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PRESS RELEASE
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APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM SHERIFF

We are all saddened by the passing of our beloved Sheriff Dee Stewart.

Under Georgia Law whenever a vacancy occurs in the Office of Sheriff it becomes the duty of the Probate Judge to appoint an Interim Sheriff.

Today I announce the appointment of Dwayne Gilbert as the Interim Sheriff.

I selected Dwayne Gilbert because of his qualifications and background in law enforcement and government for more than 35 years. He served for 12 years as a Georgia State Trooper-17 years as Sheriff of Spalding County-and six years as the United States Marshall for the Middle District of Georgia.

In addition, Gilbert has served as President of the Georgia Sheriff's Association. He has served as a member of the Governor's Crime Commission, and for 17 years served as Chairman for Training for all Georgia Sheriffs.

In my opinion he certainly possesses the qualifications needed to fill this important role.

I have complete confidence that Dwayne Gilbert will serve well as our Interim Sheriff until a Special Election is held to replace Sheriff Stewart.

In fairness to those who will run for the Sheriff's position in the Special Election, I appointed someone who has assured me **HE WILL NOT** be a candidate for Sheriff. This will give all of those who qualify for the Special Election an equal chance at the start.

During his time as Interim Sheriff I am confident that Dwayne Gilbert will serve and protect our citizens well.

-Hon. Dewitt Simenton
Probate Court, Spalding County