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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Annual Awards Dinner

PUTNAM COUNTY, TN – Last night at the Putnam County Sheriff's Office Annual Awards Dinner, Sheriff Eddie Farris honored the men and women who serve our county throughout the year as deputies and staff of the Sheriff's Office. Each year, this family-oriented gathering is a time to recognize those who have served and thank them for their hard work and dedication to the profession. The Sheriff also thanked the family members for their sacrifice, acknowledging that being married to a law enforcement officer is never easy, especially in these times.

Sheriff Farris recognized the Jerry Dale Abston Deputy of the Year award winners: Sergeant Misty Clayburn (non-commissioned) and Sergeant Matt Roberts (commissioned). This prestigious award recognizes outstanding performance, attitude and dedication to the Department throughout the year. The plaques were presented by Jerry's wife Kim and her daughter Morgan Abston. He also presented service award pins and certificates to all those who have served for 5, 10, 15, 20 and 25 or more years.

Sheriff Farris also took the opportunity to recognize several members of the law enforcement community who have supported the Putnam County Sheriff's Office over the years:

Donnie Duncan started with the Sheriff's Office back in 1979 as a deputy. He then was promoted to Chief Deputy under Sheriff Abston and served in that position until 2002. He was then moved to the Investigations Unit and retired from that position in 2008.

Gary Roach started his career with the Putnam County Sheriff's Office in 1983 as a deputy. He was then promoted to Investigations and retired from that position in 2009.

Billy Glen Smith started his career in law enforcement with the Cookeville Police Department in 1966. He worked his way from patrolman to lieutenant before resigning in 1968 to run for Sheriff of Putnam County. He was elected in 1968 and served 3 two year terms, which was the limit in those days. He retired from law enforcement in 1974 and then became County Trustee.

Paul Jackson started his career in 1958 with the Fire Department. In 1960, he was moved to Cookeville Police Department and "walked a beat" for a while. He was then promoted to patrolman. During his tenure, Paul moved up the ranks at Cookeville Police Department serving as a Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain, Assistant Chief and finally as Chief of Police. Paul held this position until he retired in 1994. In September of 1994, Paul joined the Sheriff's Office as a Court Officer and is still with the department.

The Sheriff concluded his remarks with his traditional yearly address to the employees, thanking everyone for their performance and professionalism, along with the bravery that the men and women of this office display every day.

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