead on this project and worked diligently with our grant writer to develop the necessary paperwork for a successful award. He takes the time to work with our younger members helping to enhance their skills and proficiency on basic to advanced firefighting tasks. We are grateful to have such an asset as Chris and know his commitment and dedication are sure to land him as a future leader in our department.



### HEATHER COLEMAN EMS CAPTAIN



Heather has been EMS Captain over the past two years. During this time, she has helped transform the EMS training program. She dedicates at least one day a week to staff the ambulance and to take care of any matters that arise. One of her collateral duties is to manage our Facebook page. Her posts help inform the public of our events as well as provide safety tips throughout the year.

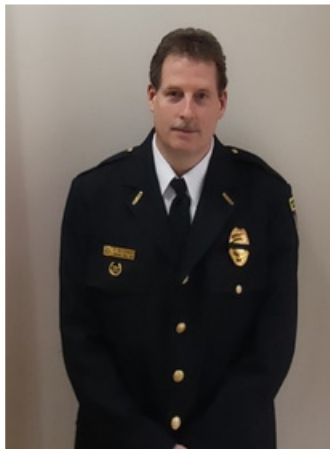
Heather has made a commitment to serve the people in our community and to be there in their time of need. That commitment requires continual learning and training to keep her skills current and ensure she is ready to respond to any situation. We are grateful for her dedication and proud she belongs to our department.



# HONOREES

## BRYANS ROAD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT AND RESCUE SQUAD

PAUL MCCORMICK  
DEPARTMENT TREASURER



Paul has been a member of the department for over 40 years. He currently is serving as the treasurer. He has held this position for over 10 years. He has proven to be a valuable resource time and time again by providing his financial expertise on various matters.

Most people see this position as the bill payer, but it is so much more. He handles a host of other financial responsibilities which include overseeing our tax and non-tax accounts, managing our medical billing program, and ensuring annual reports are completed and turned in on time. Recently, he has been working with our banking partners to put safeguards in place to protect our department from a rash of check thefts that have been occurring around the DMV.

Our department is fortunate to have such a person with desirable skills like financial literacy, attention to detail, timeliness in completing tasks, accurate record keeping, and a willingness to ask pertinent questions.



# HONOREES

## COBB ISLAND VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT & EMS

### ERIC MOORE FIREFIGHTER



Eric began volunteering with Cobb Island VFD & EMS in April of 2021, He is an active armed forces veteran stationed out of Andrews Air Force Base.

Eric has completed his Firefighter I & Firefighter II certifications along with CPR & First Aid. He has also taken his Emergency Vehicle Operator and Pumper Operator Courses. Eric currently holds the position of Assistant Engineer and is working towards getting turned over to drive and operate heavy fire apparatus.

Eric manages to balance his busy work life and his home life as a husband to his wife, Kira, and father to two adorable little girls.

The Cobb Island VFD & EMS is grateful to have him on the team and for his service to our great nation. Eric is a prime example of discipline and dedication to our department and community.

### COLLEEN HILL DEPUTY EMS CHIEF

Colleen joined the department in 2008, and has risen through the ranks achieving the current position of Deputy EMS Chief. Colleen has strived to make the department and the community a better place from the beginning of her time in the volunteer system.

She has worked tirelessly under different administrations for the past 5 years as the Deputy EMS Chief to ensure that our community is receiving the best level of care by well-trained and qualified personnel that they can receive. She also plans and coordinates many trainings and multi-jurisdictional drills. She does this all while managing a full-time career as an employee of the Maryland Judiciary System, as well as being a wife and mother to two beautiful children.



Colleen is a prime example of what devotion and compassion in the Fire and EMS Service look like. She makes our department proud, and we are fortunate to have her on our team.



# HONOREES

## COBB ISLAND VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT & EMS

### CRYSTAL JACKSON TREASURER



Crystal has served this department and community faithfully and professionally for over 15 years. She has served as Deputy EMS Chief, Treasurer, and on the Board of Directors.

Crystal has stood strong and faced many challenges within our department and the community. She promotes a positive attitude and is willing to accept any challenge presented to her.

Crystal has the heart of a true volunteer and has been a tremendous asset to our department and the community we serve. Crystal represents the Charles County Volunteer First Responders with honor and dedication.

### JEANNE THEISMANN AUXILIARY MEMBER - FLAG BEARER

In the past year, Jeanne Theismann has proven to be an irreplaceable asset to the CIVFD & EMS Auxiliary. In any organization, you need to have people surrounding you that are honest, knowledgeable, and forthright. Jeanne has been someone we can turn to for support and for her "never say die" attitude.

