



*The official monthly publication of the Alabama Department of Public Safety*



# THE BLUE LIGHT

*November 2010*



**THE HONORABLE BOB RILEY**  
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*Acting Director*

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**MAJOR HERMAN WRIGHT**  
*Protective Services Division*

**MAJOR JERRY CONNER**  
*Service Division*

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*From left, Miller, Poore, Goss, Thomas, and Chapman.*

**D**river License Examiner I Holley Cook of Region D was named as the Department of Public Safety's Examiner of the Year at a special awards luncheon Oct. 26 at the RSA Plaza Terrace in Montgomery. In its 15th year, the award is given to recognize and honor the exemplary work of examiners in promoting public safety through testing and in detecting fraudulent and other criminal activity in the licensing process.

Cook was unable to attend the ceremony; and her father, DPS retiree Seward Goss, accepted the award on her behalf. The awards luncheon also honored the runners up for Examiner of the Year, Mary Ann Thomas of Region A, Kelley Miller of Region B, and Dorothy Poore of Region C.

"Attention to detail is crucial to our job," said Driver License Division Chief Maj. Terry Chapman. "I am extremely proud of Examiner Cook and of all the nominees and the entire division for all their hard work. We have a tough job, and we do it well."

"You are all winners," added Chief Examiner Capt.

Guy Rush. "It's really unfortunate that we have to narrow this award down to one selection, because there are so many of you who are deserving of this award for your excellence in what you do. Our division shines because of the many hours you all put in, and I thank you all for your efforts."

Cook was chosen from among the nominees by an outside selection committee. The process began with a supervisor from each district nominating one individual from each office. An essay was written explaining why each person nominated deserved the award, and the essays were all judged by the committee. Serving on the committee were Gene Vonderau, Alabama Trucking Association; Robert Patterson, R.E. Garrison Trucking; and Dave Lemaster, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

Sponsoring the program were Frank Filgo and Gene Vonderau of the Alabama Trucking Association, Jenny Openshaw of L-1 Identity Solutions, and the Alabama State Trooper Association.

# *Inside the Wet Lab:*

## Practicing Field Sobriety Testing at ACJTC

**F**ield Sobriety Testing is a series of psychophysical tests administered by law enforcement to determine if an individual is driving under the influence of alcohol. Since the mid-1970s, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has conducted research resulting in the creation of three standardized field sobriety tests. Initially referred to as Improved Sobriety Testing, these tests were further validated by the Southern California Research Institute and relabeled Standardized Field Sobriety Testing. The tests initially were created by the Los Angeles Police Department Training unit and are now the standard recommended by the federal government through the NHTSA.

In training all state troopers and Alabama Police Academy students, the Alabama Criminal Justice Training Center asks for volunteers to participate in live alcohol workshops, or “wet labs,” to practice field sobriety testing. Once arriving at the academy, participants first test zero on a breathalyzer and surrender their keys, to be returned once they are able to test zero again. After check-in, volunteers are requested to consume several alcoholic drinks for the next two hours.

“We want our volunteers to have blood alcohol content levels somewhere between .05 and .17,” said Cpl. Chad Blankinchip. “During testing, we closely monitor alcohol consumption. We don’t want anyone overdoing it or getting sick.”

“Field sobriety testing is so important to our job as troopers,” said Capt. Damon Summers. “I know the wet labs can be a lot of fun as well, but really, the job our volunteers are performing is so vital to the success of our troopers in training.”

The volunteers may be any DPS non-supervisory civilian employee or non-supervisory arresting officer, with the exception of employees of specialized units, such as Tact Teams, EOD, or Aviation. Reserve state troopers are also allowed to participate in the program.

The Standardized Field Sobriety Test consists of a bat-



tery of three tests which are administered and evaluated to obtain validated indicators of impairment and to establish probable cause for arrest. The three tests administered are:

- *The Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus*
- *The Walk-and-Turn*
- *The One-Leg Stand*

### **Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus Testing**

Horizontal gaze nystagmus is an involuntary jerking movement of the eyeball that occurs naturally as an individual’s eye gazes to the side. Normally, nystagmus (jerking movement) occurs when the eyes are rotated at high peripheral angles. When an individual is impaired by the effects of alcohol, this jerking is exaggerated and can occur at lesser angles. Additionally, an individual driving under the influence will have greater difficulty tracking a moving object. As the test is administered, law enforcement personnel look for three indicators of impairment. The indicators are:

1. If the eye cannot follow a moving object smoothly;
2. If jerking is distinctly noticeable when the eye is looking as far to the side as it can (maximum deviation); and
3. If the jerking begins when the eye is within 45 degrees of center.

