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FRONT LINE A Southern States PBA Newsletter

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Charleston PD's Lt. Kelly Freshman graduates FBI National Academy

BY CINDY BAUGHER COMMUNICATIONS PROJECT COORDINATOR

"To each, there comes in their lifetime a special moment when they are figuratively tapped on the shoulder and offered the chance to do a very special thing, unique to them and fitted to their talents. What a tragedy if that moment finds them unprepared or unaualified for that which could have been their finest hour."

Legendary statesman Winston Churchill's, the late British prime minister, words rang true for Lt. Kelly Freshman of the Charleston, S.C., Police Department when she was offered a spot in the program that she'd been waiting three years to join.

Freshman's journey to becoming a graduate of the esteemed FBI National Academy in Quantico, Va., began with being offered a lastminute placement via a phone call on a Friday.

By Monday, she found herself running on a track to prove she could meet the mandatory physical fitness requirements.



Kelly at FBINA graduation

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Because she was so eager to attend the FBINA, Freshman had dedicated herself to maintaining the necessary physical fitness level throughout the threeyear wait time it took to be selected.

So, she passed without any problems and was soon on her way.

The FBI National Academy was created in 1935, following recommendations from a study by the Wickersham Commission. The goal of the FBINA was the "standardization and professionalization of law enforcement departments across the United States through centralized training."

Over the years, the FBI's National Academy has become a prestigious professional course intended for U.S. and international law enforcement personnel. It is a definite accomplishment to even be accepted into the program. Those who participate are law enforcement managers nominated by leaders within their agency thanks to a proven track record of leadership qualities.

Like the fitness requirements, Freshman had no issues earning her nomination since her law enforcement history is extensive. She began her career in patrol in downtown Charleston, where she trained 14 officers during her six years as a patrol training officer.

She then became a detective and worked in the special victims unit for about two years. Next came a promotion to sergeant and a move back to patrol. She later supervised the special victims unit for five years.

After a promotion to lieutenant in 2019, she served as the night shift command duty officer for 10 months before moving on to property crimes commander. She's assigned as the persons crime commander. She also spent 15 years on the crisis negotiation team and ended her time on that team as the commander.

Freshman has been with the Charleston Police Department since 2002, for her entire 22-year career. She was encouraged to join the PBA by her supervisor not long after she started work.

"I like the organization and was aware it would be important to have someone in my corner should something serious happen in the line of duty," she said. "I like knowing there is an organization I can reach out to."

The training experience at the FBI National Academy



Kelly with her daughter, Hadley, and husband Chris

is something Freshman will always remember.

"I had a wonderful time at the National Academy," said Freshman. "It was such a unique experience because everyone there wanted to be there. I was nervous about going because I tend to be introverted. I didn't need to be worried, though, because everyone was so easy to talk to. The amount of encouragement and cheering each other on was something I never experienced. I immediately liked my roommate and the two ladies next door to us."

The FBINA features three core components: academics, physical fitness/wellness, and networking/knowledge sharing. Freshman feels more equipped than ever after completing the Academy, especially when it comes to the networking facet.

"I have so many people I can reach out to with questions and advice," she said.

The program pulls candidates from the U.S. as well as internationally, creating a pool of expertise.

According to the FBI.gov website in regard to the networking aspect, "Sessions include approximately 265 officers (including up to 35 international students), who take undergraduate and/or graduate courses at

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the FBI Academy campus. Classes are offered in a diverse set of areas, and officers participate in a wide range of leadership and specialized trainings. Officers share ideas, techniques, and experiences with each other and create lifelong partnerships that transcend state and national borders."

The academic training element of the Academy is equally important, and Freshman found the classroom work rewarding.

"The classes were very engaging, and class discussion came easily," she said. "My favorite class was violent crime supervision. Each student presented a case. I was amazed at how many of us had been through similar experiences."

The physical fitness element of the FBINA may seem daunting to some, but Freshman was ready for the challenge which is described by the FBINA website as follows:

"The FBINA emphasizes the importance of mental and emotional wellness. The physical fitness course is composed of 3 to 4 fitness classes a week and a weekly fitness challenge with the whole class body. Students must arrive with a minimum fitness level as a baseline. This is measured by a required timed mile-run test conducted on the first week. Males must run the timed mile under 10 minutes and females must run it under 11 minutes and 30 seconds. This test is meant to minimize injuries and to confirm the students' ability to endure the fitness classes that get harder each week. The weekly progression of these classes culminates in a 6-mile obstacle course run called the Yellow Brick Road (YBR), typically occurring in the last week."

