



Putnam County Justice Center
421 East Spring Street • Cookeville, TN 38501
Phone: 931.528.8484 • Fax: 931.528.7043

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: 02/14/18

Sheriff Farris Receives “Day of Recognition” Award

PUTNAM COUNTY, TN – Sheriff Eddie Farris receives a “Day of Recognition” award by the Tennessee Highway Safety Office for the saving of a kidnapping victim and victims of the floodwaters of Cummins Falls last July. The Sheriff was recognized with other individuals who contributed in the lifesaving efforts that day during a “Heroes of Cummins Falls” segment at the Tennessee Lifesavers’ Conference. The family members who were saved at Cummins Falls along with Commissioner David W. Purkey of the Tennessee Highway Safety Office presented the Sheriff with his award before posing for group pictures with everyone involved in the lifesaving efforts.

“We were very fortunate to have the Tennessee Highway Patrol (THP) helicopter assist in the search for the kidnapping victim. We would not have found her nearly as quickly without THP and their helicopter, and in instances such as this, timing is everything. The same is true of the Cummins Falls incident. Had THP not been in the area already, we may have had a different outcome. Many lives were saved that day due to interagency teamwork,” said Sheriff Farris.

On July 5, 2017, Sheriff Farris accompanied the Tennessee Highway Patrol pilot in the air and searched for a kidnapping victim. After a short period of time, Sheriff Farris spotted the subject from the air, and with the assistance of THP, they were able to land the helicopter and immediately take the subject into custody. Later that day as the rain continued to pour, several people were trapped by flash flooding at Cummins Falls. The THP pilot was headed back but was able to quickly re-route and save 9 people from the rushing waters.

The Tennessee Lifesavers’ Conference is an annual event that honors, educates, and empowers law enforcement throughout Tennessee. Last year’s conference marked the 50th Anniversary of the Tennessee Highway Safety Office and had the highest attendance rate.

###

Media contact:

Laura Hull, PIO
sheriffpio@putnamcountyttn.gov

“Earning the Public’s Trust Every Day!”