The officer tests each eye. If, between both eyes, four or more of the indicators are observed, research indicates that approximately 77 percent of individuals tested will likely have a blood alcohol content of .10 or higher.

### Divided Attention Testing

The Walk-and-Turn test and the One-Leg Stand test are both “divided attention” tests that are easy to perform by most sober individuals. The goal of divided attention tests is to require an individual to both listen and follow instructions while performing simple physical movements. Individuals who are driving under the influence typically will have more difficulty completing these tasks than an individual who is not impaired.

### Walk-and-Turn Test

In the Walk-and-Turn test, the individual is instructed to take nine steps, heel-to-toe, along a straight line. After taking the steps, the individual is instructed to turn on one foot and return in the same manner along the original path. There are seven indicators of impairment for this test. The indicators are:

### Impressions from a Test Subject Inside the DPS Wet Lab

by Ryan Godfrey

When I first got word that there was a need for volunteers to participate in the wet lab at the ACJTC, I enthusiastically put my name on the list, seeing this as a unique opportunity not only to help out the department, but get a first-hand account of something that, under normal circumstances, should never occur while at work.

I jokingly thought to myself, “For

one night, I am Don Draper, the protagonist advertising executive of 1960s-era drama *Mad Men*, notorious for getting intoxicated during work hours.” I even told my wife this when I told her about the program and what I volunteered to do on the night of Oct. 5.

Much like the mysteries surrounding that character on that particular television show, however, I really had no idea what I had actually volunteered to do until I arrived on the campus of the ACJTC.

Of course I had heard several stories

1. If the individual cannot maintain balance while listening to the instructions;
2. If the individual begins before instructions are finished;
3. If the individual stops while walking to regain balance;
4. If the individual does not touch heel-to-toe;
5. If the individual uses arms to balance;
6. If the individual loses balance while turning; and
7. If the individual takes an incorrect number of steps.

Research indicates that 68 percent of individuals who demonstrate two or more of these indicators will have a blood alcohol content of .10 or higher.

### One-Leg Stand Test

In the One-Leg Stand test, an individual is instructed to stand with one foot approximately six inches off the ground and count aloud in thousands until instructed by law enforcement personnel to put the foot down. The individual is timed for 30 seconds. The four indicators for this test are:

1. If the individual sways while balancing;
2. If the individual uses arms to balance;
3. If the individual hops to maintain balance; and
4. If the individual puts the foot down.

NHTSA research indicates that if two or more indicators are observed there is a 65 percent chance that the individual has a blood alcohol content of .10 or greater.

of the many wet labs of yesteryear. Images of wild frat-like parties with even wilder women (most of which probably never even occurred) are countered by the recent restrictions, guidelines and procedures put in place specifically to curtail most of the “fun” and focus on the work at hand.

You are on the clock, doing actual, and very important work, I kept reminding myself.

I envisioned sitting in a stark-white room, forbidden to speak, and **[continued on next page]**

## Impressions from a Test Subject Inside the DPS Wet Lab

[continued]

surrounded by scientists in lab coats with clipboards carefully watching timers, and being told to imbibe at specific and pre-determined intervals.

I assumed my experience would be that of a lab rat's.

Then I arrived at the academy. The first person I saw was not a scientist. There wasn't even a lab coat in sight. Instead I bumped into Patti Lindsey, another volunteer. The difference was she had volunteered before, and she was *smiling*. It was at that moment that I began to relax, because I knew everything was going to be OK.

The wet lab is most definitely not an alcohol-soaked frat rager, but I am fine with that, as I never wanted it to be that. In fact, that is probably the only type of atmosphere I would want even less than feeling like I am in the middle of a medical experiment.

Instead, it is more akin to being at the bar with your buddies after work, except the drinks are free and you technically are still at work.

That, and you get the weird sensation of being pulled over eight or nine times for DUI on your way home from the bar, only you never even left the bar, let alone even set foot inside a car.

"This is a lot of fun," I said to Patti. "I'm really surprised at the lack of volunteers to participate in this."

"You know, I just think a lot of people don't know about it," she responded. "That, and the few that do know about it can't envision what it's actually like to come."

I couldn't have said it better myself.