Reflecting on the opportunity to train at the FBINA, Freshman uses the word "blessing."

"I began my journey to attend about three years ago,"



Kelly at the end of the yellow brick road

she said. "I received the blessing to apply from our chief of police and submitted my application. I got a call from SC FBI office in April of 2024 offering me a spot."

While she definitely found her time at FBINA to be rewarding, it was not without its sacrifices.

"The most challenging part was being gone for 10 weeks," said Freshman. "Summer is my favorite time of year, and I also missed my daughter's first day of school."

Her daughter, Hadley, started kindergarten this year and also participated for the first time in the Miss South Carolina pageant as a Palmetto State Star. Her husband, Chris, is a sergeant in the training office of Charleston PD as well as serving in the South Carolina National Guard. The two have been married for nine years.

Freshman called her husband the greatest influence on her career.

"While my husband, Chris, came along over 10 years into my career, I would have to say he has had the biggest influence on my career," she said, "He has always encouraged me to push forward. I have also been influenced by Deputy Chief Dustin Thompson. He has always been there to listen when I needed advice."

Of growing up in Spartanburg, S.C., Freshman said she has great memories of a "pretty standard all-American childhood." She attended school with the same core group of kids from kindergarten through graduation, spent lots of fun times with her grandparents on the weekends, vacationed with her mom, dad and brother near historical sites and hung out by the pool listening to a rock station on the radio.

Freshman also recalled that her mother introduced her to true crime stories when she was young. The two enjoyed Ann Rule books and puzzling through "Unsolved Mysteries" episodes together. She found missing person cases to be a particular favorite. Their fascination with true crime may have played a part in Freshman's interest in law enforcement. But, since she never knew anyone who actually worked in law enforcement, she never really considered policing as a potential career for herself while growing up.

After graduation from James F. Byrnes High School in Duncan, S.C., in 1996, Freshman went on to the College of Charleston and graduated in May 2000,



Kelly is a proud graduate of FBINA

majoring in history and psychology. She then went on to Charleston Southern University where she earned her master's degree in criminal justice.

It was in grad school at Charleston Southern, while also working a part-time job, that she made friends with some classmates who worked at the Charleston Police Department. They encouraged Freshman to apply to the CPD.

Early on, she thought she'd work at CPD for a few years and then apply to the FBI. But after she had a few years under her belt, she realized that she didn't want to leave Charleston.

"I met so many wonderful friends while working, I just didn't want to leave," she said.

Now, 22 years later, Freshman said she has thrived in her role at Charleston PD. And, while it may not be in the same way she originally intended, she's found a place for those three letters, FBI, on her resume after all.

(Source: Retrieved from https://le.fbi.gov/training#National-Academy).

PBA attorney spotlight: L. Scott Miller

By Joni Fletcher Cawthon SSPBA Director of Legal Services

PBA attorney L. Scott Miller has built his career around defending law enforcement officers. He estimates that about 95% of his work is police-related in some form.

"I enjoy being there to assist officers who've been involved in critical incidents," Miller said. He handles a large majority of the officer-involved shootings that occur in Kentucky, and he's now expanded into representing officers in Tennessee as well.

Miller's affinity for helping law enforcement officers comes, in large part, from the fact that he's been one of them. He served as a deputy with Campbell County (Tenn.) S.O. from 1992 to 1998. He joined the Kentucky State Police in 1998 and worked his way up to the rank of lieutenant colonel.

While working as a trooper, Miller attended the Salmon P. Chase College of Law at Northern Kentucky University. He is also a graduate of Tusculum University in Greeneville, Tenn.

Miller estimates that he has handled 150-200 critical incidents involving law enforcement officers, ranging from shootings to pursuits to uses of force. In addition, he's done valuable work for PBA members on employment matters. Those cases have included retirement issues, open records law matters and violations of the Tennessee Public Protection Act, which protects public employee whistleblowers.

A desire to expand his efforts to provide legal representation for law enforcement officers is what brought Miller to PBA. He was familiar with the organization from his years of working in law enforcement. He has now been a PBA attorney for about 10 years.

