

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 9, 2022

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TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY HOSTS THREE STARS OF TENNESSEE AWARD AND FIRST RESPONDER RECOGNITION CEREMONY

NASHVILLE – Today, the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security hosted the “Three Stars of Tennessee Award” and First Responder Recognition Ceremony. The Three Stars of Tennessee Award honors public servants who have sacrificed their lives or suffered a career-ending injury in the line of duty. Tennessee Governor Bill Lee, Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security Commissioner Jeff Long, Tennessee State Senator Becky Massey (Knoxville), and Tennessee Office of Homeland Security Director Greg Mays joined recipients, family members, and agency representatives to honor 14 recipients with the “Three Stars of Tennessee Award.”

“We are so blessed to live in this great country and state,” said Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security Commissioner Jeff Long. “The freedoms we enjoy today are in-part due to the ultimate sacrifices Tennessee law enforcement and first responders have made on our behalf. Today, we pause and reflect on their exceptional service they gave their fellow Tennesseans in the name of safety. Our hearts and prayers are with the 14 families who were presented the Three Stars of Tennessee Award. We will never forget them.”

During the ceremony, 14 first responders/departments were awarded for their heroic actions.

This ceremony has been a long-standing tradition in memory of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Tennessee State Senator Becky Massey spearheaded legislation to recognize law enforcement, firefighters and medical first responders who were either killed or suffered a career ending injury in the line of duty. The law (TCA 4-1-501) to allow for the “Three Stars of Tennessee Award” passed during the 2014 legislative session.

The Three Stars of Tennessee Award honorees accompany this release, as well as a list of individuals who received first responder awards. [Click here](#) to watch today’s ceremony.

The Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security’s mission is to serve, secure, and protect the people of Tennessee.

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Three Stars of Tennessee Award Honorees

Volunteer Firefighter Roger Estes
South Claiborne Volunteer Fire Department

Sergeant Christopher Jenkins
Loudon County Sheriff's Department

Master Trooper Vince Mullins
Tennessee Highway Patrol

Deputy Matthew Stephen Locke
Hardin County Sheriff's Department

Officer Greg Triplett
Waverly Police Department

Deputy Dale Wyman
Hardeman County Sheriff's Office

Officer Edgar Albert Morris III
Collierville Police Department

Officer Darrell D. Adams
Memphis Police Department

Officer Corille "CJ" Cortez Jones
Memphis Police Department

Officer Jimmie "Alex" Shindler
Memphis Police Department

Corrections Officer Lakiesha Tucker
Shelby County Sheriff's Office

Corrections Deputy Willie Lois Dortch
Shelby County Sheriff's Office

Corrections Deputy Bridgette Lachelle Hunter
Shelby County Sheriff's Office

Lieutenant Terry Watts
Shelby County Fire Department

First Responder Recipients

Master Firefighter Justin Ingle
Knoxville Fire Department

Dispatcher Sandra Courtney
Loudon County E-911

Dispatcher Amanda Johnston
Loudon County E-911

Major Danny Heady
Putnam County EMS

CW3 Michael Thornhill
Tennessee Army National Guard

Deputy Cody Evans
Montgomery County Sheriff's Office

Deputy Hunter Alan Taylor
Madison County Sheriff's Office

Collierville Police Department

Collierville Fire Department

Lieutenant Russell Smith
Tennessee Highway Patrol

Lieutenant William Bruce
Tennessee Highway Patrol

Trooper Aaron Ranker
Tennessee Highway Patrol

Special Agent Jonathan McGowen
Tennessee Bureau of Investigation

Special Agent James Scarbro
Tennessee Bureau of Investigation