## *DPS Tact Teams Participate in ATOA Conference*

All four Department of Public Safety tactical teams joined 11 other tactical teams statewide to participate in the tactical team tournament at the 10th annual Alabama Tactical Officers' Association Conference in Auburn Oct. 3-7.

The competition provided an opportunity for training and sharing of information among the tactical team members. Events at this year's conference included the use of a provided tactical vehicle, helicopter insertions, woods moment, simulation exercises, live fire exercises, room entries, and an individual iron man event.

Finishing in first place for this year's tournament was Tuscaloosa Police Team I, with 1,085 points. Alabama State Trooper Team I finished with 945 points, Team III finished with 940 points, Team IV with 880 points, and Team II finished with 780 points.

"Winning is a tremendous accomplishment," said Capt. Tim Pullin. "All four of our teams competed admirably, and even though they didn't finish in first place, there really are no losers at any ATOA competition. Everyone did a great job, and everyone benefitted from going because we all shared tactics and training, and all helped each other out."

Guest speaker at the awards ceremony was Marcus Luttrell, decorated Navy SEAL and author of the New York Times best-selling book, *Lone Survivor*. As a SEAL, Luttrell served two tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, and was awarded the Navy Cross for combat heroism by President George W. Bush in 2006.



*From left, Col. F.A. Bingham, Jones, Autrey, and King.*

## *Autrey, Jones Honored at Law Enforcement Summit*

Alabama State Troopers Keith Autrey and Edken-junta Jones were both honored by Attorney General Troy King at the 2010 Attorney General's Law Enforcement Summit in Montgomery Oct. 19.

In a special ceremony during the summit, King honored heroes in law enforcement "who go above and beyond the call of duty and display exceptional bravery and dedication to the people of Alabama" as Outstanding Law Enforcement Officers of the Year.

Autrey received the award for the Northern District, and Jones was the Middle District winner. Also receiving honors were Sgt. James P. Davis of the Fairhope Police Department and Sgt. Robert Hayes of the Madison County Sheriff's Office.

Autrey was honored for his actions on April 9, while he was off duty

and at the Gadsden Country Club. While in a hallway leading to the locker room, Autrey saw a man running down the hallway yelling, "She's got a gun!" Immediately afterward, Autrey saw the man's wife step into the hallway armed with a loaded .38-caliber pistol. Autrey ordered the woman to put down the weapon, but she pointed the gun at her husband at very close range. Without hesitation, Autrey stepped to the side of the woman, grasped the handgun, pinned the woman, and removed the gun from her grip.

Jones was cited for his recent work on County Road 30 in Dallas County. He observed a vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed and immediately activated his emergency lights to initiate a traffic stop. The driver refused to immediately stop, which resulted in a short pursuit. When the vehicle stopped, the driver exited his vehicle, and Jones cautiously approached while

verbally commanding the driver to turn around and place his hands behind his back. The driver refused to be handcuffed. After a brief struggle, the driver was overpowered and arrested.

The Law Enforcement Summit also honored those who lost their lives to protect their communities. Those honored posthumously included Deputy James Anderson, Lee County Sheriff's Office, who died Sept. 20, 2009, from injuries he sustained when he was intentionally struck by the driver of an automobile during a traffic stop; Officer Philip Mahan Davis of the Pelham Police Department, who was shot and killed Dec. 4, 2009, while making a traffic stop; and Sgt. Tommy Bishop Jr. of the Guntersville Police Department, who died Jan. 1 of complications from a gunshot wound he sustained 16 years earlier while responding to a domestic disturbance call.

# *ABI EOD Takes First in 2010 Robot Rodeo*

The Alabama Bureau of Investigation Bomb Squad participated in the 2010 Robot Rodeo and Bomb Tech Competition in Hoover Oct. 19-20, going up against teams from neighboring states and bringing home top honors in the robot competition for the third straight year.

Bomb squads from Alabama, Tennessee, and Georgia competed in the two-day event testing team work, skill level, decision-making and physical stamina. While previous robot rodeos were one-day affairs testing only robot-handling skills, the 2010 competition added a second day for competition for bomb suit events.

The expanded competition featured 20 events in all. Events included clearing an office building that contained booby traps, fortifying a chemical and biological weapons lab, searching a truck and boat to locate and clear any IEDS found, clearing an office building with robots and removing all IEDS found, and others.