Miller works for the Sturgill Turner law firm and operates out of their Lexington, Ky., and LaFollette, Tenn., offices. The firm also has an office in Nashville. Miller stated that he looks to hire people with a police background because they've been in an officer's shoes and therefore understand matters from an officer's perspective.

Attorney Tyler Chelf, a former Lexington officer, has been



L. Scott Miller



Former Lt. Col. L. Scott Miller in the uniform of the Kentucky State Police

working with Miller for about a year. Attorney Kristen Vanderkooi, a former Nashville officer, has recently joined the firm and assists officers in the Nashville and Knoxville areas.

Miller tells attorneys who don't have law enforcement experience that they have to take the extra step to relate to their officer clients.

Attorneys Miller and Chelf attended the PBA attorney seminar in Atlanta earlier this year. "I loved the PBA

seminar," Miller said. "The presenters were on point, and I enjoyed hearing some other experiences."

As for the value of PBA membership, Miller said, "If my son were going into law enforcement, I would make it mandatory that he have coverage through something like PBA. Given the push by federal and state prosecutors going after police officers now, it's unbelievable that someone wouldn't have protection."

He added, "Nobody thinks they'll need PBA until they do."



SCHOLARSHIPS

The window to submit applications for 2025 funds opens Dec. 1.

Learn more about our scholarships by scanning the QR code below or visiting: https://www.pbfi.org/scholarships-2/

Follow and like us on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/PoliceBenevolentFoundation
www.pbfi.org

Scan for more info



West Virginia Division conducts first political screening



Candidate Patrick Morrisey (left of sign) with the WVPBA screening panel

BY RICH GOSZKA VAPBA, WVPBA STAFF REPRESENTATIVE

The SSPBA political process is a time-honored tradition that has been in place for decades and was created by our founder, Charlie Maddox.

This process involves the members discussing what issues they want to address politically and drafting their questions.

After the legal staff approves, the questions are mailed to the candidates with an invitation letter. This allows the candidate to prepare as if for a job interview and to understand the significant issues facing officers.

On the interview day, the candidate meets with the screening committee. This group volunteers their time to grade the candidate's responses to the questions and make recommendations to the board on final endorsements.

Once the endorsements are made, all candidates are notified of their results. The board then goes to work to help the candidates get elected. The SSPBA is fortunate to have a PAC fund that our members fund. The endorsed candidates are often presented with a check from this fund to help with their campaign. A press release is also sent to local media outlets and the members are notified of the endorsed candidates. Social media advertisements are also used in this process.

On July 13, the Natural Resources Police Chapter focused on key issues such as pay and retirement as they hosted and screened candidates for W.Va. governor. This was the first political screening the West Virginia division conducted, and candidates Steve Williams (D) and Patrick Morrisey (R) attended.

The screening panel was comprised of six W.Va. Natural Resources Police members and one member from the Charleston Police Department. In the end, the decision was unanimous to endorse Patrick Morrisey for governor.

Steve Haines serves as the Natural Resources Police Chapter president.

"Our entire board was thoroughly impressed with the professionalism of the entire SSPBA screening process," said Haines. "I think it left the candidates thoroughly impressed with our officers as well. The SSPBA screening process is a well-established and fine-tuned operation.

"Today's law enforcement officers have to be at our very best as more is expected from us than ever in history," continued Haines. "SSPBA helps us achieve that goal and has been a blessing for our officers. This process gave us an incredible chance to bring our greatest concerns directly to the attention of the candidates and listen to their responses."





Protecting those Behind the Badge

The Police Benevolent Foundation (PBF), Southern States PBA (SSPBA) and the West Virginia PBA (WVPBA) Division of the Southern States PBA have partnered with LEAPS Training LLC, and Marshall University to educate law enforcement administrators, law enforcement officers and their family members about the hidden dangers of PTSD and its connection to the high rate of law enforcement suicide.

Facts for LEOs:

More officers die each year by their own hand as opposed to being killed by an assailant.

Law enforcement suicide is seldom addressed or acknowledged by law enforcement agencies.

Each day an officer makes the choice to take his/her own life.

The effects of law enforcement suicides are long lasting to both the officer's family and the department.

Thus far in 2024, there is a 224% greater chance of suicide than a line of duty death by gunfire.

Scan QR to Register!