Jeanne has done countless hours of research on behalf of the auxiliary to help us to maintain the integrity of our organization. She has proven to be an asset not only in fundraising but in structurally maintaining the essence of the auxiliary as it has been for the past seventy-six years. It takes devoted people to keep any volunteer group going. It also takes those who put others in front of themselves in order to reach the higher goal. This shows how loyal and devoted they are to the cause. Jeanne is a wonderful and treasured member of the CIVFD & EMS Auxiliary family. We are blessed that she has added us to her resume of countless volunteer positions.







# HONOREES

## DENTSVILLE VOLUNTEER EMS, FIRE & AUXILIARY

ROBIN WINDSOR  
PAST PRESIDENT

Robin has shown outstanding leadership and dedication to the volunteer service. Robin has faithfully served in our department for over 20 years. Robin started with our department as an EMT running ambulance calls out of the "barn."

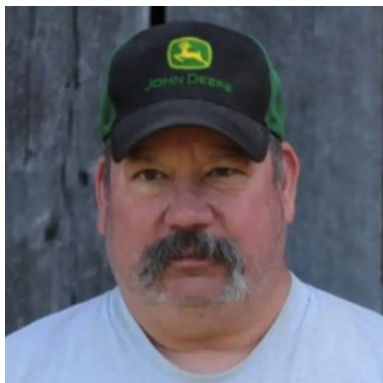
Robin served as EMS Chief from 2009-2012 and held the position of President from 2012-2013, and again from 2014 to 2022. During her tenure as president, Robin's leadership guided the growth of the department with the addition of a fire division and the purchase of our first fire engine. Robin has a passion for helping others and her commitment to service extends beyond our department.



Robin is actively involved in the Charles County Association of Emergency Medical Services, working on county-wide initiatives as the Quality Assurance & Quality Improvement Officer for the county association.

Her oversight helps ensure EMS agencies are providing high-quality patient care to those who are injured or ill. Robin's willingness to selflessly give her time to help others is an inspiration to us all.

JEFF HAMKE  
FIREFIGHTER & ENGINEER



Jeff's dedication to our department shows in everything he does. Since Jeff joined, he has been one of the main daytime drivers.

He does anything asked of him without hesitation. He keeps station apparatus and equipment in service and tackles many tasks that he sees that need to be done. He spends many hours at the station and on the road to take care of all needs.





# HONOREES

## INDIAN HEAD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT & RESCUE SQUAD

### WAYNE T. HIGDON DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF



Wayne joined the Indian Head Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad in February of 1960 at the age of 14, and was an active member until he enlisted in the US Navy in 1968, going on to serve on a duty tour in Vietnam.

After being discharged from the Navy in 1970, Wayne was hired by the District of Columbia Fire Department, where he would complete a 30-year career, retiring in 2001 at the rank of Lieutenant.

While working for DCFD, Wayne joined the Silver Hill Volunteer Fire Department, where he would become a life member after being a top runner for much of his time there. Soon thereafter, Wayne accepted a job at the US Capitol as a Fire and Safety Inspector, where he would complete a 10-year tenure with the organization.

In 1985, after marrying and relocating back to Indian Head, Wayne returned to IHVFD where he is currently a top runner to this day. He has held numerous fire line positions over the years, the most notable being Deputy Fire Chief, a position he has held for nearly 20 years.

In 2001 Wayne obtained life membership at IHVFD and continues to be an encouragement to old and new members alike. His 45-year dedication to the department, including his willingness to always lend a hand and assist in any way possible, has deemed him a well-deserved nominee for this award.



### WILLIAM DEER PAST EMS CHIEF

Abron "Bill" Deer joined the Indian Head Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad in June of 1991, where he quickly enrolled in various Fire and EMS courses through MFRI, ultimately completing his Maryland Paramedic Certification in 2004. Once certified, Bill began his career as a flight medic, working for Medstar Washington Hospital Center, where he remained working for over 15 years.

*Continued on next page*



# HONOREES

## INDIAN HEAD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT & RESCUE SQUAD

*Deer continued*

Bill also dedicated many years of his time as an instructor at MFRI beginning in the late 1990's, teaching numerous EMT and EMT Refresher courses. Bill left the IHVFD in 2007 and joined neighboring department, Bryans Road Volunteer Fire Department, where he would stay an active member until 2017, obtaining life membership.