One of the most challenging events in the competition was a bomb suit obstacle course, including two separate 200-pound sled pulls, x-ray deployment and x-ray interpretation, PAN disruptor deployment, and circuit identification. This course challenged the bomb tech's physical stamina and mental faculties under extreme physical duress.

Another significant change to this year's event was its use as a venue to raise money. The event raised \$4,500 for the Wounded EOD Warrior Foundation, a non-profit foundation that supports EOD technicians injured during military action.

In addition to taking first-place honors in the robot competition for the third consecutive year, ABI placed second in the bomb tech competition. Shelby County, Tenn., edged out ABI by one point in the bomb tech competition. Lt. Clay Barnes, Bomb Squad commander, credited ABI's success to a great group of dedicated troopers and to the department's continued support, allowing the team time to train and hone its skills. Almost all the equipment used by ABI in the event was purchased through Homeland Security funding.

American Idol winner Taylor Hicks opened the competition by singing the national anthem, and football legend Bart Starr also was in attendance.

Barnes expressed ABI's appreciation to the Hoover Police Department for hosting the competition, and especially Hoover Sgt. Rod Glover, who organized the event.





## *Kops and Kids Day a Success Thanks to Aviation and Public Information*

Tpr. Pilots Danny Coone and Mack Ward of State Trooper Aviation and Tpr. John Reese of the Public Information/Education Unit participated in the Selma Police Department's Annual Kops and Kids Day at block park in Selma Oct. 2. Each year, the event successfully unites the community in a controlled environment, connecting parents and children to law enforcement and emergency response personnel in a friendly, festival-like atmosphere.



More than 1,000 people attended this year's event and participated in a range of activities, including face painting, drug and alcohol awareness, gun safety, gang awareness, emergency readiness, and much more. All in attendance were surprised and delighted at the arrival of the DPS helicopter, including Selma Police Chief William Riley, who expressed his appreciation for DPS's support.

## *Tony Stewart Helps DPS 'Ticket' Good Drivers*

The Alabama Department of Public Safety, NASCAR's Tony Stewart, and the Talladega Superspeedway all worked together to promote safe driving and proper identification at a special driver license checkpoint Sept. 28.

At the intersection of U.S. 231 and Highway 34 in Talladega County, Alabama State Troopers performed the checkpoint. During the checkpoint, drivers were asked whether or not they were fans of NASCAR. NASCAR fans with proper identification were asked to pull over to the side of the road where they were issued



a "ticket" for safe driving. Stewart then presented those ticketed drivers with tickets to the AMP Energy500 race at Talladega Superspeedway on Oct. 31.

Following the checkpoint appearance, Stewart gave hot laps to DPS staff and media personnel at the Talladega Superspeedway.



## *Reporting from Afghanistan*

Lt. Mike Junkin and Tpr. Brandon Christen took a few moments from their active duty near the Afghanistan border to submit this photo to *The Blue Light*.

Junkin writes, “We have been deployed here since June, and should return in either February or March 2011. We hope all is well there. We wish we were back already!”

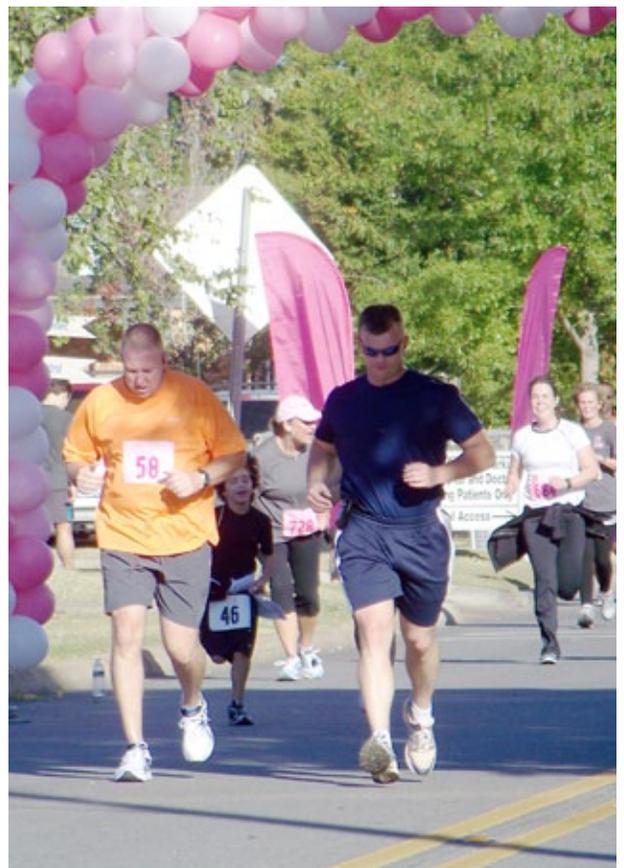
Here’s wishing Lt. Mike Junkin, Tpr. Brandon Christen, and all of our DPS members currently on active duty assignment a happy holiday season and a safe return home.