Join us on **Monday, December 16th**, as the PBF, SSPBA, and WVPBA conduct an informational seminar about PTSD and law enforcement suicide. Hosted at **Marshall University** in **Huntington**, **WV** from **8 am to 4 pm**.

This seminar is absolutely **FREE**, and it is extremely valuable in its potential for saving families, careers, and most importantly - saving lives. We encourage everyone with an interest in securing and/or improving the profession of law enforcement to attend.

Meet Reagan Titus, 2024 Louisiana scholarship recipient



Reagan shows off her scholarship check from the PBF. Reagan is attending the University of Louisiana where she is pursuing a degree in nursing.

By Cindy Baugher Communications Project Coordinator

Reagan Titus, 2024 scholarship recipient for the Louisiana Division of the SSPBA, has always felt a strong need to help people.

Combine that desire to help and her fascination with the field of medicine, and it comes as no surprise that she's chosen nursing as her major at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

At her 2022 graduation from Captain Shreve High School in Shreveport, La., she had a 4.6 weighted GPA and many awards and accomplishments to her credit.

"I loved being a part of the Varsity Girls soccer team all four years," she said. "Being a part of a team and being on the field was one of my favorite memories of high school. During that time, I received the United Coaches Senior Excellence Award, honorable mention all-district my sophomore year, and was on the LHSAA Senior All-Academic Team. In addition to athletics, I was in the Talented Arts Program all four years. I was a

member of Fellowship of Christian Athletes as well as Spanish Club, Student Council and Z Club. I was also a part of National Honor Society and English Honor Society."

Once settled in at UL Lafayette, Reagan became involved on campus through involvement in her sorority, Alpha Delta Pi, and helping over the past two years with its chosen philanthropy, Ronald McDonald House.

She said she felt very at home at UL Lafayette and loved its beautiful campus but selected the college primarily due to the nursing program -- one of the most prestigious in the state. She said she hopes to work as a registered nurse for a couple of years following graduation to gain experience and then return to school to earn her master's degree as an ER nurse practitioner.

Reagan's father, Sgt. Matt Titus, is a Louisiana State Trooper with 16 years of experience. She described her father as brave, strong and caring. He became a trooper after leaving military service and said he enjoys the freedom of having a different, non-routine workday every day.

Reagan's mother, Angela Titus, is a pre-K3 schoolteacher. Reagan said she is "amazing with children, and is patient, loving and caring".

Her sister, Morgan, is a big-hearted, athletic sophomore in high school, and the two love spending time together.

Family and friends, and time spent with them, are important to Reagan.

"I have many personal hobbies and interests," she said. "One of them being that I am an avid waterfowl hunter. I also enjoy singing and songwriting. I have always loved expressing my feelings through music and was able to do that a lot through the arts program at my high school. I love cross stitching. My dad's grandmother taught me how to before she passed away. I am so thankful I have those memories with her. I also enjoy playing tennis, golfing and hanging out with my friends."

When asked about the greatest influence in her life, Reagan named her parents but said that it's been in



Matt and Reagan duck hunting

different ways. She said her dad taught her strength, loyalty and what it means to work for what you want in life.

"My dad taught me that nothing in life is handed down to you, you have to work for it, and that when you work for it, the reward is much better," she said.

Her mother served as a living example of the type of mother Reagan would like to be one day.

"She has taught me how to walk through life with a gracious and positive attitude," said Reagan.

Another life lesson for Reagan has come in the form of dyslexia, which she was diagnosed with in first grade. She shared that it has been one of the most difficult battles that she has had to handle throughout her lifetime.

"I have had to figure out the best way to study for

me and understand that the way I do things in school might look different than the way other people do it," she said. "It took a long time to overcome this, but now I fully understand that just because I might have to work a little harder to understand the material or study for a test does not make me any less capable. I think dyslexia has made me stronger, not weaker."

As one would expect, her father is extremely proud of Reagan and the young woman she has become.

"She was diagnosed with dyslexia as a young child and has had to work extremely hard in school," he said. "She has adapted very well to being a college student. Reagan is continuing the family tradition of serving her community by pursuing a career in

Next issue of FRONT LINE will focus on these divisions











If you have story ideas from these divisions, please email

 $\underline{jblackburn@sspba.org} \cdot \underline{rbyrd@sspba.org}$

To read past issues of the FRONT LINE, please scan.



nursing."

