

Board of County Commissioners

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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Camden County Government's 1st Annual Employee Awards Ceremony

Woodbine, GA – July 23, 2009: On Saturday, July 18, 2009, Camden County Government's Employee Recognition Committee hosted the 1st Annual Employee Awards Ceremony from 6:00 – 8:00 PM at the College of Coastal Georgia, Camden Campus. The ceremony began with the Presentation of Colors, presented by the Southeast Georgia Honor Guard, and then a warm welcome from Staci J. Bowick, Director of Support Services, David L. Rainer, Chair – Board of County Commissioners, and Steve L. Howard, County Administrator.

One of the many highlights of the evening was the opportunity to listen to one of the most highly requested speakers in the Southeast, Richard B. "Dick" Burleson. Mr. Burleson is Vice President of one of the largest engineering firms in the United States, Neel Shaffer. He is also a former Major General in the U.S. Army; General Colin Powell personally decorated General Burleson's units. He is most known for serving as a football official in the Southeastern Conference (SEC) for 25 years as head referee. Dick has also served as Chief Referee and President of the SEC. During the ceremony, Dick spoke of many of his experiences as an SEC football official that taught him a valuable life lessons. Dick also spoke about and promoted his just-released book "You Better Be Right" that has reached the #1 Best Sellers list at Barnes & Noble Bookstores.

"Leadership that Listens"

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County Administrator

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County Attorney

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The most important part of the evening came during the presentation of awards. Members of the Employee Recognition Committee presented awards to all of the recipients. Staci Bowick began the awards presentation by recognizing those employees who have reached their 5, 10, and 15 year milestones, as well as those employees with 20 or more years of service with Camden County Government. Next, County directors, department heads, and constitutional officers presented their departmental "Most Valuable Player" award. The MVP award was designed to recognize one individual whose attitude and day to day performance contributes to the overall mission of their department. The MVP is described as a team player who provides great customer service, always gives 110%, and is both creative and committed to his or her job and Camden County Government. The recipients of this award were selected by those who know them best, co-workers within their own departments. The following were recipients of the departmental MVP award:

General Government	Louis Foltzer
Tax Commissioner	Butch Kennedy
Tax Assessor	Mary Hoover
Facilities Management	Glenn Anderson
Magistrate Court	Alison Crews
EMS/Fire Rescue	Jason Milton
Public Works	Eddie Carver
Planning & Building	Becky Gorton
County Agents	Amber Defore
Solid Waste (C & D)	Matt Howell
Solid Waste (MSW)	Annette Thomas

Other awards presented during the ceremony include:

2009 Humanitarian Award – Norma Mach (Public Works)

This award is designed to recognize an employee who acts to save or improve the life or lives of others.

Norma is described as thoughtful, dedicated and always willing to lend a hand both at work and in the community. In the words of a fellow employee, "Norma donates to every charitable cause the County participates in. She not only purchases jackets with her own money so that inmates can work in warmth during the cooler months, but also takes the same jackets home and washes them. Norma purchases food every week for elderly residents so they don't go without regardless of their fixed income. She also collects aluminum cans in their department, saves the tabs for the child of a fellow County employee and on her own time, recycles the cans too. In addition, she takes in stray animals, nurses them to health, and finds them a

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caring home; always willing to give to anyone in need, whether it's a family who has just lost everything in a fire, an animal in need, or someone who has lost a loved one. Norma gives generously without any expectation of praise or recognition.”

2009 Helping Hand Award – Christopher Goebel (CCFR)

This award is designed to recognize an employee who has gone out of their way to help a fellow employee or the public. This person consistently goes beyond normal work expectations.

Christopher Goebel not only performs his job, but also is often called upon to carry out “other duties as assigned” and does so without hesitation. His dedication is evident in his membership on five County committees, and whose active participation directly contributes to the committee’s successes. Chris is always ready and willing to find the time to help others whenever asked – in many cases relieving stress and burdens from fellow coworkers yet adding to his own without pause. He is not only dedicated to the duties of Fire Marshall but also serves as a positive role model within Camden County Fire Rescue. He exemplifies Camden County Government’s commitment to organizational excellence and success through teamwork.

2009 Professional Achievement Award – Alaina Glover (Human Resources)

This award is designed to recognize an employee's educational or professional achievement.

Anyone who has attempted to receive their post secondary degree as a nontraditional student can surely attest to the fact that it is no small task. Alaina Glover not only earned her Masters degree, but accomplished this while working full time for the County. While attending weeknight classes for over 18 months, Alaina continued to persevere towards her educational pursuits.

2009 Thrifty Nickel Award – Jeremy Wright (CCFR)

This award is designed to recognize employee actions and ideas which have proven to be substantial money-savers for Camden County.

