



Office Of The Sheriff - Henry County

Press Release

6/1/2012

Henry County Sheriff's Office Receives "Buckle Up, America" Award

The Georgia Traffic Injury Prevention Institute (GTIPI) and the Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS) jointly announced the recipients of the 2012 "Buckle Up, America" awards at the Office of the Secretary of State in Macon on May 30, 2012.

The Georgia Traffic Injury Prevention Institute is an educational outreach unit of the University of Georgia's College of Family and Consumer Sciences. They are funded by a grant from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety. Their major programs include child safety seats, seat belts, teen driving, and senior drivers. Through their programs the use of child safety belts has risen from less than 20% to about 95% in Georgia.

The nominees came from all over the State of Georgia from the private sector and all levels of government. Recognition was given to recipients in the following categories; Medical, Public Health, Education, Corporate, Community, Volunteer, Fire, and Law Enforcement.

The Henry County Sheriff's Office Community Relations Unit under the command of Sergeant Jimmie Spence was selected in the Law Enforcement category for their initiative to incorporate seat belt safety training into their McGruff and Junior Deputy programs. The Community relations unit is involved in all the youth programs provided by Sheriff Keith McBrayer. "We feel very strongly about educating our youth in safety and making good decisions." Stated Sheriff McBrayer, "Our Community Relations unit consists of Deputies dedicated to education for improving the quality of life for our youth and elderly."



L-R Dan Bower – Professor Emeritus, UGA GTIPI Project Director, Deputy Michael Kehoe, Deputy Tammy Cannon, Sgt. Jimmie Spence, Deputy Stephen Chance, Deputy Willie Brown, Spencer Moore – Deputy Director, GOHS

The Sheriff's in-school programs reach about 6,000 Henry County public school students a year. The McGruff program is conducted for second graders and the Junior Deputy program is conducted for sixth graders.

Sheriff McBrayer added; "We are very happy to see the Community Relations Unit recognized at the State level for contributing to the welfare and safety of our young people. We also know that these youngsters will help influence their parents to use seat belts."