

Cook honored as county's Officer of the Year

By John Clayton
Editor

Laurens County Sheriff's Office Investigator Farrah Cook cradled the plaque honoring her as the county's Officer of the Year and was asked how it all felt.

She carefully measured her response for a beat.

"It's one of my greatest accomplishments," she said.

Another beat.

"It's a blessing to help people," she said.

Another beat.

"I'm just overwhelmed that they selected to me to be Officer of the Year," said the Waterloo native, mother and 10-year veteran with the LCSO.

Cook was presented the award Tuesday at The Ridge at Laurens during the annual Officer of the Year luncheon.

She became the first woman to win the award since its inception four years ago, following Clinton Lt. Tyrone Goggins, LCSO Capt.

Mickey Coats and Laurens Police Investigator J.C. Brewington, who was last year's winner. The award is presented annually during National Police Week in mid-May.

Laurens County Sheriff Don Reynolds said Cook and her peers are the future of law enforcement in the county.

"These guys and gals have a very dangerous and demanding job that isn't often looked at it as it should be," said Reynolds. "I was happy to see her win because she deserves it. She is a dedicated, true professional."

Cook was selected for the countywide honor over LPD Capt. Heath Copeland and Clinton Police Lt. Phillip Wicker, who were named officers of the year by their respective agencies.

"I know these guys, and they work hard just like I do," Cook said. "They deserve this as much as I do, and they pull their weight

every day just like I do."

Cook began her career with the LCSO in security at the Johnson Detention Center and has worked her way through the ranks, first as a patrol officer and now as an investigator.

Although standing only 5-foot-2, she said it has always been important for her to "pull her weight" in what has historically been a man's field.

"Being a woman, a lot of guys will say, 'Let me do that,'" she said. "But I say, 'I signed up for this and I'll pull my weight.' They'd carry me if I needed to be carried, but I'll pull my weight."

Cook said the reasons she began a career in law enforcement are the same as they are now as she enters her second decade on the job.

"We have victims who have been violated and are hoping for some kind of justice, and that's why I got into this - to help them get justice," she said.

Spartanburg County Sheriff Chuck Wright was the keynote speaker for the luncheon at The Ridge attended by more than 100 people - most of them law enforcement officials.

"The thing about being a cop is, it's not about your, and it's not about us," Wright said. "It's about being the hands and feet of Jesus. That's what we are."

Wright said he respected the men and women in law enforcement because they help people every day without fanfare, and that is the most important part of the job.

Cook said she hopes she can use the award as a recruiting aid as she speaks with potential future officers.

"It's something I can use as a tool to lure other people into law enforcement," she said. "It is a career that's lacking (people), and it's rewarding."



Photo by John Clayton
LAUDED — Laurens County Police Officer of the Year Farrah Cook, left, is presented the award Tuesday by Sheriff Don Reynolds at The Ridge at Laurens.



Dr. McCarthy & Dr. McClary ORTHODONTICS

Specializing in Braces and Invisalign
for Children, Adolescents, Adults

Temporomandibular Joint Treatment

FOR FREE CONSULTATION CALL

833-4343

Conveniently located behind Laurens County Hospital
www.mccortho.com

LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE

LET LAURENS COUNTY GRADUATES KNOW HOW PROUD YOUR BUSINESS IS OF THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS

2x2.5 AD
ONLY
\$40

The Laurens County Advertiser

**Congratulations to the
Class of 2019
Graduates!**

226 W. Laurens St.
Laurens, S.C.
864-984-2586

COME BY THE ADVERTISER AT 226 W. LAURENS ST. • LAURENS
CALL 984-2586 OR EMAIL TO ADVERTISING@LCDVERTISER.COM

DEADLINE MAY 24. WILL PUBLISH MAY 29.

Oh Baby Baby
Baby
Baby

DIAPER DRIVE

Please Join Us As We
Host A Diaper Drive
For The Hernandez
Family Who Welcomed
Their **FOUR** Newest
Additions Recently.

**Size 1 and Larger Diaper Donations Can Be Brought To
The Laurens County Advertiser
226 W. Laurens St. • Laurens**

Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. • Friday 8 a.m.-noon

We will be collecting diaper donations through May 31.

**READ ALL ABOUT THE HERNANDEZ FAMILY AND THEIR FOUR
LITTLE MIRACLES - TWO BOYS AND TWO GIRLS - IN THE
WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, EDITION OF THE LAURENS COUNTY ADVERTISER.**

**FOR THE BEST IN
LAURENS COUNTY NEWS
& SPORTS COVERAGE**

SUBSCRIBE NOW!

The Laurens County
Advertiser

\$45 PER YR.

SAME-DAY DELIVERY
via the USPS to homes and
businesses in Laurens County

\$75 per year outside Laurens County • \$85 per year outside South Carolina

226 W. LAURENS ST. • LAURENS, SC 29360 • 864-984-2586
OFFICE HOURS: MON.-THURS. 8 A.M.-5 P.M. • FRI. 8 A.M.-NOON
CASH, CHECK & ALL MAJOR CREDIT/DEBIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Now Open! We cordially invite you to visit and "meat up" with us!

The Country Meat Center
The **BEST** Meats • Fresh Seafood • Produce • Cakes from The Sweetery

WHOLE FRYERS
99¢ lb.

CHUCK ROAST
USDA Choice **\$3.99** lb.

BLACK ANGUS T-BONES
USDA Choice **\$7.99** lb.

Country Meat Center

10297 HWY. 221
WOODRUFF

864-476-0001
864-431-5879

Accepting EBT!

HOURS:
Monday
Thru
Saturday
9 a.m.-7 p.m.

All Items While
Supplies Last!

www.countrymeatcenter.com or Facebook: country meat center