### *Dothan-area Troopers Compete for Cause*

Troopers from the Dothan Post and ABI participated in the Third Annual Champions of Hope 5K run and 25-mile bicycle ride Oct. 16, promoting breast cancer awareness.

Tprs. Jerry Allen and Kevin Cook ran in the 5K event, and Sgt. Tommy Merritt and his 17-year-old son, David, completed the bicycle ride. David is currently a senior at Headland High School who has recently enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, and leaves for Parris Island June 6, 2011.





Department of Public Safety

# 75

Heading Toward

1935 - 2010

*Top Left: Highway Patrolman Bill Vanderford shows Director L.B. Sullivan the department's new Alabama Highway Patrol door decal in 1953.*

*Top Right: Chief Van Buren Gilbert cuts cake celebrating 10 years of the Alabama Highway Patrol in December 1945. Pictured are Inspector Brawner, Tom Carlisle, C.T. Donaldson, Roy Grubbs, and office staff.*

*Bottom Left: New Alabama Highway Patrol cadets in 1960. Pictured from left are Roy Smith, Tommy Coleman, Larry Smelley, and Col. Floyd Mann. Mann introduced the cadet program in 1959.*

*Bottom Right: DPS Aviators Jerry Hatfield and Joe Pritchett discuss a traffic situation prior to a mission in the mid-1970s. In 1973, DPS received a Cessna T-41 single-engine aircraft through the state Department of Civil Defense. In August 1974, the department acquired two Bell 47 helicopters. Four more model 47s were added in 1975. The Aviation Unit was officially formed in June 1975.*



# It's Almost Here!!!

**The Alabama Department of Public Safety  
will be celebrating its 75th Anniversary on  
Friday, Dec. 3, 2010.**

**Celebration Starts at 10a.m.**

**This celebration will take place at the Alabama Criminal Justice Center at  
301 South Ripley St., Montgomery.**

**Static displays to be assembled on Adams Avenue including several  
unique and specialty vehicles.**

# Join in on the Fun!

# People You Know!



## *New Employees*

Chelsea Burke	10.01.10	ASA I	ABI/CISG
Darrell Collins Jr.	10.01.10	Trooper	HP/Jacksonville
William Middlebrooks	09.16.10	General Services Supervisor	SER/Headquarters
Shirley Roper	10.01.10	Clerical Aide	ABI/Identification

## *Promotions*

Cynthia Bearden	09.16.10	DL Examiner II	DL/Quad Cities Examining
Ashley Cook	09.16.10	ASA III	PS/Dignitary Protection
Wendi Floyd	09.16.10	ASA III	SER/Fleet Maintenance
Richard Itter	10.01.10	Corporal	HP/Tuscaloosa
Beth Marler	10.01.10	DL Examiner II	DL/Tuscaloosa Examining
Julie Peck	10.01.10	PCO II	HP/Jacksonville
Samuel Pickett	10.01.10	Sergeant	PS/Administrative
Anthony Ricks	10.01.10	Sergeant	DL/DL Improvement
Ellen Rodgers	10.01.10	Fingerprint Classifier I	ABI/Identification
Gregory Simpson	10.01.10	Corporal	HP/Quad Cities
Mary Thomas	10.01.10	DL Examiner II	DL/Decatur Examining
Chauntia Watson	10.01.10	Fingerprint Classifier I	ABI/Montgomery

