

Douglas presented with Matt Peake Award

WINNSBORO — The Matt Peake Award was presented to Captain Brad Douglas at the annual Sheriff's Office Christmas gathering. The captain over investigations, Douglas has been with the Sheriff's Office since 1994.

The Matt Peake Award is awarded yearly in memory of Deputy Matt Peake who died in a house fire in March 2007.

The award is for an officer who exemplifies the following outstanding attributes: integrity on the job as well as off; loyalty, faithfulness and tenacity towards their profession; passion for

service to the community as well as their family; unwavering courage; professionalism in their public lives as well as private life; and respect throughout the community.

At the gathering, awards also were presented to three volunteers who helped make the Sheriff's Office Home Alone Program a success: Marge Whitney, Sandi Rosario and Marsha Son. These officers volunteer their time making phone calls and provide other services as needed for the program.



Fairfield County Sheriff's Department | For The Herald Independent
Capt. Brad Douglas of the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office, middle, was awarded the Matt Peake Award by the FCSO. He is shown with Peake's aunt, Louise Williamson, left, and Peake's mother, Jackie Peake, right.

Comer's only loss came his junior year when he forgot what he calls the "cardinal rule" of track.

"You're never supposed to look over your shoulder if you're ahead 'cause it'll throw you off balance," Comer said. "I had always beat that guy, I can't remember his name, but I would only outrun him by a couple of yards. I just glanced over my shoulder at about the seventh hurdle and hit that one and rolled from there to about the eighth hurdle — that was for state. That was the first and only time I lost."

Despite that one loss, Comer's record remains impressive. Equally impressive is the efforts of his friends and fellow classmates who helped him train.

"Wayne Grady and Johnny Littlejohn had a big part in me doing what I did," Comer said. "We had three high hurdles and three little hurdles that the shop class made out of school bus seats for me to jump over. Wayne and Johnny would run alongside me. They pushed me to get better."

Out of gratitude for Grady's friendship and support, Comer gave him a special gift when he graduated.

"I had a shoestring I wore around my wrist and a headband I always wore and I gave them to Wayne

Comer has been partial to rocking chairs for as long as he can remember.

"Mama raised me in a rocking chair," Comer said. "When the weather was alright, she'd have me outside, rocking."

Comer's wife, Julie, said she knows of just two people who can rock a chair to pieces and they just happen to be related.

"Him and his cousin, Julie Eaves," she declared. "Those two will wear a rocking chair out faster than anybody I know. Don't even ask me how many we've had to buy over the years. When they tear up, Danny'll bring them up to the shop and try to restore them."

Comer's creation sits behind his home on Hwy 9 and he's had several visitors stop by recently for a closer look.

"I didn't do it for any kind of recognition," he said. "I just always wanted to build one like this and I knew the kids would like it."

Comer has never been one to relish the spotlight but the spotlight found him when he was inducted into the Union County Hall of Fame in 2009.



Tiffany Grady-Hudgins/Civitas Media

Former Lockhart High School athlete Danny Comer stands with the 10 foot by 4 foot rocking chair he built behind his home near Lockhart.