Over his tenure with IHVFD, Bill has served as Assistant EMS Chief, and past President of the Charles County Association of Emergency Medical Services. He currently holds the position of Chairman of the Charles County Association of Emergency Medical Services Executive Committee and is a member of the Charles County Board of Fire and Rescue Commissioners.

Bill's many years of extensive experience, training and dedication to the citizens of Charles County have more than earned him the nomination of this year's Charles County First Responders Award.

## JOHN "MIKE" O'NEIL DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN

Mike started his volunteer career at Potomac Heights Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad in August of 1969 and was an active member with them for 10 years.

While raising a family and volunteering for his community, Mike was hired as a firefighter for the Federal Government, ultimately retiring at his final duty post of Naval District Washington, Indian Head Base.

During his more than 25-year career, Mike would work his way up the ranks, obtaining the position of Captain and Fire Inspector.



Mike joined the Indian Head Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad in July of 1992, where he currently remains an active member. Over the course of his membership, Mike has held the position of Sergeant, Board of Director Member at Large, and is currently the Department Chaplain, a position he has held for over 20 years.

In addition to the elected positions Mike has held over the years, he is also the appointed Chair of the Uniform Committee, Memorial Committee, and serves as our Department Photographer. He has also dedicated numerous training course hours at MFRI as well as at his job with the Federal Government.



# HONOREES

## NEWBURG VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD & FIRE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF ENGINEER STEPHAN JOHNSON  
EMERGENCY DRIVER & PAST PRESIDENT



Stephan is the Past President of the Newburg Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad. Although he is no longer the President, members still look to him for guidance and direction. Stephan is a great mentor and always willing to provide a helping hand. A life member and emergency driver, Stephan can be found running calls, assisting in administration, and helping with fundraising. Stephan is the Chief Engineer of the department and no matter what time of day or night he is needed, he always makes himself available.

Stephan's contributions are sometimes unrecognized, but he is instrumental in our largest fundraisers, including the successful Oyster Scald.

We'd like to thank him for a job well done.



# HONOREES

## NEWBURG VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD & FIRE DEPARTMENT

### CHARLES THOMAS

#### VICE PRESIDENT, BOARD MEMBER, EMERGENCY DRIVER

Charles has gone above and beyond over the years at Newburg Fire Department and Rescue Squad. Charles is one of our charter members responsible for getting Newburg started and has gone up in the ranks. Charles is the Vice President and has acted as the President for the past several months as our President has been out.

Charles does everything asked or needed of him and more. He is a big part of our fundraising at the department, there for every bingo (which he helped get up and running) and at every kid's movie night. He has gone so far as to bring his own DJ equipment to make sure our movie nights are a success.



We would like to thank Charles for a job well done. We appreciate your hard work through the years.

### TINA ROBERTSON CHIEFS' AIDE



Tina is a huge help to the Chiefs of the department in making sure everything is pushed out to our members. Tina works side by side with the Fire and EMS Chiefs to make their jobs easier. Tina was one of our members that got their EMT during the pandemic and put in many hours to ensure the ambulance was staffed. There is not much that Tina won't do. Tina is still pushing to obtain her NREMT while being one of our top emergency drivers.

Tina can be found on any given day assisting the new members and cadets in training, check off on ambulances, and making sure grades are where they should be. Tina does a lot for the Chiefs and the Newburg Volunteer Fire and EMS Department. We would like to thank Tina for a job well done.





# HONOREES

## POTOMAC HEIGHTS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT & RESCUE SQUAD

### DONALD WILLETT AUXILIARY MEMBER

Mr. Willett was named Outstanding Auxiliary member of the year in 2021. His dedication to our department is much appreciated. His outstanding culinary skills have been a wonderful asset to us during fundraising events.



### DYLAN WALKER FIRE SERGEANT

Dylan was the 2021 Firefighter of the Year for our department. This award is rated by the membership to recognize a member's hard work and dedication. Dylan also earned First Place for Fire Responses in 2021 with 315 calls.

### ALYSSA LINKINS EMS SERGEANT

Alyssa earned first place for EMS calls in 2021 with 227 calls. She has taken on a lot of responsibility and has been a great leader in our department.





# HONOREES

## TENTH DISTRICT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

WALLACE DANIELSON  
PRESIDENT, LIFE MEMBER & DEPUTY CHIEF



Wally has been an active volunteer with our department since 1977. During that timeframe, he has consistently been one of our most active members. He has held every operational and administrative rank within our department, including being Chief of the Tenth District for 23 years. Wally currently serves as the President and Deputy Chief.