## *Transfers*

Marc Boyd	10.01.10	Corporal	ABI/Administrative
Chadrick Butts	09.16.10	Trooper	HP/Etowah County
Jeremy Cantrell	10.01.10	Sergeant	DL/Huntsville Examining
Howard Fells	09.16.10	Trooper	HP/Montgomery
Glenn Furukawa	10.01.10	Corporal	HP/Evergreen
Davis Godwin	09.16.10	Trooper	HP/Limestone County
Linda Guthery	09.16.10	DL Examiner I	DL/Jacksonville Examining
Judith Hanna	09.16.10	DL Examiner I	DL/Huntsville Examining
James Helms	10.01.10	Corporal	ADM/ACJTC
Matthew McKenzie	10.01.10	Corporal	HP/Baldwin County
Christopher McNatt	9.16.10	Corporal	HP/Limestone County
Ruby Rigby	09.16.10	ASA II	HP/Montgomery
Donald Shepard	09.16.10	Corporal	HP/Dallas County
Howard Smith	10.01.10	Trooper	ABI/Investigative Operations
Jackie Stephens	09.16.10	ASA III	ADM/Inspections
James Woodard	10.01.10	Corporal	HP/Houston County

# People You Know!



## *Returned from Military Leave*

Anthony Hathcock	09.16.10	Trooper	ABI/Investigative Operations
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## *Resignations*

Rickey Diamond	10.01.10	Communications Tech. II	SER/Communications Eng.
Gerald Hatcher	09.15.10	Trooper	ADM/ACJTC
Howell Leftwich	09.15.10	Trooper	ADM/ACJTC
Michelle Moses	10.01.10	ASA I	ABI/Identification
J. Christopher Murphy	09.30.10	Director	DIR/Director's Office
Marietta Simmons	10.01.10	Custodial Worker	SER/Fleet Maintenance
Angela Thompson	10.14.10	ASA I	ABI/CISG
Tisha Tyrus	10.15.10	Accounting Technician	ADM/Financial Services
Adam Watson	09.14.10	Trooper	ADM/ACJTC
Billy Wilson	09.15.10	Trooper	HP/Huntsville

## *Retirements*

Timothy Crowe	10.01.10	Criminal Investigator II	ABI/Investigative Operations
Meritha Gantt	10.01.10	Data Entry Operator	DL/Information Services
Gerone Grant	10.01.10	Captain	HP/Headquarters
Charles Treslar	10.01.10	Trooper	ABI/Investigative Operations
Michael Wingard	10.01.10	Equipment Mechanic	SER/Fleet Maintenance

## **Donated Leave Requests**

<b>Angra Coachman</b>	<b>Driver License (Jacksonville)</b>
<b>Terry Farmer</b>	<b>Highway Patrol (Dothan)</b>
<b>Jean Head</b>	<b>Driver License (Safety Responsibility)</b>
<b>Betty Nowden</b>	<b>Driver License (Safety Responsibility)</b>
<b>Kevin Pugh</b>	<b>Driver License (Information Services)</b>

Alabama Department of



Public Safety

**CONTRIBUTING:**

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Capt. Jack Clark, HP  
Capt. Guy Rush, DL  
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**EDITOR:**

Ryan Godfrey

# RSA Criminal Justice Center Montgomery, Ala.



WE'RE ON THE WEB!

DPS.ALABAMA.GOV

Questions? Comments? Concerns?

STAY IN TOUCH WITH *THE BLUE LIGHT*.  
PLEASE E-MAIL ALL REQUESTS TO:

RYAN.GODFREY@DPS.ALABAMA.GOV

## On Your Calendar

Thursday, November 11

*Veterans Day*

Thursday, November 25

*Thanksgiving Day*

Friday, December 24

*Christmas Day (offices closed)*

Friday, December 31

*New Year's Day (offices closed)*

To Whom It May Concern:

I want to take a few moments to tell you how impressed I am with the service I received at the Oneonta courthouse this past August.

I just recently moved to Alabama in July, and I went to the courthouse to obtain my driver license. After finding out that I needed to retake my written and driving test, Examiner Curtis was more than helpful.

What really stood out to me was that even though the hours of testing were clearly posted, and I was a little late, Examiner Curtis made the time for me to take my written test, and even postponed her lunch to give me the driving test.

I know the general perception of going to obtain a driver license is one that most people dread. However, Examiner Curtis has changed that perception for me, as she was not only friendly, but she truly made the effort to go the extra mile.

You have a real asset at the Oneonta office, and I can now look forward to going to the driver licensing office. Thank you so much!

John Stakelin

To Whom It May Concern:

My family and I were traveling through Greene County the afternoon of Oct. 18, when one of our tires blew out. We would have been in quite a fix if it weren't for Tpr. Reginal King. He came along right after it happened with tools and much-needed assistance. He took us to put air in the spare tire, which was also flat, and he did everything to keep us safe until we were on the road again. Tpr. King was very nice and we truly appreciate everything he did.

Joel and Karen Ness