Because Reagan's dad is a member of SSPBA, she was eligible to apply for this scholarship for the Louisiana division. Her dad called it a "blessing because the rising cost of a college education is outrageous. The SSPBA scholarship affords the student some financial peace of mind."

The benefit of the scholarship, as well as the help that the PBA can provide with potential legal representation if needed, is easily apparent to Titus and his family.

The importance of her dad's work is not lost on Reagan.

"His profession means a lot to me and has always been a huge part of my life," she said. "You could describe my dad as many things: strong, brave, loyal, selfless, but the one word that always comes to my mind is hero.

"A hero is not always someone who wears a cape and



Matt and Reagan in New Orleans during an eighth grade class trip.



The family after Reagan and her sister were baptized

is bulletproof," continued Reagan. "Sometimes the real heroes are the people who fight for others even if they don't want help or appreciate it. Someone who does the right thing because he believes in it, not because other people are looking. Someone who is willing to put their lives on the line for the sake of a stranger.

"My dad is a hero in every way. My dad absolutely loves his job, and he loves protecting people. It gives me great joy to see him go out every day and watch him love what he does. To say I am proud of my dad is an understatement."

Receiving the PBF scholarship is a special accomplishment for Reagan. She said she had a sincere desire to help her parents who have helped her her whole life. She said she tries to assist with her tuition when she is able and feels fortunate that she was eligible to apply, thanks to her dad.

The VA Law Enforcement Officers Procedural Guarantee Act: You have a choice

By Andy Meyer Richmond, Va., Attorney By Rich Goszka VAPBA, WVPBA Staff Representative

As a dedicated member of the law enforcement community, you serve the public under demanding and sometimes dangerous conditions.

Considering these challenges, you must be aware of the protections available to you under the Virginia LEOs Procedural Guarantee Act. This legislation was enacted to ensure that officers like you are provided fair treatment in the event of an administrative investigation that may result in disciplinary action.

The Virginia LEOs Procedural Guarantee Act (Va. Code 9.1-500 et seq.) is a statute that provides procedural safeguards to law enforcement officers who are subject to internal investigations or disciplinary action.

It ensures that officers receive due process before facing any significant personnel actions, such as demotion, suspension, or dismissal. There is a similar act for State Correctional Officers.

This act applies to:

- Officers targeted in an administrative investigation
- Full-time, sworn law enforcement officers employed by the state or local government, except Sheriff's Deputies.
- Officers in a department that has 3 or more officers.
- Officers in a locality that DOES NOT have a civilian oversight body as per 9.1-601

Key Protections Under the Act

Conduct of Interrogations: The Act lays out specific requirements for how interrogations are conducted. These include:

- Interrogations must take place at a reasonable time and place.
- Preferred the officer is on duty and at the office of the investigator or the officer's work location unless the matter requires immediate action.
- The officer is provided with the name and rank of the

investigating officer and of any other individual present and the nature of the investigation.

The Notice and Response to Charges: Before any disciplinary actions, the officer shall be notified in writing of all charges and the possible action that the agency may take. After this notice, the officer shall be allowed to respond orally or in writing to the charges. Unless agreed to by the officer this shall not be less than five calendar days. The officer may be assisted by counsel at this stage. The agency shall provide the officer with notice of their right to initiate a grievance.

The Appeal: If the outcome of an investigation results in disciplinary action, the Act grants you the right to a formal hearing to appeal the decision. You can elect to use the jurisdiction's grievance process or a hearing under the LEOs' Procedural Guarantee Act, but not both. The time limit to initiate such an action under the act shall be set by the agency. The hearing shall be set no later than fourteen calendar days unless the officer agrees to a later date.

The Panel: The hearing shall be conducted by a threeperson panel, one member appointed by the grievant (officer), one appointed by the agency of equal rank, and the third is selected by the two other panel members. If these two panel members cannot agree on the third, then the chief judge of the jurisdiction's judicial circuit shall appoint the third panel member.

The Hearing: The officer and agency shall present evidence, and examine, and cross-examine witnesses. The officer can represent themselves or have the right to be represented by counsel. The panel and the grievant or agency may issue subpoenas requiring the testimony of those witnesses who refused or failed to appear at the hearing. The panel shall rule on the admissibility of the evidence. A record shall be made of the hearing.

