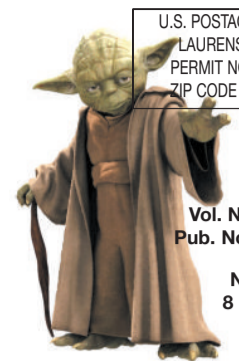


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SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2019 • A PUBLICATION OF THE LAURENS COUNTY ADVERTISER

Long overdue Fallen LPD officer honored nearly century after death

By John Clayton
Editor

An overdue honor for a fallen Laurens police officer was bestowed upon his family Wednesday in Columbia.

Hosea Ocola Martin, who was killed in the line of duty just before Christmas in 1921, was inducted into the South Carolina Law Enforcement Hall of Fame along with eight other officers who were killed in the line of duty. Martin becomes one of 384 officers honored along the Hall of Fame's memorial wall.

"It did bring some closure for us," said Angie Martin Crowder, who is Martin's great-granddaughter. "But there were also some sad people there because the majority of the officers honored were killed in 2018."

Five of the officers inducted Wednesday died this past year, including York County Sheriff's Office Detective Michael Doty, Saluda County Cpl. Dale Hallman, Lancaster County Sheriff's Office Master Deputy James L. Kirk Jr., Florence Police Sgt. Terrence Carraway, Florence



Photo provided

MEMORIALIZED — From left, Peyton Crowder, Angie Martin Crowder and Laurens Police Chief Chrissie Cofield at the South Carolina Law Enforcement Officers Hall of Fame Wednesday. Angie Crowder's great-grandfather, LPD Officer Hosea Ocola Martin, was inducted into the hall as one of 384 officers statewide killed in the line of duty. Martin was shot and killed in 1921.

County Sheriff's Office Investigator Farrah Turner and Richland County Sheriff's Department Deputy Jerry L. Hurd Jr.

"It was a very humbling experience," said Laurens Police Chief Chrissie Cofield. "I don't even know if humbling is the right word. Going to the hall of fame, it opens your heart and helps you understand the sacrifices that are made by entire families."

The Martin family is a case in point. Martin's wife died six months prior to her husband, leaving their children orphaned.

After Martin's death on

Dec. 14, 1921, his six children were split up. Some were sent to live with relatives in other areas and at least one — Rossie Martin — was sent to the Connie Maxwell Children's Home in Greenwood. He remained in the area as an adult and was Crowder's grandfather.

"It's been nice to find out a little bit more about my family history, too," Crowder said. "We really don't have pictures or anything like that."

Cofield also gave Crowder, who attended the ceremony with her son, Peyton, a package containing the notes and

information collected by the Laurens Police Department since they began searching for Hosea Martin's family members more than a decade ago under the leadership of then Chief Robin Morse.

Among the notes, were bits of Martin family history previously unknown to Crowder.

"I found out Hosea's father's name was Payton," she said. "It's a different spelling but I was just amazed by that."

Peyton Crowder is a senior at Laurens District High School.

(Continued on page 2)

Fundraiser, butterfly release planned for Hospice of Laurens County

By Judith Brown
Staff writer

A Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser until 10 a.m. this Saturday, May 4, at Fatz Cafe in Clinton will benefit the Charity Care Program of Hospice of Laurens County and support the care of uninsured or underinsured patients.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children and can be purchased at the door from 7:30 to 10 a.m. this Saturday.

Later in the month, Hospice of Laurens County will also observe its 16th Annual Butterfly Celebration, hosted by Bellview Baptist Church, on Sunday, May 19, at 3 p.m. The church is located at 757 Bellview Church Road, Laurens, and butterflies are \$12 each or five for \$50.

"This event is open to anyone who would like to remember or honor a loved one with a butterfly, and if you are unable to attend, a butterfly you donate will be released by a child at the service," Volunteer Coordinator Catherine Gambrell said. The names of the loved ones will be read during the ceremony.

Checks for butterflies, as well as the names of the loved ones for the program, may be sent payable to Hospice of Laurens County, P.O. Box 178, Clinton, SC 29325.

Typically there are extra butterflies, which are also available to purchase just before the event.



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