



PAULDING COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

SHERIFF GARY GULLEDGE
247 INDUSTRIAL WAY N
DALLAS, GA 30132

OFFICE (770)443-3010
JAIL (770)443-3030
FAX (770)443-3014

Media Contact: Corporal Ashley Henson
770-505-5535 Office
678-247-3903 Cell
678-224-4799 Fax
ashley.henson@paulding.gov
www.paulding.gov/sheriff

Date: 07/21/14

To: Paulding County Media

For Immediate Release

Sheriff Gulledge Awards *Medal of Valor* to Deputy Randall Shelnett

(Paulding County, GA) On July 8, 2014 Deputy Randall Shelnett was awarded the *Medal of Valor* by Sheriff Gary Gulledge for actions taken in an incident that took place in 2013. The Medal of Valor is the highest award that a Deputy Sheriff can receive at the Paulding County Sheriff's Office. The incident began as a home invasion that took place in Cobb County on July 20, 2013. When Paulding County Deputies located the suspect vehicle inside Paulding County, it was followed to a residence where the suspect exited the vehicle. When more Deputies arrived, they learned that the suspect fled into a wooded area behind the residence. Once Deputies located the suspect, a struggle ensued with multiple Deputies involved. During the struggle the suspect was able to get on top of Deputy Shelnett and take control of his patrol rifle. While on top of him, the suspect was able to discharge a round from the patrol rifle which narrowly missed other Deputies who were on scene. Deputy Shelnett, realizing his rifle was pointed at another Deputy, was forced to discharge his own weapon to stop the suspect from potentially firing it at one of the other Deputies.

Deputy James Kment, Deputy Trey Andrews, Deputy Steven Tavalez, Deputy Trent Tanchin, and Deputy Hank Crow were also awarded the *Letter of Commendation* by Sheriff Gulledge for their role in the incident. The presentations were made at the Paulding County Board of Commissioners morning meeting on July 8, 2014 in front of numerous family, friends, and other Deputies. Sheriff Gulledge noted, "I appreciate the bravery of Deputy Shelnett and all of the Deputies that were involved in this incident. It is a true testament to what law enforcement officers have to endure on a daily basis."

Pictured in the attached photograph are: (L-R) Deputy James Kment, Deputy Trent Tanchin, Deputy Steven Tavalez, Sheriff Gary Gulledge, Deputy Hank Crow, Deputy Trey Andrews, and Deputy Randall Shelnett.