Captain Jeremy Wright always seeks new and more efficient ways of doing business that control costs and at the same time maintain the County's services. Since the County’s STARS program began, Jeremy has submitted 8 Suggestions To Assist in Reduced Spending. To date, more than \$2,000 has been saved because of his suggestions.

Jeremy is deeply involved in the planning process for the County retirement plan and works tirelessly, often on his own time, to ensure that the plan benefits the employees, while also saving the County money. He continuously thinks outside the box to come up with creative ideas that assist in controlling costs in what has been called the worst economic crisis of our time.

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2009 Shining Star Award – Rosemary Cuthbert (Administration)

This award is designed to recognize an employee who provides excellent customer service, remains helpful, compassionate and pleasant even when working under difficult circumstances.

Rose Cuthbert is always pleasant no matter what the situation. A co-worker wrote: “She is a ray of sunshine when surrounded by nothing but storm clouds. Ms. Rose is the epitome of customer service.”

While receiving over 1,000 calls and greeting over 500 customers per month, Rose is always smiling throughout the day and ready and willing to assist fellow employees and the public. She has worked with the county for over 30 years and still effortlessly puts a smile on every face that walks through the door.

2009 Rising Star Award – Conn Cole (Planning & Development)

The Rising Star Award is designed to recognize an employee who exemplifies the essence of being a leader of tomorrow. This individual understands the necessity of servant leadership, and leading by example as well as being a humanitarian by impacting and uplifting their surrounding communities.

Conn Cole’s successes in local government have many times been attributed to his individual efforts, and his real strengths are witnessed working in a team environment to achieve a common goal. Conn exudes the traits of a successful future leader for Camden County, and is quick to recognize the efforts of his counterparts in past achievements, avoiding praise in his individual pursuits. Conn is often the voice of reason and his experience many times makes him the “go-to guy” and the “person with the answers” in the office.

2009 Super Star Award – Butch Kennedy (Tax Commissioner’s Office)

The Super Star Award is designed to recognize an employee who displays extraordinary dedication and serves as an esteemed role model, as well as demonstrates higher work-related and personal goals to which others may aspire.

In the words of a co-worker, “Butch Kennedy is a dedicated, hard working employee who isn’t afraid to go the extra mile. He always does everything possible to assist taxpayers. He is cooperative and helpful to other employees, and has an excellent attendance record. Butch is very knowledgeable in his job and is always willing to learn more, is always pleasant to his coworkers as well as taxpayers, AND, is a pretty special individual!”

Butch is an all around good person and with a name that should be listed under the definition of a true team player, always willing to lend an ear if you have a problem or a hand if something needs to be done, and goes above and beyond in anything he does. If an employee or a customer has a problem, an answer or solution will be found!

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County Administrator, Steve L. Howard was proud to present two awards of his own:

2009 County Administrator’s TEAMWORK Award – Jeremy Wright, Captain, CCFR

2009 County Administrator’s LEADERSHIP Award – Staci Bowick, Director of Support Services

The final award presented of the evening was the 2009 Employee of the Year. The Employee of the Year Award was open to the Employee of the Quarter winners only and was designed to recognize an employee who consistently performs well beyond what the job description requires. This employee is always courteous and helpful to others. They strive to improve themselves, participate in the community, exemplify exceptional levels of work performance and display high regard and loyalty toward Camden County and their job responsibilities. **The 2009 Employee of the Year Award was awarded to Conn Cole, Erosion & Sedimentation Control Investigator within the Planning & Development office as well as Deputy Director of the Emergency Management Agency?**

Conn Cole is an outstanding example of an employee that gives as much to the county in his work-related endeavors as he does in his civic-related contributions. He never says no to a challenge....even a death defying one. This is evident in his selfless act of saving a drowning victim off the coast of Fernandina Beach last summer while enjoying a day in the sun with his family. Conn ignored his own personal safety and used a "Boogey Board" to save a man in distress that would have certainly perished in the ocean without the help of this kind stranger. A co-worker wrote that while he favors Christopher Reeves in stature and physical appearance, if you had the pleasure to work with him, you would quickly realize he is the real "Superman" and Camden County is a better place because of him.

The Employee Recognition Committee would like to thank all of the sponsors for their generous contributions and support of the employees. Susan Conaway, Chair of the Employee Recognition Committee said, "Without the sponsors, this event would not have been possible. These are some extremely tough times and these individuals and organizations really came through for Camden County employees. We cannot thank them enough." Sponsors included Brent Green, James W. Buckley & Associates, Inc., Citizens State Bank, Coastal College of Georgia, David L. Rainer, GEBCorp, Moreland Altobelli Associates, Inc., Plants for a Day, Richard B. "Dick" Burleson, Satilla Business Services, Seagle’s Café, Southeastern Bank, Stateline Disposal, Steve Berry, Steve L. Howard, TDS Telecom, W. H. Gross Construction, and Woodrow Sapp Water Management.

Congratulations to all of the 2009 Camden County Government Award Winners!

- END -

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