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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Police department & officers honored for DUI enforcement**

Officers with the Milledgeville Police Department (MPD) as well as the local law enforcement agency were honored for their continued efforts in reducing the number of fatalities caused by impaired drivers.

MPD officials attended the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Golden Shield Honors banquet at the Cobb Galleria Centre in Atlanta Tuesday morning and secured state and local recognition for their outstanding DUI enforcement efforts in Milledgeville.

The 14th Annual Golden Shield Awards recognizes law enforcement officers, agencies, DUI prosecutors & community advocates who make a difference in decreasing the number of impaired drivers on the road. For the past 14 years, the Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS) has partnered with MADD Georgia to celebrate the efforts of law enforcement and prosecutors who strive to keep Georgia's highways and roads safe.

For a third consecutive year, Officer Ryan Chapple was among many law enforcement officers from across the state of Georgia who was recognized for DUI enforcement in their local communities.

"I'm proud that Ryan is consistently the DUI award winner for our department," said Chief of Police Dray Swicord. "He does an excellent job at removing impaired drivers from our roadways."

Chapple was honored for obtaining 25 DUI arrests in 2017.

"Ryan has been outstanding in every aspect relating to impaired driving enforcement and has always exceeded expectations as an officer," said MPD Patrol Commander Major John Davis.

Chapple is currently in his sixth year at the police department. His passion for a career in law enforcement first began as a teenager. He is a former MPD Explorer. Now as an officer, he helps out with the local police Explorer post and serves as a role model to its members.

In addition to the recognition of MPD's officer for his DUI enforcement in Milledgeville, the police department was also recognized at the state level for its achievement in reducing the number of fatalities in the state of Georgia.

For a second consecutive year, The Milledgeville Police Department was awarded the Statewide Agency of the Year Award. The award is given to a law enforcement agency in the state of Georgia that has demonstrated excellence in implementing innovative techniques in the detection and deterrence of traffic violations, DUI, and underage drinking prevention.

"DUI enforcement will always be an important aspect of our agency's commitment to keeping the community safe," Swicord said.

The law enforcement agency is progressively active in its efforts to reduce the number of traffic fatalities caused by DUI and other traffic violations each year by participating in all GOHS impaired driving campaigns as well as its annual 100 Days of Summer H.E.A.T. MPD officers also host and attend Central Region Traffic Enforcement Network traffic meetings in and around the City of Milledgeville. In addition to strict DUI and traffic enforcement, officers also conduct impaired driving safety workshops and distribute educational brochures to the public through the department's Specialized Patrol Unit (SPU).

The agency's nomination was submitted along with a letter of support detailing these efforts from the police department's Public Information Officer Felicia Cummings. Based on supporting data and the information provided, the panel of judges chose MPD among law enforcement agencies from across Georgia as the most deserving of the honor—once again.

Lt. Reenae Gray, head supervisor of the police department's SPU team also received state recognition.

Gray secured the Golden Achievement Award. This award is given to a citizen, officer, agency, group or organization in the state of Georgia with outstanding expertise in the field of traffic safety, DUI prevention, and/or community intervention who made a significant contribution to MADD's mission and Georgia traffic safety in 2017. The nomination was submitted along with a letter of support from Cummings that described Gray's 27 years of community policing, traffic and DUI enforcement and education, and her overall commitment to all citizens of Milledgeville.

"First of all, I just want to say thank you. I am truly blessed to work for the department, chief, and my major that I work for, but especially for the team that I work for. When our chief first started the SPU unit his focus was not just apprehension, but it was also education. Everyday my team is putting forth 120% effort to make a difference. I thank MADD, my major and my chief of police for this award," Gray said during her acceptance speech.

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