Wally has also been instrumental on the county level, serving for several years as the County Fire Chief.

He has played a very large role in the current Comprehensive Plan, which is helping shape the future of all fire and rescue services within Charles County.



# HONOREES

## TENTH DISTRICT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT



**EMMITT NEWMAN**  
**ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF**

Emmitt is dedicated to our department, always making sure we have staffing for our apparatus. He is in charge of our smoke detector installs, making sure our residents, particularly our elderly population, have working detectors. He participates in our West Side Batt. Chief Program, covering at least four 24 hour shifts a month.

**WANDA ABELL**  
**TREASURER**

Wanda has been our department treasurer for over 15 years and ensures that our bills and financial obligations are paid on time. She also oversees various fundraising efforts for our department.



**SUSAN TANNER**  
**DEPUTY TREASURER**

Susan has been our Deputy Treasurer for over 15 years, ensuring our financial obligations are paid in a timely manner. She also is the chair of our yearly fund drive committee, bringing in a good amount of donations.



# HONOREES

## WALDORF VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT STATION 12, EMS DIVISION

### SAMANTHA MANCINELLI SERGEANT, EMS 12



Samantha Mancinelli has been a Sergeant at EMS 12 for the past two years. Over the past two years, her leadership and mentorship have spoken volumes about herself and where she envisions the future of EMS 12.

Sam took on the responsibility for the development and execution of EMS drills at Station 12, and over the past 2 years. Sam has elevated our drill program with innovative scenarios which provide not only protocol and skill updates for EMTs but also incorporates crew resource management skills that provide a "total team" concept for running calls.

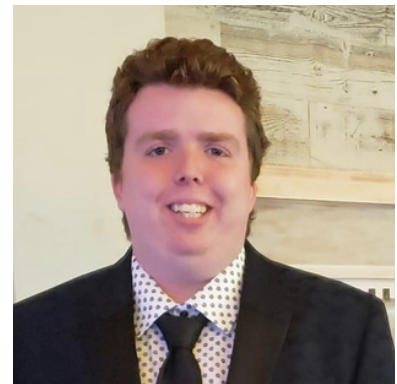
She continues to be a great asset to EMS 12 and we look forward to her continued success.

### JAMES PAYNE SERGEANT, EMS 12

James (Jimmy) Payne has been a Sergeant at EMS 12 over the past year. He is pretty much a jack-of-all-trades. Jimmy helps with logistics, membership, drivers training, and just about any task you ask of him. Jimmy always has a can-do attitude and a smile on his face.

He is an invaluable asset to EMS 12 with 198 responses and 350 duty hours over the past year. Both are tops in the division. He is always willing to staff the unit and responds from home regularly to get the unit on the street for second calls. When needed, Jimmy never hesitates to volunteer no matter what the task.

He has become someone we depend on to get the job done. We are proud to nominate him for this well-deserved honor.







# HONOREES

## WALDORF VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT STATION 12, EMS DIVISION

ELIZABETH STEPHENS  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN



Elizabeth "Liz" Stephens has been a member of EMS 12 for 10 years.

Liz is an outstanding example of what an EMT should be. Her ability to work well with other EMTs, firefighters, and staff set her apart from others.

She is always answering the call for help which is evident in her 160 responses over the past year. When we need a driver or an OIC to staff the BLS unit, she is always the first to step up, and she never avoids duty when necessary.

Working in membership, her communication and interpersonal skills are a great asset to new probationary members. Her ability to connect on a personal level with new members and assist them with completing their probationary book is invaluable to the station.



# HONOREES

## GAYAN'S AUTO BODY & TOWING

JEFF GAYAN, PRESIDENT



Jeff has worked in the towing business for over 40 years and has been side by side with many first responders to auto accidents throughout the county. Jeff is usually one of the first to arrive.

His team of professionals shows up when called upon and gets the job done. He has grown his fleet to accommodate the range of small to large vehicles in Charles County, and in doing so has built a fine reputation with many businesses in Charles County. Jeff, the sole owner of Gayan's Auto Body and Towing, will continue to serve Charles County along with all First Responders to care for our community when the need arises.



