

Proclamation

WHEREAS: Sheriff James “Dee” Stewart was born in Griffin, Georgia on August 30, 1947 to the late Ira Douglas Stewart, Sr. and the late Alice Frances Martin Stewart. He was preceded in death by his brothers, Doug Stewart and Philip Stewart. Sheriff Stewart is survived by his wife, Janice R. Stewart; son, Jay Stewart; daughter, Hope Stewart; stepsons, Joey and Jennifer Anderson of Villa Rica, Darren and Shelby Anderson of Douglasville; sister-in-law, Cheryl Stewart of Martinez; 11 step-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews; AND

WHEREAS: Sheriff James “Dee” Stewart had a 39-year law enforcement career. His career started in 1972 with the City of Griffin Police Department. Sheriff Stewart was elected Sheriff of Spalding County in the year of 2000. Sheriff Stewart served this County diligently until his passing. He was a member of the Georgia Sheriffs Association and the Griffin Ambucs Club. Sheriff Stewart was dedicated to the community, working tirelessly to transform neighborhoods. We can never adequately thank our law enforcement officials but we can pray that God grants them safety; AND

WHEREAS: Sheriff James “Dee” Stewart was sworn to serve, protect and defend. He went above and beyond the call of duty and made it his personal mission to care and love. His memory and legacy will forever live on with all that he touched and encountered. We commend the public service that Sheriff Stewart provided unceasingly. He put his life at risk daily in order to make the County a safer place. It is not how he died that made him a hero, it is how he lived; AND

WHEREAS: The professionals within the Spalding County Sheriff’s Department shall continue their exceptional service and service to our community as the example established and lived by Sheriff Dee Stewart. The Board of Commissioners of Spalding County and its staff affirms Sheriff Stewart's compassion, devotion and steadfast example as a Law Enforcement Officer, Husband, Father and Friend. His demonstrated courage, commitment and love for all he encountered and perfected his ideals to Protect and Serve. Sheriff Dee Stewart's professionalism, acts of kindness and selfless commitment to the public he served are his Legacy.

NOW, THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED By the Spalding County Board of Commissioners that, in honor of our Sheriff who spent his entire life in unselfish, patriotic service to others, this proclamation declaring our heartfelt appreciation be spread upon the minutes of the proceedings of this Board, and that the Board hereby urges it citizenry to join with them in expressing great appreciation to the family of the late Sheriff James “Dee” Stewart for his many valuable and valued gifts to Spalding County. It is in loving memory and with the thanks of a grateful community that we do hereby proclaim this eighteenth day of July in the year of our Lord two thousand and eleven in Spalding County be declared:

“Sheriff James ‘Dee’ Stewart Day”

Eddie L. Freeman, Chairman

William P. Wilson, Jr., County Clerk