

# NEWS RELEASE

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## Alabama Department of Public Safety

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### **Public Safety Recognizes Employees for Service As Combat Veterans in Global War on Terrorism** *Governor, Adjutant General Honor DPS Citizen-Soldiers*

MONTGOMERY — Alabama Department of Public Safety employees who are combat veterans of the Global War on Terrorism received special recognition during an Oct. 20 ceremony at the Criminal Justice Center in Montgomery.

Joining Public Safety Director Col. J. Christopher Murphy in honoring the DPS employees were Gov. Bob Riley and Alabama Adjutant General A.C. Blalock. Murphy said, “It is a privilege to recognize these special individuals who have gone beyond serving the state of Alabama, to serve this nation in combat in the Global War on Terrorism.”

Gov. Bob Riley cited the dedication and hard work of DPS’s citizen-soldiers on behalf of the state and nation. “All law enforcement personnel take risks every single day, just by doing their jobs. I want you to know that these risks are not taken lightly by me, or by the citizens you protect,” said Riley. “We should do everything we can to honor your dedication and professionalism.”

“I am proud of our soldiers and airmen of the Alabama National Guard for their heroic service to our nation in time of war, ensuring our freedom prevails and lasts. It is important for our members to know that their service and sacrifice are appreciated by their fellow citizens,” said Blalock.

The adjutant general said, “It is gratifying to our soldiers and airmen and their families and friends to know that their service is appreciated by the citizens of Alabama, especially their employers. Employers sacrifice, and fellow employees make extraordinary effort when a citizen-soldier is absent for a deployment. This special recognition is shared by all the valiant, hard-working employees of the Department of Public Safety for their contributions in supporting our citizen-soldiers and members of all the Reserve components.”

All sworn and nonsworn DPS staff members who have seen overseas service in this conflict were heralded for their service to the state and nation. Sworn officers — troopers and Capitol Police officers — who served abroad will receive specially designed decals for placement on their vehicles, while nonsworn staff with combat service abroad will receive a special departmental certificate of recognition.

Present at the ceremony were Montgomery-area DPS employees who are combat veterans. Murphy thanked them for their service and hailed them as “true patriots and modern-day heroes.” Additional ceremonies will be held regionally to recognize employees throughout the state.

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*for more information contact:*

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“As you perform your daily duties in service to our state, you will carry with you this small token of our appreciation and a public reminder of your outstanding service and sacrifice to your state and country,” said Murphy.

The specially designed gold and blue decals sport a “flying wheel” — an historic symbol of the Highway Patrol — and wording that distinguishes the holder as a combat veteran in the Global War on Terrorism. The decals appear on the rear quarter panels of marked patrol units. ABI agents, who drive unmarked vehicles and serve in plain clothes, receive framed images of the decal. The certificates presented to nonsworn personnel bear a similar design.

Following is a list of DPS members who are overseas combat veterans of the War on Terrorism, along with their division assignments:

Trooper Raymond E. Abrams	Highway Patrol/Jacksonville
Trooper Carl A. Allen	Highway Patrol/Montgomery
Trooper Sam Baker	Highway Patrol/Huntsville
Corporal Christopher Barnes	Highway Patrol/Tuscaloosa
Trooper Joseph Bennett	Highway Patrol/Mobile
Trooper James Boykin	Highway Patrol/Mobile
Trooper Michael Britton	Administrative/Selma
Trooper Drew Brooks	Highway Patrol/Dothan
Trooper Eric Bryant	Highway Patrol/Evergreen
Trooper Jeremy Burkett	Highway Patrol/Evergreen
Captain Randy Byrd	Administrative/Selma
IT Systems Technician Theodore S. Chastain	Driver License/Montgomery
Trooper Josh D. Colquitt	Highway Patrol/Huntsville
Trooper Brad Counce	Highway Patrol/Quad Cities
State Capitol Police Officer Richard Craker	Protective Services/Montgomery
Police Communications Officer I John B. Dean III	Highway Patrol/Montgomery
Sergeant Charles DeVinner	Administrative/Montgomery
Sergeant William Kent Donaldson	ABI/Hamilton
Trooper Gregory L. Estes	Highway Patrol/Birmingham
Trooper Glenn Furukawa	Highway Patrol/Dothan
Trooper Andy Garrison	Highway Patrol/Mobile
Trooper Christopher Gibson	Highway Patrol/Mobile
Trooper Mike Gillis	Highway Patrol/Dothan
Trooper Phillip W. Greene	Highway Patrol/Birmingham
Trooper Jack Hamby	Highway Patrol/Opelika
Aircraft Mechanic Brian Hartley	Service/Montgomery
Trooper Anthony E. Hathcock	ABI/Montgomery
Corporal Robert Heeschen	ABI/Huntsville

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Trooper Hubert M. Holt	Highway Patrol/Hamilton
Trooper Dwayne Hosea	Administrative/Selma
Trooper James Howard	Highway Patrol/Quad Cities
Driver License Examiner I Walter Hutchinson	Driver License/Montgomery
Lieutenant Vincent K. Jackson	Administrative/Selma
Trooper Steven James	Highway Patrol/Dothan
Trooper Randy Johnson	Highway Patrol/Mobile
Trooper John C. Jones	Highway Patrol/Tuscaloosa
Sergeant Mike Junkin	Highway Patrol/Montgomery
Trooper Howard Krauss	Highway Patrol/Mobile
Trooper Joseph Lathers	Highway Patrol/Jacksonville
Trooper Willie Locke	Highway Patrol/Evergreen
Corporal Al Mattox	ABI/Montgomery
Trooper Marcus L. McCollum	Highway Patrol /Decatur
Trooper Steven McWaters	Highway Patrol/Alex City
Corporal Keith A. Mickle	Highway Patrol/Montgomery
Trooper Heath Moss	Highway Patrol/Decatur
Trooper James Nelms	Highway Patrol/Dothan
Trooper Christopher Nunn	Highway Patrol/Birmingham
Captain Ricky Peak	Highway Patrol/Dothan
Trooper Willie Perry	Highway Patrol/Jacksonville
Trooper Robert A. Reid	Highway Patrol/Birmingham
Trooper Angel Rodriguez	ABI/Montgomery
Trooper Billy James Slappey	Highway Patrol/Quad Cities
Trooper Steven Smith	Highway Patrol/Mobile
Corporal Thad Snyder	ABI/Jacksonville
Sergeant Hugh D. Stinson	Driver License/Evergreen
Trooper Curtis Summerville	Administrative/Huntsville
Trooper Stan Talley	Driver License/Montgomery
Trooper Charles Taylor	Highway Patrol/Huntsville
Trooper Derrick Tellis	Highway Patrol/Opelika
Trooper Daryl Thistle	ABI/Birmingham
Trooper Lester Thomas	Highway Patrol/Mobile
Sergeant Robert T. Till	Highway Patrol/Montgomery
Corporal Clyde R. Warren	Highway Patrol/Hamilton
Captain Rufus Washington Jr.	Driver License/Birmingham
Sergeant Barry Wharton	Highway Patrol/Huntsville
Trooper Chris Williams	Highway Patrol/Opelika
Lieutenant Terry Windham	Highway Patrol/Birmingham
Trooper Donald Worrell	Highway Patrol/Jacksonville
Trooper Darryl Zuchelli	Highway Patrol/Gadsden

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