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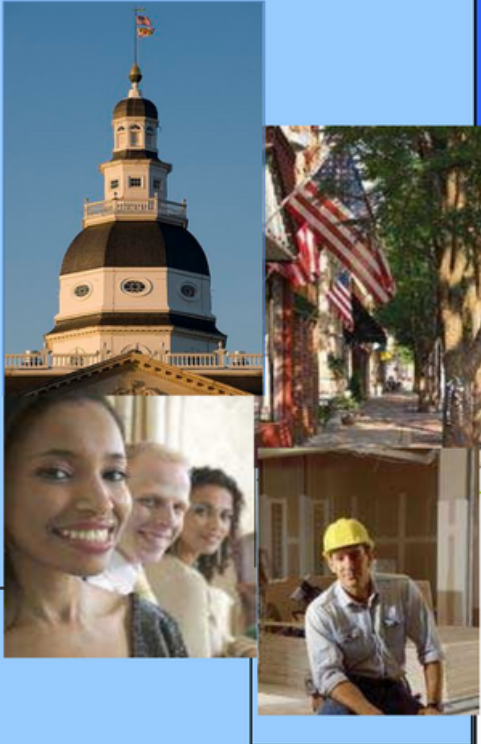
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[krussell@charlescountychamber.org](mailto:krussell@charlescountychamber.org)







What is the

# Chamber of COMMERCE?

Why should you become a member of your Chamber of Commerce?

The Charles County Chamber of Commerce is a coalition of area businesses, industries, organizations, and professionals who pool their talents and resources to improve the economic, civic, and cultural climate of our community.

Businesses and organizations are eligible to belong to the Chamber of Commerce. Our investment schedule is structured in such a way that even the smallest business can be a member.

The Chamber is a service organization for business. It provides a venue through which business professionals can take effective action for the progress and growth of our community.

- As a Chamber member, you become a part of an organization with a strong credible voice that speaks out on behalf of business and industry.
- Chamber membership allows you to shape your community by participating in projects and special task groups which apply business-oriented solutions to community concerns.
- As a Chamber member, you have access to the most efficient, effective networking system in Charles County and the surrounding area, designed to promote your business and expand your customer base.
- The Charles County Chamber of Commerce works tirelessly to promote our members and provide you with resources and referrals to grow your business.
- Chamber membership can boost your community image and increase your sales. A recent national survey found that consumers are 63% more likely to buy from Chamber members.

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# PAY IT FORWARD

## PLATINUM LEVEL



## GOLD LEVEL



## SILVER LEVEL



## CHAIRMAN'S CIRCLE

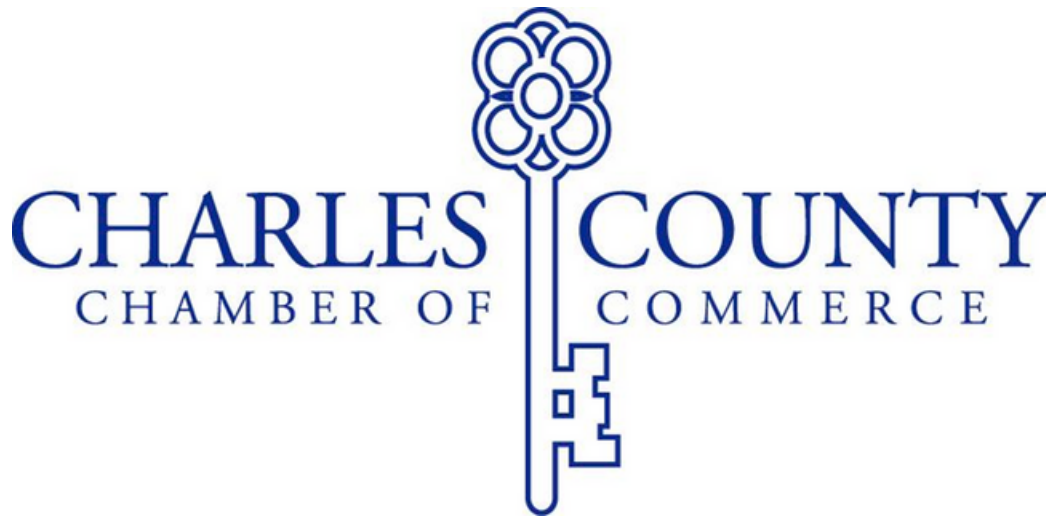


## PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

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Sincere appreciation is extended  
to our members and guests, volunteers,  
program participants, sponsors,  
and most of all,  
the members of our  
First Responder community.



Thank you for attending.  
Please drive safely.

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