The Decision: The recommendations of the hearing panel and reasons shall be submitted in writing to the officer or their attorney and to the Chief executive of the law enforcement agency. This recommendation is only advisory but shall be accorded significant weight. Not having a binding decision is the only disappointment of this Act. However, unlike some state and local grievance



General Assembly Building of Virginia in Richmond

procedures, it does not prevent the grievant from filing a civil suit in the future.

The Virginia LEOs' Procedural Guarantee Act serves as a crucial protection for officers against arbitrary or unjust disciplinary actions. Law enforcement professionals are often placed in situations where their decisions may be scrutinized, and this Act ensures that officers are treated with fairness and respect throughout any investigative process. One must weigh the best option regarding choosing either the hearing under this Act or the jurisdiction's grievance process.

Recently, an SSPBA member chose the Act, due to the city having an upper hand in their grievance process and the panel ruled in his favor. This places this city in an interesting position if they choose not to follow the panel's written recommendations.

Understanding your rights under this Act is vital to protecting your career and ensuring fair treatment. Should you ever face a disciplinary action or investigation, knowing these protections will empower you to navigate the process with confidence.

As an officer, your work demands courage and professionalism. In return, the Virginia LEOs' Procedural Guarantee Act provides the necessary safeguards to ensure that you are treated fairly in the face of internal investigations or disciplinary procedures. Always be aware of your rights, and if you ever find yourself in need of guidance, don't hesitate to contact the SSPBA to ensure your interests are fully protected.

Disclaimer: This article aims to provide educational information to our members and should not be considered legal advice.

118th U.S. Congress Legislative Updates

Call to action campaigns:

LEOSA Reform Act of 2024 / HR 354

580 members participated in this SSPBA Federal campaign. HR 354 passed the House on 5/16/2024 and is currently in the Senate. All of our endorsed house representatives except Wiley Nickel (D)(NC 13th) voted to pass this important bill.

Social Security Fairness of 2023

875 members participated in this SSPBA campaign. It has passed the House and moved on to the Senate. The campaign is now updated to generate emails to your senator.

These two SSPBA campaigns are still active as the 118th session ends on January 3, 2025, when the 119th Congress will be sworn in.

SSPBA Tracked legislation:

U.S. 118th Congress Police Related Benefits Bills
U.S. 118th Congress Firearm Related Bills
U.S. 118th Congress Police Labor Related Bills
U.S. 118th Congress Police Working Conditions Bills

Alabama member making a difference in his community

By Rachel Karr Alabama Trooper News Editor

Phenix City police Officer Kendell Smith was recently awarded the "Heart of the Community" award by the East Alabama Chamber of Commerce for his work in the community.

Growing up in Selma, Smith remembered being inspired by the historical significance of his surroundings before moving to Phenix City when he was 14 years old. Those early experiences had a lasting impact on Smith.

"Growing up in a historic town was educational because there were events such as the Civil Rights March, known as 'Bloody Sunday,' where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and a host of other important people marched from Selma to Montgomery," he said, "There was also the Battle of Selma and many other events that took place every year.

"As a child, I used to ride my bike down to watch the reenactment of the Battle of Selma, after being told by my parents not to go down there," Smith continued.

Growing up in a family of public servants, Smith always looked up to those who dedicated themselves to others.

"My favorite leader would have to be my father, Jimmy Smith, who passed away in 2021," said Smith. "My dad was a hard-working man who worked for the City of Selma as a garbageman for many years to provide a living for me, my three other siblings and my mother.

"He was a true definition of a father figure who did what he had to do for his family, and he always taught us that family comes first no matter what," he continued. "My dad always wanted to become a police officer. It was his dream, and he was so proud of me when I graduated from the police academy and started working for the Phenix City Police Department in 2018.

"I always wanted to make a difference in the lives of others and the community."

During his six years on the force, he has served the community in numerous ways, including starting a junior police department in Phenix City. He finds inspiration in his favorite quote, "Find a way or make a way," which he thinks fits him.



Officer Smith enjoys knowing the community he serves.



Chamber officials honor Officer Smith for his civic ways.

When he isn't working, he spends time with his wife, who was his childhood crush, and their four daughters.

"I love spending time with family and taking long walks through the woods," Smith said. "I also like to go fishing and cook on the grill. I have recently started a new hobby of building my home from the ground up, acting as my own general contractor. My goal is to one day own my own farm."